

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 12th November 2024

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman) P Corke (Vice Chairman), T Dix, S Hall, R Horton & G Pinney.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

6.1 To receive apologies for absence: Borough Cllrs J Cragg, T Mitchinson, R Trigg & County Cllr T Kingsbury.

6.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Horton declared an interest in items 6.7a & b and 6.8d.

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

6.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 8th October: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 8 October were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the October market. Cllrs Hall & Gribble attended a meeting with HCC Social Services. Cllrs Gribble, Corke, Dix, Hall & Horton attended a meeting with Gladman Developments and attended the Remembrance Service.

6.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Correspondence between Cllr Hall and Rev. Gilfeather on parking on the B197 outside the church. Information from Barclays on ways to pay money into your account. Information concerning an incident from residents (item 6.13). Information from HCC on the 20mph zone consultation. Report from a resident of a near miss on the zebra crossing. Correspondence between a resident and HCC clarifying that HCC can install speed limits on private roads. Notification of a temporary speed restriction on the B197 between the boundaries of Woolmer Green & Knebworth and a section of Mardley Hill for works from 9th December. An update on Lord Foster's lithium-ion batteries campaign.

6.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2024/2069/FULL 22A London Road, Erection of additional storey and conversion of existing building to create two flats: Objection due to unsuitable parking off the main road and its close proximity to 22B London Road for which an application has been made to change it to a residential dwelling.

b) 6/2024/1996/PN33 22B London Road, Change of use from commercial, business and service (Use Class E) to dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to form one dwelling: No objection if the noise issue from the take away can be resolved.

c) 6/2024/0576 46 New Road, amended application: No decision to report.

d) Land off London Road, report on meeting with Gladman Developments: Gladman Developments will sell the land to a developer. Permission has been granted for an access road to the north which the PC had opposed. The issue of flooding was raised.

6.8 Hall (Cllr Corke & Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Dix)

a) To receive update on the bar agreement: The bar provider has agreed to the bar agreement terms.

b) To consider establishing a staff room: It was agreed to establish a small staff room where caretakers can relax between hall bookings on a budget of approximately £50.

c) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory.

d) To consider clearing hall gutters: Resolved: To accept quote for £180.

e) To discuss hall drainage: The ladies' toilets are prone to block on occasion. The problem seems to be the angle of the pipe in the manhole. A contractor will be consulted. **Action: Clerk.**

6.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To review accounts performance against budget – October: Hall takings are in line with budget. The hall painting invoice is due to be paid soon.

c) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for October: Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for October.

d) To discuss budget 2025/26: The quote for replacing the lounge floor and repairing the storeroom threshold will be considered in January. Due to the increase in employer NI contributions, it was agreed to raise the precept by 7%.

6.10 Environment (Cllr Dix & Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: Borough Cllr Mitchinson raised the issue with the chief planner who stressed that senior officers at both HCC and the Borough Council will be meeting to discuss the

matter. Following this the site owner will be given a clear expectation on what is needed. It is hoped this will be sufficient to progress the crossing but the Borough Council will take enforcement action if necessary.

b) To consider responding to 20mph zone consultation: The Council agreed to respond stating that there is no issue with traffic speed in the cul de sacs in Woolmer Green and the 20mph speed limit would not be enforceable. It was considered that any money would be better spent on the B197 scheme.

Action: Clerk.

c) To discuss other highways matters: None were raised.

6.11 To consider responding to Gov. consultation on allowing remote meetings & proxy voting at local authority meetings: The Council will respond by stating it is in favour of having the option to hold remote meetings if it should be necessary.

Action: Clerk.

6.12 To consider responding to HCC survey on HCC/Parish Council engagement: County Cllr Kingsbury asked for the survey to be highlighted to Cllrs who can respond individually.

6.13 To receive notes of meeting with Social Services: The information on the meeting was noted.

6.14 To note minutes of Staffing Meeting 11 October: The minutes of the meeting were noted.

6.15 To receive announcements: None were received.

6.16 To agree date of next Council meeting – Tuesday 10 December at 7.30pm.

JRP 13.11.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____