

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Borough Cllrs J Cragg & R Trigg.

**9.1 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr G Pinney, Borough Cllrs T Mitchinson & County Cllr T Kingsbury.

**9.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda:** Cllr Hall declared an interest in item 9.7d. Cllr Corke declared an interest in item 9.11g.

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

**9.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January:** Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 9 January were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**9.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors:** None.

**9.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: Information from the Pageantmaster about 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. A letter from WHBC about its Community Infrastructure Levy consultation. A letter from a resident about a pond meeting. Notification from Affinity Water that water charges will increase by 1p per 10 litres from 1 April. A letter from a resident about an incident that occurred recently (item 9.15). A letter from a resident about the war memorial. Notification of the closure of the A1(M) in February from National Highways. Notification from HCC of the closure of Wych Elm Lane & Bridge Road for utility service works. A letter from a resident about vegetation in the hall grounds. A letter from Carter Jonas about closing Barleyfields Family Centre and surrendering the lease. A copy of a letter sent to Welwyn residents about the Welwyn Local Plan. Notification from Plusnet that services will increase by £1.26 a month from 1 April.

**9.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)**

- a) 6/2023/2552/OUTLINE Land off London Road, Outline planning application for the erection of up to 150 residential dwellings with the provision of affordable housing, public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point. All matters reserved except for means of access: The Council agreed to object to the application and approved the prepared response.
- b) 6/2023/2433/FULL The Chequers 16 London Road: No decision to report.
- c) 6/2023/2363/HOUSE 6 Broadfield Road: Application granted.
- d) 6/2023/2361/HOUSE 64 Carvers Croft: Application granted.
- e) To consider responding to WHBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation: No comment.

**9.8 Hall (Cllr Corke & Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Dix)**

- a) To consider quote to unblock gullies along Hall Lane: A quote of £650+ vat has been received. Further quotes will be obtained. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory. 3 fence posts have been repaired. The bark pit will be replaced in March/April.
- c) To note 24 hour closure of Twin Foxes gate: The 24 hour closure on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February was noted.

**9.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)**

- a) To receive and approve the payments for January: Resolved: To approve payments for January.
- b) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for January: The accounts are on course to break even. Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for January.
- c) To review hall hire rates: Resolved: To approve increased hire rates from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
- d) To review hire rates for regular hall users: Requires further analysis and will be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) To receive update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund: The £5,000 second tranche of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been received.
- f) To receive update on One Welwyn Hatfield Community Lottery: This has been promoted via social media and will be included in the next newsletter.
- g) To discuss Bridebook advertising proposal: The Council declined the proposal.

**9.10 Environment (Cllr Dix & Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)**

- a) To receive update on puffin crossing: WHBC Enforcement has been in contact with the site owner.
- b) To discuss other highways matters: (i) The Council noted the gas works in London Road has caused congestion. (ii) Highways have noted the broken bollard at the junction with New Road which was reported last year.

**9.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)**

- a) To arrange a litter pick: The litter pick was arranged for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.

- b) To arrange community first aid training: Resident trainer, Sarah, kindly offered to hold a free session for residents. Training was arranged for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 7.00pm-8.00pm.
- c) To discuss Village Day 2024: Arrangements are in the early stages.
- d) To approve Village Day stall hire agreement: Charges to participants were agreed. Resolved: To approve hire agreement.
- e) To discuss the commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day: The Council will consider lighting a Lamp Light of Peace.
- f) To discuss Market photo competition: The market manager has proposed holding a children's photo competition by inviting entries from schools in the surrounding area. The Council agreed to the scheme.
- g) To receive an update on the Red Lion WoollyFest: WoollyFest has been registered as an independent company in its own right and has its own bank account. The organisers have applied for the appropriate licenses, liaised with the police, are ensuring there will be adequate parking, will provide outside toilets and first aid facilities. Noise will be mitigated by directional speakers.

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

- a) The Chairman of Welwyn Parish Council will do a presentation on the Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
- b) Grant Shapps will visit Woolmer Green on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**9.13 To agree date of next meeting** – Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 12 March at 7.30pm.

**9.14** 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 9.15: Approved.

**9.15** To discuss confidential issue: The Council discussed an incident that occurred in the village recently. The Council is currently arranging a meeting with all involved.

**Action: Clerk.**

JRP 14.02.24

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_