

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 10 June 2008**

### **Part I**

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

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr S Day.

**2. Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign:** Mr Mike Fairchild delivered a presentation and circulated leaflets on the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport and the detrimental impact it will have on a wide surrounding area. He informed the Council that there is overwhelming opposition from numerous organisations and individuals. Following a discussion, Cllrs agreed that they would support the campaign. Proposals for the south-east of England Airspace Changes were reviewed and it was agreed to raise no objection at this time. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**

**3. Planning Matters:** WHBC Chairman of Planning, Cllr Stephen Boulton attended the meeting to discuss planning matters. Cllrs informed him that they have been disappointed by the poor response from planning on a number of issues recently and they are unconvinced that the Parish Council's views are given serious attention when considering applications. Cllr Boulton agreed to address the issues raised, where possible, and will send a written response.

**4. Appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies:** Cllr Watson will step down from the Welwyn Anglo French Twinning Association. All other appointments will remain unchanged.

**5. Minutes of Council Meeting on 13 May 2008:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**6. Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Watson attended a WHALC meeting and a Planning Meeting. Cllr Watson & Collingridge attended a talk by the leader of HCC. The Clerks attended a Clerks Induction Course.

**7. Correspondence:** Cllr Watson had received a letter from Grant Shapps MP in support of her suggestion of including a question in the Census regarding second homes.

**8. HAPTC:** Cllrs supported Cllr Watson's recommendations of appropriate candidates to vote onto the HAPTC Executive. **Action: Cllr Watson**

**9. Youth Matters:**

a) Report from James Mansell: James asked if activities could be organised during the summer holidays. He suggested that vigilant young people could spot incidents and was advised that all incidents should be reported to the police. James was thanked for the young peoples' informative film shown at Village Day. Further film making is planned. **Action: Cllr Watson**

b) Children's Club: With the support of an adult, two young people want to set up an after school club one night a week for 5 – 11 year olds in the Hall. Cllr Watson will liaise with the adult and investigate the feasibility. **Action: Cllr Watson**

**10. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)**

a) 11a London Road: A letter was received from Planning Enforcement informing Cllrs that Easimix Concrete Ltd has plans to relocate and that the photographer has been given notice. However, he may appeal.

b) 59 London Road, Petit Forestier site: The appeal will now be heard by the Planning Inspectorate at an Informal Hearing. The Inspectorate is aware that the Council wishes to attend and make representation to the Hearing.

c) 27 New Road: Application 2008/0608 refused. Application 2008/0738 granted.

d) Application 2008/0794 1 Oak Road: Erection of first floor side and part single & part two storey rear extensions. Cllrs agreed to support the application. **Action: Cllr Bryant**

e) Application 2008/0804 39 London Road: Erection of single storey rear extension. Cllrs agreed to support the application. **Action: Cllr Bryant**

f) Application 2008/0806 39 London Road: Erection of replacement front wall. Cllrs opposed the application on the grounds that it contravened policies adopted by the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Bryant**

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

a) Councillors' Surgeries: Cllr Bryant will attend the surgery on 5 July. **Action: Cllr Bryant**

b) Cut Your Carbon Fund: Cllr Watson is proceeding with the application. **Action: Cllr Watson**

- c) Conditions Leaflet: Cllrs approved the changes to the Conditions Leaflet.
- d) Licence Agreement: Cllrs agreed to implementing a £10 alcohol licence agreement for hirers.
- e) Theft of Lead from Roof: The Insurance Company have informed the Clerk that the theft of lead from the roof is not covered under the hall insurance policy. The HAPTC will be consulted for advice. The quotations for replacing the flashing will be circulated. **Action: Clerk**

**12. Finance:** (*Cllr Bryant*)

- a) Payments and Accounts for May: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- b) Internal Audit: The internal auditor will be asked in future to write a statement saying he has audited procedures before the Council agrees the submission of the final accounts to the external auditors. **Action: Clerk**

- c) Small Business Rate Relief: Cllrs had been informed that this year's business rate has been reduced by £327.24. The Clerk is awaiting a cheque for Small Business Relief for last year of £352.33.

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

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: Awaiting a reply on when it will be implemented.
- b) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Thanks were expressed to Cllr Collingridge for all his hard work in producing the Footpath Map.
- c) White Horse Lane: Nothing to report.
- d) Hedging outside Red Lion: The receipt for the grant had been received and the landlords have formally agreed to maintain the hedging.
- e) Motorbikes: A motorbike rider on protected land has been identified and reported to the police.
- f) Barrier to Datchworth Footpath: Parish Paths will be contacted with regard to erecting a gate at Datchworth/Robbery Bottom footpath. **Action: Cllr Collingridge**
- g) War Memorial: Deferred until the next meeting.
- h) Mardley Heath: WHBC will be consulted about replacing the BMX track. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- i) Allotments: No progress to report.
- j) Play Equipment: PCSO Taylor is recommending that a Kick Wall is purchased as an activity for young people. The Youth Representative will be consulted. **Action: Cllr Watson**

**14. Publicity:** (*Cllr Collingridge*)

Website: The Website is continually updated.

**15. Grounds:** (*Cllr Gribble*)

Playground Inspection: Deferred until the next meeting.

**16. Pond:**

Grass Maintenance: No progress to report.

**17. Village of the Year Competition:** The judging will take place on Friday 13 June.

**18. Village Day:** Cllrs expressed thanks to Cllr Watson for a successful Village Day. Thanks also to Cawdor Stone and Marshals for their contributions. A villager has offered help on activities for young children for next year.

**19. Speed Camera:** Still awaiting a reply from Ian Laidlaw-Dickson.

**20. AOB:**

- a) Three Valleys Water: Cllrs were notified of a presentation by Three Valleys Water about their Draft Water Resources Management Plan at 6.30 p.m. on 19 June at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield.
- b) Welwyn Parish Plan: Cllr Watson had obtained a copy of the Welwyn Parish Plan.
- c) Countryside Code: Cllr Bryant proposed that the development of a Countryside Code should be pursued.

**21. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 12 August 2008 starting at 7.30pm.

**Part II**

**22. Staff Salaries:** After discussion, the Council agreed not to make any changes to current salary levels.