

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 11 December 2007

Prior to the meeting there was an Open Forum for the public to view the plans for the Petit Forestier site. Mr N. Martin of Aedifice Chartered Surveyors was available to answer questions. He explained that a Nursing Care Home providing specialist medical care for the elderly, serving local areas, is proposed for the site.

Next, Cllrs discussed matters from the agenda, that would be of interest, with three children from St. Michael's School Council.

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

In attendance: Mr A. Edmonds (Clerk), Mrs J. Pearce (Deputy Clerk), Members of St. Michael's School Council. Members of the public. Representatives of the prospective owners of the Petit Forestier site.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr H Bryant.

2. Minutes of Council Meeting on 13th November 2007: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Meetings attended by Councillors:

Cllr Watson attended the first re-convened meeting of the Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils. Following on a request from this meeting, Mr Conway of WHC Planning agreed to a planning meeting. Cllr Watson also attended the Datchworth Climate Change Meeting and a CPRE Member's Meeting. Cllr Watson attended St. Michael's School Christmas Bazaar where she presented the winners of the Christmas Card Competition with £15 & £10 Art Van Go vouchers.

Cllr Collingridge attended a meeting with the Vice-Chair of Datchworth Parish Council regarding the footpath map.

Cllrs Collingridge & Watson attended the Knebworth Village Meeting to hear The Hon. Henry Lytton Cobbold's proposals for re-locating Chas Lowe Builders Merchant to a site between Environmental Technology and Monread Lodge Nursing Home on the B197. Cllrs agreed to invite the Chairman of Knebworth Parish Council & the Hon. Henry Lytton Cobbold to the next Council Meeting.

Action: Clerk

4. Correspondence: Woolmer Green based company Direct Path Solutions recently won 'best business web site' at the Hertfordshire Business Awards for their Online Watch Link (OWL) internet application. The Parish Council will send a letter of congratulation.

Action: Clerk

5. HAPTC: The application for a grant towards the purchase of a projector was successful. £573.30 has been awarded; Cllr Collingridge to arrange purchase

Action: Cllr Collingridge

6. Planning: (Cllr Watson in the absence of Cllr. Bryant)

a) Decisions: No decisions to report.

b) Application 2007/1758 4 Oak Road: Erection of first floor extension. No objection.

c) Application 2007/1764 Marshall's Garage site on Mardley Hill: Development of eighteen 2-5 bed houses. The Council had no objection to the development of the site but decided to highlight its concern to WHC of the impact of increased traffic from the new access road onto the B197.

Action: Clerk

d) Petit Forestier Site: The Council were supportive of the proposals for a Nursing Care Home on the site, but would reserve comment until the formal planning application had been received. A letter of thanks will be sent to Aedifice Chartered Surveyors for attending the meeting.

Action: Clerk

7. Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) Hall Floor: Two quotes had been obtained to resurface the hall floor. Cllrs decided to accept the lower quote of £3360

- b) Heating: The contractor will repair the heating as soon as he is able.
- c) Electrical Safety Work: A recent inspection highlighted that the emergency lighting was not installed correctly. Remedial work is being carried out.
- d) Insulation: A quote of £640 has been obtained to provide 170mm of insulation in the hall. An insulation grant application will be submitted. **Action: Cllr Day**
- e) Tiling: A second quote will be obtained. **Action: Cllr Watson**

8. Finance:

- a) Payments and Accounts for October & November: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- b) Budget 2008/09: The 2008/09 Budget had been circulated. The Council agreed to include a further £1000 for a wall cabinet to display the Woodcarver's Cottage art; £1000 to improve the old pavilion site & for village entrance signs and £500 for cleaning the War Memorial for which a grant application will also be submitted. **Action: Cllr Day**

9. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: Herts Highways have reported that there are no proposals to reduce the speed limit along Mardleybury Road. The matter will be pursued.
- b) Mardleybury Road soak away: Cllr Collingridge reported that a new soak away ditch had been constructed although not in the area that was prone to flooding.
- c) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: The completed footpath map is now included on the website. Footpath leaflets will be circulated to all households in Woolmer Green and Datchworth when completed. A Footpath CD will be given to St. Michael's School. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**
- d) Red Lion Frontage: The new footpath has been completed. A repair to a manhole cover is not satisfactory and will be brought to Herts Highways attention. Discussions regarding planting & maintenance of a new hedge will be held with the Landlord. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Collingridge**
- e) Request for Temporary Traffic Orders: WHC say Temporary Traffic Orders are not within their remit. Cllr Watson will make further investigations. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- f) Benches: Two benches, recently refurbished by Mr J Webber, are ready to be positioned along the footpaths. Mr J Webber has also varnished & painted the two benches by the pond. A letter has been sent thanking him for this work and for compiling a footpath photo survey.

10. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

Website: Progress is continuing.

11. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

- a) Playground Inspection: Inspection carried out by Cllr Burge. The unsafe climbing net will be taken down. The groundsman will be asked to replace it with a more suitable net. Next inspection Cllr Watson. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Watson**

12. Registration of Council Land: Mr Weatherhead's solicitor has not drawn up the Deed of Exchange despite repeated requests by the Clerk.

13. Pond: An amendment has been made to the Maintenance Agreement to state that the willow will be coppiced when required. Cllr Burge agreed to supervise the dredging of the pond.

14. St. Michael's Quiz Night: Cllrs thought a Saturday evening was inconvenient and most could not attend the Quiz Night apart from Cllr Watson.

15. Holocaust Memorial Day: Apologies will be sent. **Action: Clerk**

16. Christmas Cards: The Council agreed the Christmas Card list. **Action: Cllr Watson**

17. Carols round the Pond: The annual event will take place on Christmas Eve with proceeds going to St. Michael's Churchyard Fund.

18. Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 January 2008 starting at 7.30pm.