

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 11 September 2007**

*Prior to the meeting Councillors were informed that Mr Jeff Hazel was unable to attend but would present the WGSSC accounts in due course.*

**Present:** Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr N Collingridge (Vice Chair), Cllr S Day, Cllr A Gribble.

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

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr H Bryant. Cllr J Beckerman has resigned.
- 2. Councillor's Areas of Responsibility:** Cllr Day agreed to assume responsibility for Money Raising.
- 3. Minutes of Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 4. Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Watson attended a Parish & Town Councils Meeting hosted by WHC with the aim of improving communications.
- 5. Correspondence:** A letter was received from the Curate of St. Michael's asking for a donation from the Parish Council. Cllrs agreed it would not be an appropriate use of Parish funds. The reply from the Clerk would be circulated. **Action: Clerk**
- 6. HAPTC Matters:** An application is in the process of being submitted for a grant to purchase a projector. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**
- 7. Planning (Cllr Bryant)**
  - a) Monread Lodge: WHC refused the application due to the designation of the land as green belt.
  - b) Application 2007/1098, 4 Oak Road: First floor rear extension. No objection.
  - c) Application 2007/1306, 8 Bridge Road: Two storey side & rear extension, single story front extension. No objection.
  - d) Application 2007/1307, Lises: Certificate regarding use as a MOT station. No objection.
  - e) Application 2007/1207, Lises: Change of signage to Marshalls. No objection. The Clerk had written requesting a meeting with Marshalls.
  - f) 11 London Road: Following a reply from WHC, the Council are requested a meeting to clarify the issues. **Action: Clerk**
  - g) The Chequers: Although application was refused, The Chequers have erected a smoking shelter. A letter will be sent to Planning. **Action: Clerk**
  - h) The Fox: Cllrs agreed their smoking shelter was unobtrusive.
  - i) Red Lion: Application for a smoking shelter had been refused.
  - j) Petit Forestier site: Cllrs to ask the new owners to the next meeting. Cllr Collingridge expressed concern that rural commercial sites are being lost due to the demand for new housing.
  - k) Van Hage site: The access road proposed for the development was considered to have little impact on Woolmer Green.
- 8. Hall: (Cllr Watson)**
  - a) Licence Inspection: The Licence Inspection had been carried out.
  - b) Repairs: There is some outstanding remedial work to be completed. The Clerk to inform the contractor. **Action: Clerk**
  - c) Hall floor: There have been complaints about the floor surface in the Hall. Advice will be sought from the Community Development Agency. **Action: Cllr Watson**
  - d) Noise Complaint: Following a resident's complaint about noise levels from a recent party at the Hall, contact telephone numbers have been circulated so any future problems can be addressed immediately.
  - e) Licensing Act: It is being proposed by the Government that the requirement for a Designated Premises Supervisor to be specified at premises such as Village Halls be removed.
  - f) Chairs: 50 chairs have been recovered at a cost of £870.

## **9. Finance:**

- a) Payments and Accounts for July & August: These had been circulated and were agreed and signed.
- b) Audit report: A successful audit had been carried out.
- c) Council Tax: A refund of £624.62 was received for overpayment of Business Rates from 1/4/05.
- d) NALC Pay Negotiations: No decision has been made.

## **10. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)**

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: Mr P Davis, HCC Highways, is to investigate funding for the implementation of 40mph speed limit.
- b) Mardleybury Road Gas Main Repairs: The National Grid have informed the Parish Council that they have a 30 year programme of repairs. Mardleybury Road is not a priority.
- c) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Progress is being made.
- d) Recent Meeting with Highways: Details of recent Highways meeting have been circulated. Councillors viewed the plan for extending the size of the ditch near Paines Farm and agreed, with reservations, that it should proceed.
- e) Mardley Heath BMX Track: WHC have no plans to provide an alternative facility.

## **11. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)**

Website: The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr Collingridge for setting up the web site. Progress will continue.

**Action: Cllr Collingridge**

## **12. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)**

- a) Complaint: A complaint was received from a resident in Bridge Road regarding the overgrown edge of the Hall grounds encroaching into her garden. Coopers have been asked to clear and maintain this area on a yearly basis.
- b) Sign Boards: The lettering for the boards is being prepared by Stuart Blackman.
- c) Playground Inspection: Coopers will be asked to repair surface near the roundabout.

Next inspection: Cllr Gribble.

**Action: Clerk**

## **13. Parish Plan:** No progress to report.

**14. Computer:** The computer in the Hall is operational. Cllr Collingridge circulated the instructions for setting up the new Council e-mail addresses.

**15. Registration of Council Land:** The Clerk reported that he was still waiting for Weatherhead's solicitors to prepare the Deed of Exchange. He would chase. **Action: Clerk**

**16. Pond:** Details of Pond Meeting & Action Plan have been circulated. The Stewardship Statement was signed to enable the release of £3000 grant from Countryside Management.

**17. Welwyn Hatfield Association of Town Councils:** Progress being made towards setting this up.

**Action: Cllr Watson**

**18. Monread Lodge:** Donation unlikely as planning application refused.

**19. Parish Flier:** Contents were agreed and will be distributed to all residents.

**20. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 9 October 2007.

*At the end of the meeting a local resident raised concerns over unauthorised parking, rubbish being dumped by the recycling bins and speeding on B197.*