

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 10th September 2024

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Borough Cllr J Cragg. County Cllr T Kingsbury.

4.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr G Pinney. Borough Cllrs T Mitchinson & R Trigg.

4.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Corke declared an interest in item 4.11a.

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

4.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 9th July: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 9 July were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the July market. Cllrs Hall & Gribble attended a meeting with the new MP for Welwyn Hatfield. Cllr Gribble attended a meeting with Herts Highways on the Safer Routes to School scheme.

4.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Resignation letter from the afternoon/evening caretaker. EDF acknowledgement of the PC leaving its services. Three letters from three residents about Woolyfest. Updates on Lord Fosters Lithium Battery Campaign and parliamentary progress. A letter from Stepping Stones for Life proposing the PC purchase safety booklets for the local school. Notice of the HCC Working Together engagement session on 26 September 6pm-7.30pm. Notification of the Allotment rent from 1 October - £759.60. A letter from the police Licensing Officer saying there was a fight in the hall carpark on 13 August - it was ascertained it was unrelated to any hirers of the hall. A letter from HCC asking about demand and possible locations for chargepoints. Three letters from two residents responding to the bee keeping consultation. A resident reported one of the wooden steps to the bridge in the hall playground is rotten (see item 4.8h). A letter from a resident wanting to ensure the footpath across the field from Cave Wood is reinstated after ploughing - Rights of Way enforcement are monitoring this. A request from the dance school asking the PC to support obtaining DBS checks for its hall staff (see item 4.8d). A Traffic Regulation Order closing Birch Road, except for access-issued 19 September for 18 months. An appeal for support from the Herts team of Marie Curie. A letter from a resident about parking issues. An invitation to a PWAS (Pass Wide and Slow) event on Saturday 14 September at 10.00am to raise awareness of passing equestrians safely on roads. Two letters from a resident asking when the football net will be re-attached (see item 4.8e).

4.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

- a) 6/2024/1386/COND 59 London Road, Confirmation that the condition 11 (contaminated land) on planning application N6/2009/0950/MA has been discharged: No comment.
- b) 6/2024/1309/HOUSE 4 Bridge Road, Erection of a porch extension: No objection. Application granted.
- c) 6/2024/1142/HOUSE 1 Gate House Close: Application granted.
- d) 6/2024/0976/FULL The Teachers House 14 London Road: Application granted.
- e) 6/2024/0576 46 New Road, amended application: No decision to report.
- f) Land off London Road: Meeting is being arranged with Gladman Developments.

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

- a) To discuss caretaker vacancy: The afternoon/evening caretaker will leave employment on 30 September. The vacancy has been advertised in the newsletter and will be further advertised on Facebook and Indeed. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) To discuss lease of former Family Centre: A meeting with HCC to discuss an alternative use for the Family Centre rooms has been arranged for 19 September at 1.00pm.
- c) To discuss and approve bar agreement: Charges to the new bar provider to run the hall bar were reviewed and agreed. This will be discussed with the bar provider. Resolved: To approve the bar agreement subject to all parties agreeing terms.
- d) To consider DBS checks for staff: Following a request from the dance school the Council agreed to request DBS checks for caretaker staff. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) To receive update on attaching stop net: The work has not been carried out following acceptance of a previous quote. Resolved: To accept new quote of £670.
- f) To consider any hedge cutting: Following a request by a resident, the Council considered that the hedges in the hall grounds did not need cutting at the present time.
- g) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory.

h) To receive a report on playground repairs: A rotten step in the hall playground has been replaced. The rocker has been repaired but another part of it has been damaged, possibly deliberately.

i) To consider quotes to repair basket swing: Resolved: To accept quote for £1,025.

4.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

a) To receive and approve the payments for July & August: Resolved: To approve the payments for July & August.

b) To review accounts performance against budget – July & August 2024: Hall takings are slightly above budget. The Family Centre lease has been paid up until 31 August.

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

d) To approve list of Regular Payments: Resolved: To approve list of Regular Payments.

e) To consider purchase of poppy wreath & donation to Royal British Legion: Resolved: To purchase wreath for £19.99 plus carriage and donate £50. **Action: Clerk.**

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

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: Waiting to hear what action WHBC Enforcement will take after examining its legal advice.

b) To receive a report on the B197 Safer Routes to School meeting: A consultation began on 9 September for four weeks. The Council will strongly support the scheme. It will also raise the issues of the proposed puffin crossing at Kellard House and the access road to the new development site. It will also suggest that traffic lights should be installed at the Mardleybury junction. **Action: Clerk.**

c) To discuss other highways matters: No further matters were raised.

d) To consider consultation feedback on siting bee hives on Parish Council land: All the comments that were received objected to the siting of bee hives in the Jolly Garden. The Council will refuse the request.

e) To consider quote to clean the war memorial: Resolved: To accept quote for £375.

4.11 Community: (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To discuss feedback from WoollyFest: The event was successful, and many positive comments were received. £5,700 was donated to three charities. There were three letters of complaint from residents. Noise could be mitigated by directing the stage towards the village hall and using a different speaker system. The Council agreed to these measures and permitted the festival could go ahead on 19 July 2025. The complainants will be informed. **Action: Clerk.**

b) To discuss ideas for the 2024 Christmas card: Cllr Hall will supply a suitable photograph. The Council agreed to send electronic Christmas cards. **Action: Clerk.**

4.12 To receive announcements. (for information only):

a) One person has signed up for two Parish Council tickets in the WHBC Lottery.

b) The 5mph sign is missing from Hall Lane. The Council decided not to replace it.

4.13 To agree date of next Council meeting: Tuesday 8th October at 7.30pm.

JRP 11.09.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____