

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9 October 2007

Prior to the meeting Church Warden Mrs S Keach presented the Churchyard Accounts and explained to Councillors the difficulties in raising funds and meeting costs to maintain the churchyard to an acceptable standard.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Minutes of Council Meeting on 11th September 2007: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Watson attended the recent open evening at St. Michael's school and also the children's school council meeting. Cllrs agreed to invite the school council to observe proceedings at a Parish Council Meeting.

4. Correspondence: A letter was received from WHC informing the Council of a meeting for all Parishes on 13th November to discuss Special Expenses. Cllr Watson will attend.

5. HAPTC Matters:

a) Progress is being made on the computer grant application.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

b) The HAPTC is holding a Hertfordshire Conference on 6th November.

6. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)

a) Applications & Decisions: There are no new applications or decisions to report.

b) Monread Lodge: Modified plans are being submitted for an appeal and the Clerk has requested a copy.

c) 4 Oak Road: The application has been withdrawn.

d) Marshalls: Marshalls have stated that they have only a 4 year lease on the Lises site.

e) 11 London Road: Cllrs Watson and Collingridge attended a meeting with WHC to discuss the unauthorised alterations to 11 London Road. They reported that WHC intend to pursue the issues.

f) Petit Forestier site: The new owners are to hold a pre-application meeting with Planning to discuss plans for a four storey care home. Cllrs agreed to inform Planning that, although they would support a care home, it should be no more than two stories.

Action: Clerk

g) N. Herts Development Framework Document: Comments are invited from the Council on proposals in the document. Cllrs agreed that the expansion of Knebworth would significantly increase traffic on the B197 and traffic calming measures should be introduced. Cllr Bryant is to draft a letter.

Action: Cllr Bryant

7. PCSO R Taylor: The meeting was suspended to allow PCSO R Taylor to inform councillors on the details of a search helicopter that was seen over Woolmer Green recently. He also notified them of an accident that had occurred at the London Road/New Road junction. Cllrs agreed that a letter should be sent to Highways highlighting the dangers of this turning. PCSO Taylor also suggested that the Council consider purchasing a Ball Wall, partly funded by the Police Authority, to provide an activity for local youths.

8. Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) Pre-school Learning Alliance: The North Herts Pre-school Learning Alliance have made an approach to see if they can set up a day centre in the hall on a permanent basis. Cllrs welcomed the idea.

b) Noisy Parties: In consultation with PCSO Taylor, it was agreed that if a party were considered to be disturbing local residents the hirer would be informed that the police would be called to stop the party.

Action: Cllr Watson

c) Outstanding Repairs: The contractor has been informed that the work needs to be completed.

d) Hall Floor: Progress is being made.

Action: Cllr Watson

e) Repair of Heating System: It was agreed that the repairs to the heating system should go ahead immediately. The cost will be covered by the contingency fund.

9. Finance:

- a) Payments and Accounts for September: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- b) NALC Pay Negotiations: No decision has been made.
- c) Employment Course: It was agreed that Cllr Watson will attend an Employment Course at a cost of £40.
- d) 2008-09 Budget: It was agreed that this would be discussed at the November meeting.

Action: Cllr Bryant

- e) Churchyard: Deferred until next meeting.

10. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: No progress to report.
- b) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Progress is being made.
- c) Red Lion PH Frontage: WHC will draw up a plan and call a meeting with The Red Lion.
- d) School's Road Petition: The Council have offered help and support with the petition.
- e) Bench: No progress to report.
- f) Trees: It was noted that the chestnut tree at the Village Hall might need attention.

Action: Clerk

11. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

Website: The new Parish Council e mail addresses are in operation.

12. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

- a) Playground Inspection: Inspection carried out by Cllr Gribble. Next inspection Cllr Day.
- b) The school had asked if a surface can be laid on the footpath from the hall. A quote will be obtained.
- c) Dog bin: After a complaint about dog fouling a new dog bin will be installed in the small playground.

Action: Clerk

13. Road Safety Committees: Mrs S Staniforth has agreed to be the Council's representative on the Road Safety Committee and the School Transport Committee.

14. Parish Plan: No progress to report.

15. Registration of Council Land: Maintenance maps have been received from WHC. The Deed of Transfer is still awaited from Weatherhead's solicitor.

Action: Clerk

16. Pond: The maintenance of the pond will begin this Autumn.

17. Welwyn Hatfield Association of Town Councils: Cllrs were informed of a meeting being held in November.

18. WHDC Issues & Options Meeting: The meeting will be held on 7 November.

19. WHDC Scrutiny Committee: Meetings being held on 17 & 31 October.

20. Remembrance Day: Cllrs will attend the Remembrance Day Service at 9.30 a.m. on 11 November.

21. Christmas Card: The school will be asked to design the Council's Christmas Card.

22. Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 November 2007.