

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 14 July 2009

Present: Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr M Burge, Cllr P Corke, Cllr A Gribble.

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

4.1 To receive apologies for absence: Clls N Collingridge & S Day.

4.2 To receive declaration of interests: None.

4.3 To approve minutes of Council Meeting on 9 June 2009: Arising from these minutes Cllrs agreed that Paula Deane & Catriona Byres should be acknowledged for organising the entry for the Village of the Year competition and Gary Fenton, Stuart Blackman & James Mansell for their contribution in the presentation. Actioned from the June minutes the sign by the pond has been removed. Resolved: The minutes of 9 June meeting, to include the above amendment, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4.4 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Watson attended the Police Awards where PCSO Rob Taylor received the award for the best PCSO in Hertfordshire. She also went to the school play. Cllrs Watson & Burge attended an Allotment meeting. Cllrs Watson & Collingridge met with Tracey Harvey at WHBC Planning. Cllrs Watson, Collingridge & Gribble attended the Village of the Years Awards where Woolmer Green won the Hertfordshire East prize for the second year running. They also met with the organiser of the "We Need a School" campaign to hear their proposals.

4.5 To receive correspondence: A letter was received from: Grant Shapps MP congratulating Woolmer Green on winning the Village of the Year award; Brian Bailey of Entech thanking the Parish Council for the work they do for Woolmer Green. Details of a car sharing scheme were received from HCC; Cllrs agreed not to take part. A letter of complaint was received from a regular hirer of the hall (see 4.8d)

4.6 To receive a report on youth matters: None.

4.7 Planning: (Cllr Corke)

a) 4 Holly Road: No notification of the appeal hearing date was received from WHBC Planning. No decision to report.

b) 59 London Road: The original application will have an appeal hearing on 28 July at 10am. There is no decision on the last application.

c) 65 London Road: Application approved.

d) 4 New Court: Application refused.

e) Children's Centre: Application approved.

f) Application AP/2009/1066/FP 11 Hay Wains, Erection of rear conservatory: Plans not available online. Will be discussed at an extra meeting.

g) To receive a report on discussions with planning: The Council met with WHBC planning to discuss 4 New Court which Cllrs asked to call in but due to an error the decision to refuse the application was made before the consultation period ended. Principal Development Control Officer, Richard Aston has agreed to meet with the resident of 4 New Court and his architect to find a way forward. A letter of complaint has been sent to Chief Planning Officer, Chris Conway.

4.8 Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) To review progress on the Children's Centre: The lease agreement had been received and a meeting will be arranged with PsLA to discuss them. The Children's Centre Manager has asked to erect a metal shed behind the hall for which they will have to apply for planning permission. Cllrs agreed that the legal position regarding all building work should be discussed with HCC legal team. **Action: Cllr Watson**

b) To receive a report on noise limiters: A quote has been obtained for a noise limiter for £419+VAT plus £10 delivery. The company is promising a refund, less costs, if the equipment proves unsuitable. A sound meter test should be carried out to ascertain if the hall is sufficiently sound proofed before the sound limiter is installed. The Chairman informed the Council that a DJ, believed to be responsible for excessive noise, has been sent a letter requesting him to reduce the sound at future events. **Action: Cllr Gribble**

c) To consider installing environmental measures in the hall: A quote for £200 per room has been obtained to install automatic lighting in the hall and a quote for £119 has been obtained for installing a water flow regulator to the urinals. Cllr Corke will investigate what grants are available. **Action: Cllr Corke.**

In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the business the Council resolved to exclude the press and public while item 3.8d & 3.8e were discussed.

- d) To consider a complaint from a regular hirer of the hall: A meeting will be held to resolve the matter. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) To consider a payment to member of staff for extra duties: Resolved: To pay a member of staff for extra duties.
- f) To receive a report on a broken table: One of the bases on a section of the committee room table has broken. A local resident may be able to weld it. **Action: Cllr Watson.**

4.9 Finance: (Cllr Day)

To approve payments and accounts for June: These had been circulated. Resolved: to approve payments and accounts for June.

4.10 Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge & Cllr Corke)

- a) To receive a report on the Highways meeting: The minutes will be circulated. A resident had reported that the path at Longmead needs clearing. WHBC Housing department will be notified. **Action: Cllr Gribble.**
- b) To receive progress on the Parish Plan, B197: It has been suggested that Catriona Byres takes on the project. She is considering it.

4.11 Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

To review progress on Business & Transport leaflets: The draft of the Transport Leaflet will be circulated to all councillors for comments. **Action: Cllr Watson.**

4.12 Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

- a) To receive a report on the monthly playground inspections: Cllr Corke carried out the playground inspection and highlighted some issues that need attention. The fence in the hall playground is insecure, a corner of the paving on the garden road hill is protruding and the equipment is rusty. Cllr Burge has offered to repaint the equipment and also reported that the fence is loose. **Action: Cllr Burge & Clerk.**
- b) To review progress of the playground & Children's Centre Signs: Progress is ongoing. Hall signs at the playing field entrance will also be produced. **Action: Cllr Gribble.**
- c) To receive a report on the Allotment Society: The Society is still awaiting the lease agreement. Following a letter from the Bishop of Hertford saying access to the allotments through the churchyard would not be acceptable to local residents villagers will be canvassed to gauge their opinion. The Church Commission will also be contacted. As the grant application is proving a slow process and the project needs to begin in September Cllr Watson proposed that the Council makes a further £4000 available to enable the project to go ahead. If possible it could be repaid if funding is successful. Resolved: To make £4000 available to the Allotment Society.
- d) To review progress of the old pavilion site: The Football Foundation are requesting proof that the Parish Council own the land. Cllr Corke will draft a letter which the Council's solicitor will be asked to sign that will prove ownership. **Action Cllrs Corke & Watson.**

4.13 To receive a report on the arrangements for the Village of the Year presentation ceremony:

The presentation will take place on Saturday 18 July at 12.20pm by the pond. Representatives from CPRE, CALOR, WHBC, HCC will attend along with the judges and The Mercury. Help on the day would be appreciated.

4.14 To adopt the Publication Scheme: The Publication Scheme which informs the public what information the Parish Council holds and how to access it will be displayed on the web site. Resolved: To adopt the Publication Scheme.

4.15 To receive announcements:

- a) Cllr Watson will enter the Parish Council into the Welwyn Hatfield Times Business Awards.
- b) A feature film is being filmed in the village during August.
- c) Grant Shapps MP will hold a question & answer meeting in the hall on Thursday 25 February 2010.
- d) The annual pond clearance will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August.
- e) A letter will be sent to departing Head Teacher, Mrs Westley, to thank her and wish her good luck.

4.17 Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 8 September 2009 at 7.30pm