

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 28th April 2020

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

11.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Pinney due to work commitments.

11.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Corke declared an interest on item 11.7a as he is a neighbour.

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

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

11.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: None.

11.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A letter from its insurance company saying its policy does not cover business interruption caused by COVID-19. A letter from a resident thanking the Council for distributing an information leaflet following lockdown measures. A letter from HAPTC enquiring about what COVID-19 related support is available locally on behalf of Team Herts Volunteering. A letter from WHBC about the Governments Small Business Grant Fund (Precepting authorities cannot apply). A thank you letter from the curate for the Council grant. Notification from the LGPF about its Investment Strategy Statement. Notification from WHBC on how it will operate during the pandemic. A letter from a resident about people using the playground equipment. A letter from a resident about a tree. Confirmation on the renewal of the hall's wedding license. Notification of the closure of the Hall Lane/Bridge Road junction sometime after 24 May for repairs. Notification from Castle Water on the reduction of the Council's direct debit payment. A letter from Castle Water on reducing charges due to closure of premises. A letter from Admiral Insurance about outstanding damages from a claim in 2019.

11.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) 6/2020/0669/HOUSE 18a London Road, Erection of single storey garden room to rear of property: No objection subject to assessment of trees on the site and that necessary building regulation consent is obtained.

b) 6/2020/0463/TPO 5 Evergreen Close: The application was changed to prune back to previous pruning points instead of a 30% reduction. Application granted.

c) 6/2020/0182/COND Lessiters, 61 London Road, pursuant to condition 11 (acoustic report): Application granted.

d) 6/2020/1291/HOUSE 59 Garden Road, submitted to appeal: The appeal was dismissed. WHBC will be asked what next steps it will take. **Action: Clerk.**

e) 17/02755/1 Retrospective application for gypsy site at Danesbury: No progress to report.

f) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The planning consultant has prepared and submitted a response to the consultation on proposed changes to the Local Plan. The response regarding the Green Belt site (HS15) is a joint response with CPRE. The consultant has also responded to the examiner's questions on Woolmer Green. The Hearing sessions planned for May have been postponed.

11.8 Hall (Cllr Pinney) & **Grounds:** (Cllr Dix)

a) To receive a report on Wedding License Renewal: The license has been granted for 4 years on this occasion instead of 3 years.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Inspections have been suspended while the playgrounds are closed.

c) To discuss refurbishment of the ball skills court: A second proposal has been received. The project will be put on hold during the current coronavirus crisis.

11.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts for March: Resolved: To approve accounts for March.

c) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20: To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 which was signed by the Chairman.

d) To approve the Accounting Statement 2019/20: To approve the Accounting Statement 2019/20 which was signed by the Chairman.

e) To consider a payment to the internal auditor: Resolved: To pay the internal auditor £75. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To appoint an internal auditor for 2020/21: Resolved: That Mr Bootle be appointed internal auditor for 2020/21.

g) To discuss the implications of the COVID-19 outbreak: The hall was closed on 20th March therefore income from hall lets has ceased. The Council acknowledged that hall income pays for hall costs including hall staff and agreed to only pay for essentials for the time being. The Council considered it would strive to pay all staff full pay but would need to keep the situation under review. The Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will pay 80% of furloughed staff wages and the council is awaiting clarity from NALC on whether Parish Councils can apply to the scheme or if there is any further Government assistance.

The Council completed a survey, distributed by NALC to all Parish and Town Councils, aimed at evaluating the effect that the coronavirus crisis will have on local councils.

11.10 Environment (Cllr Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

To discuss highways matters: (i) The yellow lines in the village have been refreshed. (ii) The verge in Mardleybury Road was not re-seeded after the bollards were installed and this will be reported. (iii) The Council awaits information on how the PCC grant can be utilised.

11.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To discuss response to COVID-19 outbreak: Following a leaflet drop, eighteen volunteers came forward willing to help with shopping and collection of medicines for the vulnerable that are self-isolating. So far eleven individuals have been helped. The Clerk has also liaised with the Wickfield warden. Updated information is included in the May/June newsletter.

b) To discuss progress of festive lighting: The church's architect has given advice on the various issues that need to be considered. The Council agreed that the WHBC tree officer should be consulted. Due to the current situation, whether to proceed with the project will be kept under review. **Action: Clerk.**

c) To discuss a community award: The Council supported the proposal of presenting an annual community award.

11.12 To consider back up of council data: Investigations are ongoing.

11.13 To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting: Awaiting Government advice on whether the meeting is required to be held this year.

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

No announcements were made.

11.15 To agree the date of the next meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 12 May at 7.30pm.

JRP 29.04.20

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____