

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 13 November 2007

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Co-option: The Council agreed to co-opt Mr. M. Burge as a member of the Council.

3. Minutes of Council Meeting on 9th October 2007: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Actions from these Minutes:

- a) Computer Grant: A computer grant application has been completed in the value of £675 ex VAT for a computer projector.
- b) N. Herts Development Framework Document: A letter commenting on the proposals in the document has been submitted.
- c) Noisy Parties: A warning that parties can be closed down has been included in the Hall Hire Agreement.
- d) 2008/09 Budget: A budget meeting will be held when the Clerk returns.
- e) Chestnut Tree: The groundsman advised that no action is required.

5. Meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Watson attended the Mayor's Civic Service, an Executive meeting of the Herts Association & two WHC Scrutiny Committees. Cllr Watson circulated notes on a 'Council as an Employee' Training Meeting she attended. Cllr Collingridge & Watson attended a meeting with Herts Highways to discuss the plans for the frontage of the Red Lion. Cllr Watson circulated notes of the meeting she attended with Curate J. Boothby on funding for the Churchyard. A decision will be made when considering the 2008/09 Budget. Cllr Collingridge attended a meeting with Countryside Management (see 10). Cllr Watson put on a display on Woolmer Green at the HAPTC Conference.

6. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)

- a) 8 Bridge Road: Application has been granted.
- b) Marshalls: Application for MOT status was refused. New signage has been erected.
- c) Application 2007/1620 27 New Road: Erection of single story rear extension. Cllr Bryant declared his interest. No objection.
- f) Application 2007/1555 61 Garden Road: Change of use of public amenity land to residential, to form vehicular access & erection of garage: The Council strongly oppose the Application for the following reasons:
 - (i) The garage is too close to the rural highway.
 - (ii) Ownership of public amenity land should be retained by Highways.
 - (iii) There should be conditions of use on the garage.

The Council could not object if the following amendments were implemented:

- (i) The building moved further back as safety is compromised if a vehicle is not able to fully pull off the road before the garage doors are opened.
- (ii) Ownership of the verge is maintained by Highways. A crossover is acceptable and the standard way of achieving access to a property from the highway.
- (iii) Conditions that state the garage cannot be used as a business premises or for accommodation.

Action: Clerk

g) Core Strategy: The WHC Core Strategy Document was circulated. Councillors completed a pre-production consultation questionnaire.

Action: Cllr. Watson

h) East of England Plan: Cllr Watson is to reply to the document concerning changes to habitats.

Action: Cllr Watson

i) Stevenage & N Herts Action Plan: a document was received containing the policies and proposals regarding the expansion of Stevenage.

Action: Cllr Bryant

j) 11 London Road: No progress to report.

k) Monread Lodge: No progress to report.

l) Petit Forestier Site: Cllr Watson circulated notes of a telephone conversation with Mr N Martin of Aedifice Chartered Surveyors. They will attend the next Council Meeting to display a model of the proposed development.

7. Hall: (*Cllr Watson*)

- a) Heating: It was agreed to repair the heating system at a cost of £1,696.
- b) Tiling: Two quotes will be obtained for retiling the kitchen. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- c) Insulation: A quote will be obtained for insulation. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- d) Hall Floor: Cllr Collingridge will get the details of who carried out the work to the floor at Datchworth Village Hall so a quote can be obtained. **Action: Cllr Collingridge & Watson**
- e) Security: PCSO Taylor advised using both locks to secure the front entrance. Advice will be sought from a locksmith. **Action: Cllr Watson**

8. Finance:

- a) Payments and Accounts for October: Deferred till next meeting.
- b) Donation to The British Legion: Cllrs agreed to donate £50 to The British Legion. The service was attended by Cllrs Watson, Collingridge, Day and Gribble. Apologies were received from Cllr Bryant.

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

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: No response from Highways. Cllr Collingridge will contact them again. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**
- b) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: The artwork has been completed at a cost of £500. Progress is continuing. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**
- c) Countryside Management: Cllr Collingridge produced a report using Mr. Jack Webber's excellent resumé of the state of the footpaths including photographs to present to Countryside Management. He gave a detailed account of his meeting which included discussions on improving surfaces, solving flooding problems, discouraging fly tipping and positioning benches. The stile at top of footpath 5 & 6 will be replaced at a cost of £145 from next year's P3 grant. Funding will be made available.
- d) Red Lion Frontage: The work is almost complete. The landlord will be required to sign an agreement to ensure that he maintains the hedge that is to be planted along the front of the Red Lion. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**
- e) Request for Temporary Traffic Orders: A meeting will be held with WHC to discuss the proposals. **Action: Cllr Watson**

11. Grounds: (*Cllr Gribble*)

- a) Playground Inspection: Inspection carried out by Cllr Day. The climbing net is in need of repair. The rubber surfaces have been repaired. Next inspection Cllr Burge.
- b) Footpath: A quote has been obtained to lay woodchip on the footpath but this would not be a practical surface.
- c) Playground Notices: The notices are ready to be erected.

12. Publicity: (*Cllr Collingridge*)

- a) Christmas Cards: Cllrs chose the winners of the school Christmas card competition. They agreed to present £15 to the winner and £10 to the runner up.
- b) Footpath Photographs: Cllrs agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Jack Webber for compiling a Woolmer Green Footpath Photograph Album. The photos could be added to the web site if Mr. Webber agrees. **Action: Clerk**

13. Pond: The maintenance of the pond has been carried out.

14. School: Cllrs agreed the School could hold their Summer Play in the Hall, the dates suggested were not very convenient, Mrs Pearce will liaise with the school. The School Council will be invited to the next meeting.

15. AOB

Enid Fairhead: It was agreed to invite Enid Fairhead, on the occasion of her 80th birthday, to the next meeting in recognition of her contribution as a founder member of The Residents Association.

16. St. Mary's: Cllrs agreed to send a team to a future Quiz Night to be held at the Hall.

17. St. Michael's: Cllr Burge suggested the Community Service program may provide help with maintaining the Churchyard. **Action: Cllr Watson**

17. Welwyn Hatfield Association of Town Councils: Notice was given of the meeting of this Association on 21st November at Welwyn. It was hoped that many Cllrs would attend. There is a talk on Three Valleys Water after this meeting.

18. Lottery Breathing Spaces Program: Council to investigate possibility of funding.

Action: Cllr Watson

19. Course: Cllrs Burge and Gribble hope to attend a course for new councillors on 5 March 2008.

Action: Clerk

20. Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 December 2007 starting at 6.30pm.

JRP 14.11.07