

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 14 November 2017

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), S Hall, J Hawkins, G Pinney & A White.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). 1 member of the public.

6.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr P Corke due to work commitments.

6.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Hawkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.7c as she is a near neighbour.

6.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: A resident paid tribute to the Woolmer Green band for its performance at the Remembrance Service. The resident said that they had cleaned the war memorial prior to the service and the Chairman thanked her for doing this. The resident also stated that the monument should be cleaned on a regular basis and the Council agreed to consider the suggestion.

6.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 October: Resolved: The minutes of the 10 October Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Hawkins attended the Highways Liaison Meeting. Cllr Hall attended the Allotments AGM in her role as Treasurer and reported that all plots are let and that there is an account surplus. Cllrs Hall & White attended the October Market. Cllrs Corke & Hall attended a Guides meeting and listened to the Guides ideas. Cllrs Gribble, Corke, Hall, Hawkins and White attended the Remembrance Service.

6.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification from Barclays Bank of changes to their Terms & Conditions. A letter from the Pensions Regulator on minimum pension contributions from April 2018. An update from North Herts District Council on the planning application in Danesbury Park Road (see item 6.7f). The 2017 Traffic & Transport Data Report and Road Casualty Factsheet from Highways. A letter from a resident about the Local Plan Inquiry. A letter from a resident about paint on his car- he has been referred to the company responsible. A letter from HAPTC about an increase in 2018/19 subscriptions. Notification from Highways England on A1M road closures. Notification from BT of increased prices. Information from WHBC on the "It's Your Neighbourhood" scheme.

6.7 Planning: (Cllr Corke)

- a) 6/2017/2515/HOUSE Paynes Farm, Erection of outbuilding for use as games room following the demolition of existing: No objection.
- b) 6/2017/2516/LB Paynes Farm, Erection of outbuilding for use as games room following the demolition of existing: No objection.
- c) 6/2017/2002/HOUSE 8 Holly Road: Application granted.
- d) 6/2017/1924/HOUSE 5 Evergreen Close: Application refused.
- e) 6/2017/0166/HOUSE, 19 Oak Road: Application granted on appeal with conditions.
- f) 16/02460/1 at Land At Junction Of Pottersheath Road And, Danesbury Park Road, Welwyn: NHDC will not be raising any objections to the application at the appeal hearing.
- g) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The Council had been briefed on the Planning Inspector's comments following the second hearings. He has judged the Local Plan unsound but believes that further work by WHBC could produce a sound Plan. Promoting an employment growth strategy when the Local Plan does not meet its housing need has been questioned.
The first hearings of the NHDC Local Plan begin on 13th November for two weeks.

6.8 Hall (Cllr Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Hawkins)

- a) To consider purchasing new small water urn: Resolved: Approximately £40 to purchase new urn.
Action: Clerk.
- b) To discuss appointment of new market manager: Mrs Harris has come forward to take over the market. Mrs Harris and her assistant will need to complete a level 2 food hygiene course. Resolved: To appoint Mrs Harris as market manager.
- c) To review progress of clearing rubbish: A resident stated that a contractor they had engaged deposited waste behind their rear fence on hall grounds and said they would later remove it. The resident has informed the contractor of the Parish Council's complaint and provided the Council with their contact details. The Council agreed to send a letter to the contractor directly. **Action: Clerk.**
- d) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The spider climbing frame has been repainted. Inspections satisfactory.

e) To consider quotes for refurbishing the ball skills court: A second quote for new fencing and to resurface the tennis court came to £39,500. Outdoor gym equipment was also discussed. Substantial grant funding would be required to progress with the scheme.

6.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for October: Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for October.

b) To discuss the 2018/19 budget: Refurbishing the ladies toilets was considered the main priority and a quote had been obtained to re-tile, fit new basin unit, basins, taps and deep clean the floor totalling £10,153. Ways of reducing the cost was discussed and a second quote will be obtained. It was proposed to increase the precept by 1.9%.

c) To discuss deposit refund policy: Resolved: To amend Terms & Conditions by inserting

"Cancellation: If a hirer cancels a confirmed booking within 6 months of the date of the event and the Parish Council is unable to conclude a replacement booking, the £50 confirmation deposit will not be refunded. Refunds of deposits for small events will be at the Council's discretion."

Action: Clerk.

6.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

To discuss highways matters: There were no matters to discuss.

6.11 To consider minor variation to the Red Lion's License: No objection.

6.12 To consider responding to the Consultation on Proposal to Reconfigure Existing Services to Schools to Meet Needs of Primary Aged Children with Specific Learning Difficulties: The Council decided not to respond.

6.13 To review progress of the Parish Council Christmas card: Councillors will choose their preferred image for the Christmas card when all the artwork has been received.

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

a) Cllr Hawkins will attend the Cllrs surgery on 2nd December.

b) Planning Code of Conduct Training will be held on Thursday 30 November at 7.30pm.

c) The door closers have been replaced or repaired. A fire door has been repaired and a new lock fitted to the disable toilet.

d) The Council congratulated Cllr Pinney and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter.

6.15 To agree the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm.

JRP 15.11.17

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____