

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 10th July 2024

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

3.1 To receive apologies for absence: Borough Cllr T Mitchinson & County Cllr T Kingsbury.

3.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Horton declared an interest in item 3.8a.

3.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: A resident has asked to keep bee hives in the Jolly Garden. The resident and a representative from the Central & South Herts Beekeepers Association (CSHBKA) said they had looked at the site and it was suitable. The CSHBKA consider three criteria when siting bee hives which are safety of the public and beekeepers and whether there is a possibility of interference. The hives would need to be protected by erecting a 5ft panel fence which could be obscured from view. It was proposed no more than four hives would be installed, and they would be regulated in line with Defra guidance and the bees treated for disease.

3.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 11th June: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 11 June were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the June market and met with a resident who had raised a concern.

3.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Advice from HCC CMS on bee keeping and recommendations for improvements to the Jolly Garden. An email from a resident raising a concern. A letter from Splitz Dance. An enquiry from a resident as to when the stop net will be repaired. Several requests to hire the pitch over the summer were received and it was agreed with Knebworth FC the pitch should be rested. A letter from WHBC reviewing the PCs entitlement to Small Business Rate Relief. Details from WHBC on its Gambling Principles consultation. A resident raised the issue of a hedge obstructing the footway. Notification that the Sage subscription will increase to £21+VAT from August 2024. A letter from the hall bar provider saying he is moving from the area and will no longer run the hall bar. A letter from Hymans Robertson saying The Ill Health Liability Cover will remain at 1.65% until March 2026. A resident informed the PC of a faulty water meter cover; this has been reported to Thames Water.

3.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2024/1142/HOUSE 1 Gate House Close, Erection of a single storey rear extension: No objection.

b) 6/2024/0976/FULL The Teachers House 14 London Road, Change of use from residential to education (Class F1): No objection.

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

d) 6/2023/2552/OUTLINE Land off London Road: Application granted. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the developer.

Action: Clerk.

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

a) To consider quote for painting the outside woodwork of the hall: Resolved: To accept quote for £3,280.

b) To discuss Barleyfields lease: An invoice has been sent for payment up until 31 August. YMCA say they will pay until December unless a new tenant is found.

c) To discuss the hall bar: The Council agreed to ask the Red Lion if they could run the hall bar.

Action: Clerk.

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

e) To receive a report on playground repairs: Awaiting quote for parts from Wickstead.

f) To consider car parking agreement: The Council discussed the agreement and recommended some additions. Resolved: To approve the car park agreement.

g) To consider quote to eradicate stag horn sumach: Resolved: To approve quote for £790+VAT.

h) To consider quote to repair hall playground benches: Resolved: To approve quote for £145+VAT.

i) To review progress of re-attaching stop net: Resolved: To approve quote of £200 to hire cherry picker.

Action: Cllrs Corke & Pinney.

j) To consider Monkey Challenge proposal: The Council agreed not to pursue the proposal.

3.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

- b) To review budget variances – June 2024: Hall income slightly below budget. Awaiting payment from Barleyfields. Grounds payments are above budget due to additional works
- c) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for June: Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for June.
- d) To approve new Financial Regulations: Resolved: To approve Financial Regulations.
- j) To review Financial Risk Assessment: The risk assessment has been updated. Resolved: To approve Financial Risk Assessment

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

- a) To receive update on puffin crossing: WHBC is seeking legal advice.
- b) To discuss other highways matters: No matters were raised.
- c) To consider a request to site bee hives on Parish Council land: It was agreed to consult the church and residents in Holly Road that back on to the Jolly Garden. **Action: Clerk.**

3.11 To Review Registers of Interest of Cllrs Corke & Pinney: Cllr Pinney signed to say his Register of Interest remains true. Cllr Corke submitted a new Register of Interests form.

3.12 To receive announcements. (*for information only*): It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the newly elected MP. **Action: Clerk.**

3.13 To agree date of next Council meeting: Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm.

JRP 10.07.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____