

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 13 May 2008

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

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

- 1. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman:** Cllr Watson was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Collingridge as Vice Chairman.
- 2. Youth Council:** Cllrs supported the Chairman's proposal that James Mansell helps in the setting up of a Youth Council as an external committee. James would attend the Parish Meetings to report on the issues raised and write a column in the Newsletter. Cllr Day suggested that the Youth Council Meetings be held immediately prior to the Parish Meetings. Cllr Watson will investigate the procedure for the setting up of a Youth Council. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- 3. Councillors' Areas of Responsibility:** Cllrs agreed to continue with their present areas of responsibility.
- 4. Appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies:** Deferred until the next meeting.
- 5. Minutes of Council Meeting on 11 March 2008:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 6. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on 8 April 2008:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 7. Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Bryant visited Marshalls, Entech and Cawdor Stone. Cllr Watson attended a Planning Control Committee Meeting, an Association of Local Councils Conference, The Herts Environmental Forum, The Herts Rural Forum, a Welwyn Hatfield Heritage Meeting, met with Alan Reynolds regarding dragonflies, the launch of the Police Plan, a meeting with a representative of the YMCA regarding their proposal to be the lead in a Childrens' Centre in the Hall, a meeting with Park Leisure regarding equipment for young people, a meeting with Janet Shaw, Chief Registrar of Hertfordshire., regarding the Wedding Licence application and had talks with Monread Lodge on allotments. Cllrs Watson & Collingridge attended a Highways Meeting. Cllrs Watson, Collingridge & Day visited the Stanborough Police Headquarters.
- 8. Correspondence:** None.
- 9. HAPTC:**
 - a) Meeting at Hertford on 3rd June: Cllrs Watson & Collingridge will attend.
 - b) Training Courses in conjunction with Datchworth: A meeting will be held with Datchworth Council to identify which courses are required. **Action: Cllr Watson**
 - c) Training Courses: Cllrs were informed of a course on 7th October and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk will attend a course on 3rd June.
- 10. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)**
 - a) Monread Lodge: Appeal failed. A letter of complaint has been sent to WHBC as the Parish Council were not notified that an appeal was being submitted. **Action: Cllr Watson**
 - b) 11 London Road: Application refused. A letter will be sent to WHBC to determine what action is being taken. **Action: Cllr Bryant**
 - c) 59a London Road: Application withdrawn.
 - d) 59 London Road, the Petit Forestier site: The application has gone to appeal. A letter supporting the appeal will be drafted. **Action: Cllr Watson**
 - e) The Fox: Application granted.
 - f) Swangleys Farm: An application is to be submitted.
 - g) 46 New Road: The Planning Enforcement Officer is aware of works carried out that are not covered by the planning application.
 - h) Application 2008/0514 13 London Road: Crown reduction by 5% of SycamoreTree T1 covered by TPO 58. Application granted.
 - i) Applications 2008/0680 & 2008/0738 27 New Road: Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension. Cllr Bryant declared an interest. Cllrs agreed to support the application. **Action: Clerk**
 - j) Planning Bill: An approach has been made to Grant Shapps MP regarding the new appeals procedure.
 - k) Call In Procedure: Following a letter of complaint regarding the call in procedure WHBC's response made the following points:
 - (i) Borough Councillors have to maintain impartiality and therefore cannot participate on the Planning Committee.

- (ii) An application can be called in and withdrawn later if the application is delegated.
- (iii) Parish views are already taken into account.

Cllrs agreed to invite Stephen Boulton, Chairman of the Planning Committee, to the next meeting to discuss the issues.

Action: Clerk

11. Hall: (Cllr Watson)

- a) Councillors' Surgeries: Deferred until the next meeting, since the next surgery falls on Village Day.
- b) Wedding Licence: Councillors supported Cllr Watson's proposal that the charge for a Wedding Ceremony should be £250 in addition to the standard hire for the hall. It was agreed not to place an advertisement in a Wedding magazine. An article on the forthcoming Wedding Ceremony is to be published in the Welwyn Hatfield Times.
- c) Cut Your Carbon Fund: The Parish Council is to register with a view to implementing energy saving measures in the hall which could include insulation. A report by Planet Energy Solutions, regarding a Solar domestic hot water system, was circulated. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- d) Conditions Leaflet: As a result of a recent noisy party where many guests partied outside, Cllr Watson proposed that the capacity for the hall should be included on the Conditions Leaflet. She will also consider other suggestions such as emphasising important points and a warning that deposits may not be returned. **Action: Cllr Watson**

12. Finance:

- a) Payments and Accounts for March: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- b) Payments and Accounts for April: These had been circulated and were agreed. Cllr Bryant commented that hall lettings are down compared to 2007.
- c) The Clerk had completed the External Audit forms for the year ended 31 March 2008 and these were agreed and signed. (The effectiveness of internal controls will be discussed at the next meeting.)
- d) Small Business Rate Relief: The Clerk had submitted the Small Business Rate Relief form and is hopeful that the Council will qualify.

13. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: The 40mph speed limit has been agreed.
- b) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Leaflets to be completed by end of May
- c) White Horse Lane: The road has been partly resurfaced and patched in places but not satisfactorily. This matter will be raised at the next meeting with Highways. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- d) Hedging outside Red Lion: The Red Lion has been asked for the receipt for the hedging and confirmation that they will maintain it but no reply has been received. The Clerk has sent a reminder.
- e) Motorbikes: Motorbike riders have been seen using Cave Wood. Cllrs agreed to raise community awareness of the issue by including an article in the Newsletter to encourage the public to report any sightings to the police. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- f) War Memorial: Three quotes are being obtained. **Action: Cllr Day**
- g) Travel & Transport Schemes for Parishes: Cllr Watson will circulate the Herts Highways Travel & Transport Schemes for Parishes document to all Cllrs. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- h) Road Petition: The school petition for reducing the speed limit on the B197 has been submitted.
- i) Countryside Code: It was agreed to insert information regarding the Code in the next Newsletter. **Action: Cllr Watson**

14. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

Website: The dates of all meetings for Cllrs will be included on the website. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**

15. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

- a) Playground Inspection: Deferred until the next meeting.
- b) Climbing Rope: The climbing rope has been removed.

16. Pond:

- a) Grass Maintenance: The Council is awaiting a response from WHBC regarding taking over the grass maintenance round the pond.
- b) Dragonflies: Mr Alan Reynolds will be monitoring the dragonflies at the pond.

17. Registration of Council Land: Registration is now completed.

18. Village of the Year Competition: The clean-up of the hall grounds is on Wednesday 21 May at 7pm.

19. Village Day: Posters will be displayed

20. Speed Camera: Cllr Watson agreed draft a letter to the Chairman of the Police Authority to inform him that the speed camera does not work. **Action: Cllr Watson**

21. Council Meetings: It was agreed to cancel the July meeting, but hold a meeting on 12 August.

22. Staff Salaries: Deferred to next meeting. **Action: Cllr Bryant**

23. AOB: Parish Councillor Award: Cllr Watson had been nominated for a Civic Award by a parishioner.

24. Next Meeting: Tuesday 10 June 2008 starting at 7.30pm.

AAE 29.5.08