

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 14 October 2008**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Acting Clerk).

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr H Bryant.

**2. Minutes of Council Meeting on 9 September 2008:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**3. Matters arising from Minutes:**

a) Mr A Edmonds: The gift for Mr Edmonds cost £20.

b) Lorry: The lorry is no longer parking in Mardleybury Road.

**4. Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Watson attended the following meetings: PSLA scoping meeting for Children's centre, Allotments and leisure Gardens meeting with Cllr Burge, Mayor's Civic Service at Essendon, Launch of Rural watch by the police, Village of Year meeting with Cllrs Gribble and Burge, Heritage Forum Meeting, Allotments meeting with Cllr Burge, Opening of refurbished classrooms at school with Grant Shapps, Cut your Carbon Conference at Cambridge, Meeting of Borough with the Parishes with J Pearce, Meeting with Groundwork Trust re Old Pavilion site with J Pearce. Cllr Watson and the Clerk also attended a Highways Meeting where matters discussed included reinstating the ditch along Mardleybury Road, the speed limit on Mardleybury Road, the village gateway, clearing the drain in Bridge Road, painting lamp posts, pot holes, dropped curbs and Traffic Orders.

Cllr Collingridge attended a meeting with Countryside Management.

**5. Correspondence:** A letter was received from Mr A Edmonds thanking the Parish Council for his leaving present.

**6. Youth Matters:** The first computer club will be held on Wednesday 15 October.

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

a) Application 2008/1718 1 Oak Road: The Council supported the application.

b) Application 2008/1780 4 Holly Road: The Council supported the application with the condition that the amount of parking space available on the site should remain the same as parking has caused problems with neighbours.

c) Application 2008/1894 15 Mardleybury Road: The Council had no objection and are aware it is greenbelt land. There should be a condition that the building would not be used as a residence.

d) Planning Portal: WHBC have confirmed that the Planning Portal is working.

e) WHBC's procedure for responding to applications: WHBC confirm that highways issues are investigated when considering applications.

f) Frythe site: Cllrs were informed that Smith Kline Beecham are vacating The Frythe site which could become a target for developers.

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

a) Councillors Surgeries: Cllr Burge will attend the surgery on 1 November and Cllr Day on 6 December. Future Surgery dates will be circulated.

**Action: Cllr Watson**

b) Hall Floor: Cllrs agreed to accept a quote for £275 for cutting the expansion gap along the edges of the hall floor. All are welcome to attend a photo shoot on 22 October at the hall.

c) Repair to Table: The broken table will have to be collected and taken to the manufacturers for repair.

**Action Clerk**

d) Display Cupboard: The council agreed to purchase two display cabinets from the Museum Service at a cost of £10 each.

**Action Cllr Watson**

e) Repair of Windows: A quote was obtained for £1500 to replace the lower section of windows with brick. Councillors decided to consult a Structural Engineer before proceeding with any repair.

**Action: Cllr Watson**

f) Double Glazing: It was decided not to go ahead with installing double glazing at the moment.

g) Childrens' Centre: A floor plan of the extension to the hall was shown to Cllrs. A letter will be sent to the PSLA to say the Council unanimously support setting up a Childrens' Centre at the hall.

**Action Clerk**

**9. Finance:** (Cllr Day)

a) Payments and Accounts for September: These had been circulated and were agreed.

- b) Gas & Electricity Payments: WHBC think it would be cost effective if Parishes used the OGC supply. The matter will be raised at the next WHALC Meeting. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- c) Budget Items: None to report.
- d) Staff Overtime: To compensate the caretaker for finishing at 2am after Saturdays party Cllrs agreed that she should be paid overtime at double time. **Action Clerk**
- e) Councillor Responsible for Finance: Cllr Day agreed to assume responsibility for finance replacing Cllr Bryant.

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

- a) Finesse & Mardley Heath Recreation Facilities: No progress to report.
- b) Church Funding: Cllrs approved a match funding payment of £500 to the church as a result of a fund raising event held earlier in the year. It was also agreed that they be asked to trim the yew trees in the churchyard. **Action Clerk**
- c) PCSO: The PCSO has suggested that it would be beneficial to the Parish to recruit a second officer. Half of the funding would need to be supplied by the Parish Council.
- d) Village Gateway: Cllr Burge will draw up plans for the village gateways. It was proposed to apply to the Community Chest for funding. **Action: Cllr Burge**
- e) White Horse Lane to Datchworth Footpath: Countryside Management are willing to carry out work to the footpath to resolve flooding and prevent motorbike access. The Council were advised to write to CMS to emphasise the issues. **Action Clerk**
- f) Footpath Boards: Cllrs agreed a quote of £530+ VAT for mounted boards and £650+ VAT for freestanding boards with a possibility of 10% discount.
- g) War Memorial: Cllrs agreed to a quote of £176 to clean the war memorial.
- h) British Legion: The Council agreed to donate £50 to the British Legion.

**11. Publicity:** Articles about Woolmer Green Hall as a wedding venue will appear in Welwyn Hatfield Times and County Wedding Magazine.

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

- a) Old Pavilion Site: The Groundwork Trust are going to draft plans for landscaping the old pavilion site. It was proposed that the Council could apply to the Community Chest for funding.
- b) Monthly Playground Inspection: Deferred until the next meeting.
- c) Yearly Playground Inspection: The inspection will be arranged. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- d) Playground Signs: Deferred until next meeting.
- e) Allotments: The Allotment Society met and discussed possible allotment sites. Cllr Burge was elected chairman.

**14. Pond Matters:**

- a) Pond Waste: No progress to report.
- b) Access across Council Land: A letter will be sent to 6 New Road asking them to acknowledge that the access track to their house is common land and should not be used for parking. **Action Cllr Collingridge**

**15. Village of the Year Competition:** Deferred until next meeting.

**16. AOB:**

Calendar: It was agreed to produce a calendar at a cost of £250.

**17. Date of next Meeting:** 14 October 2008 starting at 7.30pm.