

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9 December 2008

Present: Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr N Collingridge (Vice Chair), Cllr M Burge, Cllr S Day, Cllr A Gribble.
Cllr P Corke.

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

1. Apologies for Absence: James Mansell.

2. Co-option: The Council agreed to co-opt Philip Corke of Wolves Mere, Woolmer Green, as a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Corke signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Undertaking to observe the Current Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of Council Meeting on 11 November 2008: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from Minutes:

- a) Heritage Stall: Cllr Watson was unable to attend the Heritage event at Welwyn/Hatfield Museum.
- b) Stevenage Police Station: It was agreed not to visit Stevenage Police Station as it is outside the Welwyn Hatfield area.

5. Meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Watson attended a CPRE Meeting and the Appeal Hearing for the Petit Forestier site. She also attended the WHBC Planning Committee Meeting with Cllr S Markiewicz. Cllrs Watson & Burge attended the Councillors' Surgery and Cllrs Watson & Collingridge attended a Datchworth Climate Change Meeting.

Cllrs Watson & Corke and the Clerk went to Essendon for the WHALC Meeting.

Cllr Collingridge met with the Rights of Way Officer to discuss the footpaths.

6. Correspondence: The Council have been informed by the Information Commissioner's Office of the new Model Publication Scheme. The Council have to adopt the scheme on 1 January. **Action: Clerk**
Cllrs have been invited to a Special Councillor Event to discuss Welwyn Hatfield's Sustainable Corporate & Community Plan on 10 February. This co-insides with the Parish Meeting so Cllrs are unable to attend. A number of themed events will be held in January and the dates will be circulated to Cllrs. A meeting on Climate Change will be held at Woolmer Green hall on 14 January at 10.00am. **Action: Cllr Watson**

7. Youth Matters: Deferred until next meeting.

8. Planning:

- a) 1 Oak Road: The decision to refuse the application was overturned at the Borough Planning Committee Meeting. A letter will be sent to the residents asking if the example can be used in future publicity. **Action: Clerk**
- b) 4 Holly Road: Application refused.
- c) New applications: None
- d) Petit Forestier site: The outcome of the Appeal will be published in January.

9. Hall: (Cllr Watson)

- a) Councillors Surgeries: Cllr Day will attend the Surgery on 3 January.
- b) Repair to Windows: The work will be carried out in January.
- c) Repair to Table: The broken table has been taken for repair.
- d) Premises Licence: The barman has agreed to pay the £180 fee that covers the Alcohol Licence. Cllrs agreed that hirers should apply for a Temporary Events Notice if they want to sell alcohol.
- e) Childrens' Centre: A Structural Engineer from Mace will visit on 10 December.

10. Finance: (Cllr Day)

- a) Payments and Accounts for November: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- b) Pension Scheme: A decision on whether to offer the Local Government Pension Scheme to employees will be deferred until January after investigating other schemes available. The LGPS would involve a large cost to the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- c) Budget 2009/10: A 3% increase to salaries will be included in the 2009/10 budget. It was agreed to defer implementing an increase until the NALC agreement is finalised.

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

a) Stolen Bench: The bench at Bridgers Path has been stolen. Cllrs agreed to apply to the Community Chest for a replacement and that the benches on the footpaths should be bolted down.

Action: Cllrs Watson & Collingridge

b) School Road Safety Meeting: The Clerk attended the meeting where the surfacing of the path from the hall grounds to the Twin Foxes was discussed. Cllrs decided to include £1000 match funding in the budget for community projects.

c) Footpaths: Resurfacing and drainage work has been carried out to the White Horse Lane to Datchworth footpath to resolve flooding. Barriers are due to be installed to deter motorcyclists.

12. Publicity: (*Cllr Collingridge*)

a) Magazine Advert: Herts & Beds Wedding Magazine containing the hall advert has been published.

b) Website: The website has been set up to display the newsletter in PDF format.

c) Calendars: The calendars have been printed and distributed to the shops & pubs. They will also be sold at the school Christmas Bazaar.

d) Christmas Card: The two winners of the Christmas card competition have been chosen and will receive £25 & £15 Art van Go vouchers.

13. Grounds: (*Cllr Gribble*)

a) Groundwork Trust: Ideas from the Groundwork Trust have been circulated and approved. There will be a meeting shortly to further the proposals. The possibility of applying for funding from the Community Chest is being investigated.

Action: Cllr Watson

b) Yearly Playground Inspections: These will take place in December.

c) Monthly Playground Inspection: The rota will be set up in January.

d) Playground Signs: Deferred until next meeting.

e) Allotment Society: The Allotment Society have been offered one acre of land with an option of two acres, next to the church. By using environmentally friendly solutions in setting up the allotments an application for funding could be submitted to the CDA Cut your Carbon scheme. Other sources of funding will also be investigated. All Cllrs are invited to attend an Allotment Society meeting on 15 December at 8.00pm to develop a plan that Cllr Storer will put forward to the Social & Environmental Committee on 8 January. The plan can then be submitted to WHBC Planning Committee.

Action: Cllr Watson & Burge

f) Jolly Garden: A second quote for pruning the Jolly Garden was for £750. A third quote will be obtained.

Action: Clerk

14. Village of the Year Competition: The entry has been submitted. The judging will take place in March.

15. AOB:

a) Planning Training: Planning Training will take place on Thursday 9 April.

b) WHALC: The next WHALC meeting will be held at the Birchwood Centre, Hatfield on 23 February.

c) Parish Plan: Cllr Corke agreed to take over responsibility for the Parish Plan.

d) Village Entrances: Cllr Burge recommended some wooden planters.

e) PCSO Taylor: A letter of recommendation will be sent to the police praising PCSO Taylor for his help to a resident after a recent car accident and general policing in the village.

Action: Clerk

f) Cllr S Markiewicz: A letter will be sent to Cllr Markiewicz thanking him for all his help and support.

Action: Clerk

g) Wild Food: A letter will be sent to Mr S Blackman congratulating him on winning the Food Hero of East Anglia Cookery Competition.

Action: Clerk

h) Lighting in Hall Toilets: Cllrs considered the possibility of installing occupancy switches in the hall toilets.

i) Christmas Decorations: Cllrs agreed to investigate the purchase of solar Christmas lights for display.

Action: Cllr Watson

j) Carols round the Pond: The event will take place on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm.

16. Date of next Meeting: 13 January 2009 starting at 7.30pm.