

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 11 March 2008

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

In attendance: Mr A. Edmonds (Clerk), Mrs J. Pearce (Deputy Clerk), Borough Cllr S Markiewicz, Members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr A Gribble.
2. Minutes of Council Meeting on 12 February 2008: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
3. Minutes of Planning Meeting on 18 February 2008: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
4. Meetings attended by Councillors:
 - a. Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils' meeting with planning input: The Minutes of the meeting and the Chair's notes were circulated.
 - b. Parishes Meeting with Borough Council: The Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils now has a representative on the Local Strategic Partnership. Information on WHBC Finesse programme will be circulated to Councillors. The document sets out plans for leisure facilities in the Borough. Cllr Watson stated that there is little provision for Parishes and suggested a more frequent evening bus service would improve accessibility to leisure facilities. There was also concern that young people in the village are not represented on the Youth Council. A letter will be sent raising these issues.
Action: Clerk
 - c. Councillor Training: Cllr Burge and Cllr Gribble had attended an HAPTC training workshop for new Councillors.
5. Community Chest: Borough Councillor S Markiewicz informed the Council that £2000 per annum will be made available to the Ward for three years for local projects. Larger amounts can be approved by a Borough Committee. The Council suggested applying for grants to enhance London Road and to fund a WI project. The first applications will be considered in May 2008. **Action: Cllr Watson**
Cllr Markiewicz also explained the re-designated wards. As a result of the Ward Review, three Borough Councillors will represent the ward, Woolmer Green. Oaklands and Digswell whilst Welwyn Village will now only have two Borough Cllrs.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. Following an approach by Stop Stansted Expansion, a representative of the organisation has been invited to attend the Council Meeting in June.
 - b. Mr J Webber had taken photographs of the recently installed footpath benches. The Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to him and to Chris Tyler for their invaluable help. **Action: Clerk**
6. HAPTC:
 - a. Cllrs were notified of a meeting at Hertford Town Council on 3 June with Leader of HCC Robert Gordon to which all Cllrs and Clerks are invited. Cllrs to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend.
Action: Councillors
 - b. Finance & Management Courses: It was suggested that an HAPTC training course could be run in conjunction with Datchworth Parish Council.
7. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)
 - a. Care Home, 59 London Road: Initial application refused but has been reclassified as a Major Development and will be called in to the next Planning Committee Meeting.
 - b. Monread Lodge: Deadline for call in to Planning Committee Meeting had expired.
 - c. 11 London Road: No decision to report.
 - d. The Fox: No decision to report.
 - e. 46 New Road: A rear extension is under construction which was not included in the application. The Planning Enforcement Officer has been notified.
 - f. Application 2008/0471 Swangleys Farm: Erection of Agricultural Barn. No plans have been received.

g. Planning Bill: It was decided to contact the MP with regard to the new appeal process being dealt with by four selected Borough Cllrs instead of Bristol. A suggestion was that the Cllrs could be sourced from neighbouring districts. The Council will express their concerns to Grant Shapps MP.

Action: Cllr Watson

8. **Hall:** (Cllr Watson)

a. Heating: The heating work has been completed.

b. Insulation: Cllr Day reported that no grants are available

c. Tiling: The tiling has been completed.

d. Possible use as a Wedding Venue: Cllrs agreed to apply for a licence to enable the hall to hold civil marriage ceremonies. The licence will cost £1,500 for three years. An initial inspection will cost £125.

Action: Cllr Watson

9. Finance:

a. Payments and Accounts for February: These had been circulated and were agreed. The Clerk will investigate Small Business Relief. Cllr. Collingridge will provide background information.

Action: Cllr Collingridge & Clerk

10. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)

a. Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: Despite the speed limit being agreed it has not been implemented. Cllr Markiewicz agreed to contact Herts County Councillor Richard Smith to discuss the matter.

b. White Horse Lane: Highways will be consulted about including White Horse Lane on a risk register.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

c. Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Leaflets to be completed by June.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

d. War Memorial: Cllr Day will accept the most appropriate quote.

Action: Cllr Day

e. Signs regarding Horse Riding on Footpaths: Cllr Watson thought signs should be erected to deter horse riders from using the footpaths. Cllr Bryant suggested the signs should also include a countryside code. Cllr Collingridge will consider these proposals.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

f. Agreement for front of Red Lion: An application will be completed to enable hedging to be planted along the frontage of the Red Lion.

Action: Cllrs Watson & Burge

g. Installation of Seats: The benches have been installed.

h. Jolly Garden: Cllrs agreed not to register the land with the Open Spaces Society.

11. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

a. Website: The Parish Newsletter articles will be published on the website. Cllr Collingridge welcomed suggestions of other items to include.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

12. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

a. Playground Inspection: Cllr Burge carried out the inspection. The climbing rope will be removed and replaced. Future inspections Cllr Burge.

Action: Cllr Burge & Clerk

13. Registration of Council Land: The Deeds of Exchange have now been completed by Weatherheads and will be sent to the Land Registry for completion of the Registration.

Action: Clerk

14. Pond:

a. Grass Maintenance: The Parish Council has asked to take over maintenance of the grass.

b. Pond Account: £524.26 transferred from the pond account will be used to pay the £500 fee to HCC.

15. Annual Parish Meeting: Cllrs agreed the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting. Invitations will be issued.

Action: Clerk

16. Village of the Year Competition: The deadline for entry to the Village of the Year Competition is 1 May 2008.

Action: Cllr Burge

17. Woolmer Green Sports & Social Club: WGSSC submitted accounts for Village Day 2007. Proceeds going towards the football club. The cricket facility will not go ahead and grant money will be repaid.

18. Councillors' Surgery: Cllr Bryant suggested that to hold the Cllrs' Surgeries alongside the Farmers Market would improve attendance. Cllr Markiewicz was in favour and, if Cllr Cragg agrees, the proposal would be submitted to WHBC.

19. Village Day: The theme for Village Day will be Climate Change. Chris Conway will supply some contacts.

20. New Flight Paths Consultation: Cllrs agreed to be neutral on the changes to flight paths. Further investigation is required to determine the impact on Woolmer Green.

Action: Cllr Watson

21. Herts Waste Strategy Consultation: No impact on Woolmer Green.

22. Gypsy & Traveller Consultation: No impact on Woolmer Green.

23. AOB:

- a. Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils: Cllr Watson informed Cllrs of a talk on Privatisation by the Leader of the Council at the next meeting on 2nd June
- b. Village Entrances: A quote will be obtained to install flowerbeds at each end of the village.

Action: Cllr Watson & Clerk

24. Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 8 April 2008 starting at 7.30pm.

JRP 12.3.08