

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 11 November 2008**

***Prior to the meeting James Mansell gave a presentation on the CCTV system he has installed in the hall.***

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

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Acting Clerk), members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** None. Cllr H Bryant has resigned.
- 2. Minutes of Council Meeting on 14 October 2008:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Watson and the Clerk attended the Carpet Bowls 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting where there was a photo shoot with Chris Mullen who resurfaced the hall floor. They also met with a structural engineer to discuss the south window and on 30<sup>th</sup> October met with builder, Terry Lee, to discuss the work required to repair the south window. Cllr Watson also attended a Business Continuity seminar for Parish Councils at Hertford County Council offices.  
Cllr Watson spent a morning clearing the churchyard and Cllr Day cleaned the Church porch roof.  
On 9<sup>th</sup> November Cllrs Watson, Collingridge, Day & Gribble laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service.
- 4. Correspondence:** A letter was received from the Church thanking the Parish Council for the £500 match funding donation and to inform them that they are looking into the possibility of pruning the yew trees.
- 5. Youth Matters:** The computer club has been postponed until next year.
- 6. Planning:**
  - a) Decisions: None
  - b) New applications: None
  - c) 1 Oak Road: The application has been called in to the Planning Control Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.
  - d) Petit Forestier site: An appeal is being held at the Council Offices on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.
- 7. Hall: (Cllr Watson)**
  - a) Councillors Surgeries: Cllr Burge attended the surgery on 1 November. From 2009 the surgeries will alternate between Woolmer Green, Oaklands & Digswell.
  - b) Hall Floor & Window: The work to cut an expansion gap along the edges of the hall floor is complete. The floor has also been cut in front of the south window in preparation for laying the brickwork.
  - c) Repair to Table: The broken table has not yet been collected. **Action Clerk**
  - d) Cleaner's Boiler: The water supply was cut to the boiler probably as a result of the bar staff running water continuously, reducing the water pressure. The cost to reset the boiler was £75. The barman will be informed of this problem.
  - e) Letter from Resident: A local resident has complained about overhanging trees, overgrown brambles and the car park perimeter barrier in the hall grounds. A letter will be sent to explain why the Parish Council have no plans to prune the foliage or replace the barrier. **Action Clerk**
  - f) Bar Agreement: A meeting will be held with the barman to renegotiate the bar agreement. **Action: Cllr Watson**
  - g) Childrens' Centre: The Pre-school Learning Alliance have appointed a Manager for the Woolmer Green Childrens' Centre.
- 8. Finance: (Cllr Day)**
  - a) Payments and Accounts for October: These had been circulated and were agreed.
  - b) Budget 2009/10: Cllrs discussed the preliminary budget & investments. The increase to the salaries & utilities budgets will be reconsidered.
- 9. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)**
  - a) War Memorial: The War Memorial has been cleaned at a cost of £179. Cllrs agreed to donate £50 towards the cost of pruning the yew trees to help reduce the soiling of the monument
  - b) CPRE Anti-litter Campaign: Cllrs agreed that litter is not a significant problem in the village and decided not to participate in the campaign.

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

- a) Magazine Advert: A ¼ page advert promoting the hall as a wedding venue, costing £95, will appear in the new year issue of Herts & Beds Wedding Magazine. Details of the hall will also be included on the publication's web site.
- b) Website: The newsletter requires updating on the website.

**Action: Cllr Collingridge**

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

- a) Groundwork Trust: The Groundwork Trust have removed the poles along the side of the football pitch. They may also be able to remove the concrete on the old pavilion site.
- b) Yearly Playground Inspections: Cllrs agreed to accept a quote of £130 for a yearly playground inspection.
- c) Monthly Playground Inspection: Cllrs decided to revert to taking turns to inspect the playgrounds. The rota could be included on a private page on the web site.
- d) Playground Signs: Cllrs Collingridge & Gribble will liaise to work on the production of the playground signs.
- e) Allotments: The Council will consider applying to the Community Chest for funding to set up allotments.
- f) Jolly Garden: A quote of £1000 to prune the shrubs in the Jolly Garden was considered too expensive. Further quotes will be obtained.

**Action: Cllr Watson**

**12. Grants:** (Cllr Day)

HAPTC: The Council received 90% of the Web Grant they applied for from HAPTC. A total of £151.20. A letter of thanks will be sent.

**Action: Clerk**

**13. Pond Matters:**

Pond Waste: As WHBC were unable to collect the pond waste the Parish Council paid £125 to have it removed. Volunteers cleaned out the pipe from the road to the pond as the road became flooded after heavy rain.

**14. Village of the Year Competition:** Cllr Day offered to complete a category of the Village of the Year entry. The entry must be submitted by the end of November.

**Action: Cllrs Watson & Day**

**15. AOB:**

- a) CPRE: A CPRE Council Meeting on Rural Housing will be held in the hall at 2pm on 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- b) Wild Food: Stuart Blackman will appear on a Sky Food programme on 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- c) The Village Store: The new village shop has opened. The Council will send a letter of support.
- d) WHALC: The next WHALC Meeting will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December at Essendon. Woolmer Green will ask for three items to be added to the agenda; Life Magazine articles, sharing WHBC power supply & touring Hatfield Police Station.
- e) Stevenage Police Station: Cllr Watson will enquire whether it is possible to visit the new Stevenage Police Station.
- f) Heritage Stall: Cllr Watson will present a display of Harry MacDonald's woodcarvings at Welwyn/Hatfield Museum
- g) Calendar: Cllrs approved the proof of the 2009 calendar and agreed to print 200 copies.
- h) Christmas Card: The school will be asked to design the Parish Council's Christmas card.

**Action: Clerk**

**Action: Clerk**

**Action: Cllr Watson**

**Action: Cllr Gribble**

**16. Date of next Meeting:** 9 December 2008 starting at 7.30pm.