

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 10 July 2007

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk read a letter from Mr. J Hazel to say he was unable to accept the Council's invitation to attend the meeting to present WGSSC accounts. However he stated that £379 was raised from Village Day, which is to be spent on new football equipment and the OAP Christmas party.

Members of the public voiced concerns about the running of the WGSSC. Issues raised included the lack of information on income & expenditure, committee members, WGSSC membership, WGSSC code of practice. Councillors agreed to investigate.

Present: Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr N Collingridge (Vice Chair), Cllr J. Beckerman, Cllr H. Bryant, Cllr A. Gribble.

In attendance: A. Edmonds (Clerk), Mrs J. Pearce (Deputy Clerk), Members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. S. Day

2. Councillor's Areas of Responsibility: Cllr Beckerman agreed to assume responsibility for Publicity, Cllr Gribble for Grounds and it was suggested that Cllr Day might be appointed to deal with financial grant applications.

3. Minutes of Council Meeting on 12th June 2007: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Meetings attended by Councillors: No meetings were attended.

5. Correspondence. An NHS Public Consultation Survey was received. A communication from the Boundary Commission was not considered relevant to Woolmer Green. Cllr Watson had completed a survey, regarding playgrounds, from the Community Development Agency.

6. HAPTC Matters:

a) Some Councillors expressed interest in attending a Planning Course.

b) An application is to be submitted for a grant to purchase more computer equipment

Action: Cllr Collingridge

7. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)

a) Red Lion Public House: No progress to report.

b) Chequers Public House: No progress to report.

c) O2 Mast at Robbery Bottom Lane: No progress to report.

d) 11 Holly Road: No progress to report.

e) Application 2007/0945, 46 New Road: Garage conversion & first floor extension. No objection.

f) 11 London Road: The Clerk has sent a letter to WHC requesting a meeting. No reply has been received.

g) The Fox Public House: The publican of The Fox will be asked if planning permission was sought for the erection of the smoking shelter.

h) Petit Forestier site: The agent has confirmed that the sale of the site is near completion. The new owners will be introduced to the Council.

i) The CPRE are urging Councils to read the white paper concerning development.

Action: Cllr Watson

j) A research document has been received asking the Council to identify areas of land suitable for residential development. Cllr Watson will call a meeting to discuss the document

Action: Cllr Watson

8. Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) A new hot water tank has been installed but failed and will be replaced.

b) Twin Foxes access: Reply awaited from the Secretary.

c) Kerb near Hall: Costing will be obtained for dropping a kerb near the hall for improved disabled access.

Action: Cllr Watson

9. Finance:

- a) Payments and Accounts for June: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- b) Annual Return to the Audit Commission: This was agreed and signed.
- c) NALC Pay Negotiations. No decision has been made.

10. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: A second letter was sent to Highways regarding the speed limit. As there has been no acknowledgement, Councillors agreed that a meeting should be arranged with County Councillor Richard Smith. **Action: Clerk**
- b) Mardleybury Road Gas Main Repairs: A letter was sent to the National Grid, but no reply has been received. Councillors agreed that Grant Shapps MP should be contacted if no reply is received by end-July. **Action: Clerk**
- c) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Progress is being made.
- d) Ditch near Jolly Garden: The issue of rubbish being dumped in the ditch will be discussed at the meeting with the County Councillor.
- e) Mardley Heath BMX Track: As the unofficial BMX Track has been removed by WHC, Cllr Watson proposed asking if they intend to provide an alternative facility. Cllrs agreed. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- f) Notice Boards: Public Information notice boards need to be erected on Council property. Cllrs agreed that this information could be included on the Footpath Boards.

11. Publicity:

Website: To make the website fully accessible Cllr Collingridge informed Councillors that an account needs to be set up at a cost of up to £4 per month. This was approved.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

- 12. Caretaker:** Mrs J Boles has been appointed as the new PM & Evening Caretaker. It was agreed that a letter of thanks and a gift of £50 should be sent to the former Caretaker Mr W Giddens. **Action: Clerk**

- 13. Parish Plan:** Deferred until next meeting.

- 14. Computer:** The computer is not yet fully operational.

- 15. Good Neighbours Scheme:** No further action to be taken.

- 16. Playground Inspection:** Cllr Watson had completed the playground inspection for July and reported that the swings in the small playground had been wound round the crossbar. Cllr Bryant offered to rectify the problem. Cllr Bryant will carry out next month's playground inspection. **Action: Cllr Bryant**

- 17. Registration of Council Land:** Mr P Weatherhead's solicitor is in the process of drawing up a Deed of Exchange. **Action: Clerk**

- 18. Pond:** No progress to report.

- 19. Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils:** Welwyn Parish Council has agreed to resurrect the Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils.

- 20. Crime Report:** PCSO R. Taylor has requested a crime report in order to issue a warning to two young people who damaged tables in the hall playground. **Action: Cllr Watson**

- 21. Monread Lodge:** Cllr Watson proposed that, as the Council had supported their recent planning application, the owner of Monread Lodge should be contacted and asked for a donation towards providing allotments or for landscaping along London Road. Cllrs agreed. **Action: Cllr Watson**

- 22. Apology:** A letter of apology is to be sent to Mrs Henry as youths kicked a football at the hall windows during her children's party. **Action: Clerk**

- 23. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11 September. During the Summer recess, urgent matters to be dealt with by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk. Planning decisions will be discussed at an extra meeting, if necessary.