

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 14 March 2017

Present: Cllrs P Corke (Vice Chairman), S Hall, G Pinney, A White.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

11.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr A Gribble due to a prior commitment & Cllr J Hawkins as she is on holiday.

11.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr P Corke declare a non-pecuniary interest in item 11.7a as his garden adjoins 18A London Road.

11.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: None.

11.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 14 February: Resolved: The minutes of the 14 February Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Gribble, Hall, Hawkins, Pinney & White met with the owners & developers of Entech. Cllrs Hall, Hawkins, Pinney & White attended the February Market. Cllr Gribble & White attended the Entech development public event.

11.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification that BT is increasing prices. Notification that the Allotments rent for 2017/18 is £533.24. An invitation from Taylor Wimpey to attend the public exhibition on the Entech development. A letter from Thames Water and another from Castle Water informing that Thames Water will be transferring its business customers to Castle Water from April 2017. Confirmation from the Pensions Regulator that WGPC has completed its declaration of compliance. Details from East & North Herts CCG of a local NHS survey. Highways England's 2017/18 Maintenance & Improvement Programme East. Correspondence about Rights of Way. A letter from Civic Voice about the Housing White Paper: Fixing our broken housing market.

11.7 Planning: (*Cllr Corke*)

a) 6/2017/0299/HOUSE, 18A London Road, Erection of part single storey front and two storey rear extension, car port and installation of 1 rooflight: No objection.

b) 6/2017/0166/HOUSE, 19 Oak Road: No decision to report.

c) 6/2017/0150/PN8, 21 Bridge Road: Prior approval not required.

d) 6/2017/0138/HOUSE, 16 Birch Road: No decision to report.

e) 6/2017/0082/PN8, 10 New Road: Prior approval not required.

f) 6/2015/1972/COND, The Fox, 21 New Road, Update on 3(landscaping), condition 4 (highways report): The Borough Council are looking at enforcement options and waiting for Highways to make a site visit. A resident of one of the houses is concerned that there is no indication on when the front footpath is to be re-instated. County Cllr Richard Smith has been asked to help.

g) To review progress of the local list: A draft local list is almost complete. It was agreed to contact the conservation officer on how to proceed.

11.8 Hall & Grounds: (*Cllrs Corke & Hawkins*)

a) To consider contributing to the training of the Badminton Smash Up Leader: Resolved: To contribute £100 from the grants budget. **Action: Clerk.**

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Inspections satisfactory. Three volunteers came forward to take over inspecting the Garden Road playground. One of the volunteers will be the main inspector with the other two helping when needed. The volunteer has offered to take away one set of swings and add an infant seat to the swings in the main part of the playground.

c) To approve quote for various small jobs in grounds/environment: Resolved: To accept quote of £455.

d) To consider quote to fix the benches in place: Resolved: To accept quote of £320.

11.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for February: An end of year surplus is predicted. In 2017/18 the Council will receive a 100% reduction in small business rate relief. Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for February.

b) To approve Automatic Enrolment Declaration: Cllrs approved the Declaration which had been submitted to The Pensions Regulator.

11.10 Environment (*Cllr White*) **& Transport:** (*Cllr Gribble*)

a) To receive a report on progress of PPP grant: The application form has been received. A quote will be obtained for resurfacing one third of Bridger's Path. **Action: Cllr White.**

b) To discuss highways matters: (i) Awaiting the outcome of Cllr Smith's bid to the PCC Road Safety Fund. (ii) Recent gas works by the church caused a lot of disruption to traffic.

c) To discuss the biological trials: A natural enemy of *Crassula helmsii*, a small mite, has been found that is species specific and adapted to cold climates. The documentation on the trials of the mite is due to be passed to the relevant authorities by the end of the month. In a few months a decision will be made on whether the trials can progress into the wild. CMS have been updated on the trials. Cllrs agreed to enquire what the criteria will be for selecting trial sites. **Action: Clerk.**

11.11 To discuss activities for Village Day: Suggestions were discussed. **Action: Cllrs Corke & Pinney.**

11.12 To consider cause for Wheels on Woolmer Green collection: Resolved: To donate to the Herts Air Ambulance.

11.13 To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting: Arrangements were discussed.

11.14 To receive announcements. (*for information only*):

a) There is an HCC Conference on 21st June.

b) The Councillors Surgery is on 1st April.

c) A pane of glass in the front door is cracked and needs replacing.

d) A donation of £100 was received from the A602 car club.

e) The old speakers were sold for £100.

f) Cllr Pinney will integrate the hearing loop with the sound system so it comes on automatically.

g) It was suggested that a free one line advertisement in the newsletter could be offered to village businesses.

11.15 The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th April at 7.30pm.

JRP 16.03.17

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____