

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8th October 2024

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Borough Cllrs T Mitchinson & R Trigg.

5.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr G Pinney. Borough Cllr J Cragg. County Cllr T Kingsbury.

5.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: None.

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

5.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 10th September: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 10 September were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the September market. Cllrs Hall & Gribble attended a meeting with HCC regarding the former Family Centre rooms. Cllrs Hall & Gribble attended the Safer Routes to School consultation event.

5.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A letter from a resident thanking the Council for considering bee keeping in the Jolly Garden. Notification of the closure of Garden Road and a footpath in Longmead. Notification from Barclays Bank informing that the business savings account interest will be reduced from 1.5% to 1.4% from 19th December. An update on the Lithium-ion Battery Safety Bill and urging Parish Councils to support the Bill by writing to Baroness Jones; The Council agreed to Write to Baroness Jones. A request to take part in a survey from Ipsos which is carrying out the survey on behalf of the Home Office regarding security at premises and events; the Council agreed to respond.

5.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2024/1386/COND 59 London Road, discharge of condition 11 (contaminated land): Application granted

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

f) Land off London Road: Meeting with Gladman Developments arranged for Monday 14th October at 7.30pm.

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

a) To receive a report on the meeting with HCC on uses for the former Family Centre: One YMCA will pay the lease fee up until December after which HCC will continue to payments. HCC are investigating alternative uses for the rooms. One YMCA say they will continue to book the hall for its weekly sessions for the foreseeable future.

b) To receive update on the bar agreement: Deferred.

c) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: In the hall playground, the rocker has been repaired and all the posts on the basket swing have been replaced. How to adjust the entrance gate in line with the annual inspection report recommendations will be investigated. The gate into the orchard needs repairing. All else is satisfactory. **Action: Clerk.**

5.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To review accounts performance against budget – September: Hall takings continue to perform above budget and car park payments are significantly higher. Hall painting is still to be done. Utilities are below budget and will continue to be monitored.

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

d) To discuss budget 2025/26: The Council discussed amendments to the budget and considered increasing the precept by 2%.

e) To approve conclusion of external audit: The Council noted that the external audit stated accounts performance against budget should be minuted. Resolved: To approve external audit report.

f) To consider reinvestment of reserves: Resolved: To invest in a Nationwide 1-year saver at 4%.

Action: Clerk.

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

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: WHBC Enforcement has informed the Council that Head of Planning is to discuss the matter with Highways. Borough Cllr Mitchinson will contact Head of Planning directly to provide more clarity.

b) To receive a report on the B197 Safer Routes to School: The consultation ended on 7th October and over 450 responses were received.

c) To discuss other highways matters: An accident occurred at the Mardleybury junction on 30th September.

5.11 Community: *(Cllrs Corke & Pinney)*

a) To discuss candidates for the annual Community Award: The Council agreed to present the award to longstanding hall caretaker who has now retired, Julie Boles, for her outstanding service to the community over 17 years.

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

a) The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 10th November at 9.30am.

b) The war memorial is due to be cleaned in the first week of November.

5.13 To agree date of next Council meeting: Tuesday 12 November at 7.30pm. Staffing Meeting on Friday 11th October at 12.30pm.

5.14 To exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under item 5.15: Approved.

5.15 To discuss confidential issue: No reply to the request for a meeting has been received from HCC and another request will be made for a face-to-face meeting. A compensation claim will be made to the care provider on behalf of residents. **Action: Clerk.**

JRP 09.10.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____