

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8 September 2009

Prior to the meeting Woolmer Green's new policeman PC Kevin Ford introduced himself and councillors and residents were able to raise some issues of concern. These included the B197 & complaints of noisy parties at the hall. He was also asked if he could promote OWL to more residents.

Present: Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr Collingridge (Vice Chair), Cllr M Burge (part of meeting), Cllr P Corke, Cllr A Gribble.

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

6.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr S Day.

6.2 To receive declaration of interests: None.

6.3 To approve minutes of Council Meeting on 14 July & extra meeting on 10 August 2009:

Resolved: The minutes of 14 July meeting & extra meeting on 10 August 2009 meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6.4 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Watson attended a Welwyn Hatfield Heritage committee meeting, the councillors surgery, an Allotment Meeting, a meeting with Margaret Earl & Paul Underwood about a Community Chest grant, a meeting with staff about cleaning the hall and met with the solicitor about the Allotments & Children's Centre leases. She was also an extra in the production filmed in the village.

Cllrs Watson and Gribble attended Mrs Westley's leaving assembly.

Cllrs Watson and Day took part in the clearing of the pond.

Cllrs Watson, Gribble, Day & Corke attended the Village of the Year celebrations.

Cllrs Watson and Collingridge attended two meetings about the Children's Centre.

Cllr Collingridge attended a meeting with the Project Team about the bricks for the Children's Centre.

6.5 To receive correspondence: Received agenda for Herts Local Access meeting and Children's Centre Advisory Committee meeting that Cllr Gribble will attend. An invitation to a Knebworth Parish Public Meeting on 8 September. A letter from Highways informing that New Road will be closed for resurfacing. Information from CDA on available grants. A letter from a resident thanking the Parish Council for clearing the pond. WHBC informed the Council that there had been an objection from them including Woolmer Green Parish Council in their electricity purchase consortium. The reason being that the Parish Council is tied into a contract until July 2011 therefore the Council has had to withdraw from the scheme. A letter was received from Mr M Haigh objecting to the proposals of the "We Need a School" campaign.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Haigh, who sent the above letter, to voice his concerns. He believed the proposed school and housing development would ruin the character of the area by building on green belt land and would lead to traffic congestion. Mr Haigh left and the meeting was reconvened.

6.6 Planning: (Cllr Corke)

a) 4 Holly Road: Application approved on appeal.

b) 59 London Road, Care Home: The last application has been approved. The original application has been withdrawn from appeal.

c) 11 Hay Wains: Application approved.

d) 4 New Court: Application going to appeal.

e) Application: N6/2009/1556/FP, 80 Carvers Croft, Erection of single storey front extension to garage and rear conservatory: Cllrs had no objections to the rear conservatory but thought the garage extension to the front was over development of the site and could cause further parking problems. Resolved: To object to the application.

f) Allotments: Waiting for Planning approval.

6.7 Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) To review progress on the Children's Centre: The lease agreement has not been finalised. The work is scheduled to start on 14 September. To allow the building to begin before the lease is finalised cllrs agreed that a lease of will be drawn up by the Parish Council's solicitor as long as the heads of terms are agreed

at a meeting with Children's Centre representatives on 9 September. Cllrs also agreed to simplify the service charge calculation.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Watson & Collingridge

b) To receive a report on noise limiters: PC Ford agreed to investigate information.

c) To consider installing environmental measures in the hall: No progress to report.

d) To consider a report on cleaning the hall: A hall cleaning schedule and notes of a meeting with the cleaner and caretaker were circulated. All recommendations have been actioned.

e) To consider a volunteer to organise heritage corner: Emma Pearce has volunteered.

6.8 Finance: (*Cllr Day*)

a) To approve payments and accounts for July & August: These had been circulated. Resolved: to approve payments and accounts for July & August.

b) To consider budget items for 2010/11: Cllrs were asked to think about what items could be included in next years budget.

6.9 Environment & Transport: (*Cllr Collingridge & Cllr Corke*)

a) To receive progress on the Parish Plan, B197: No progress to report.

b) To consider the repair of the pond wall: Mr Bootle who's property is adjacent to the pond has asked the Parish Council to pay for repair of the pond wall. Cllrs agreed that it was the responsibility of Mr Bootle.

c) To consider maintenance of the village appearance: Black paint has been purchased for the re painting of the playground equipment as coloured paint is more expensive. Cllrs agreed this was acceptable. The village flower containers will be replanted.

Action: Cllr Burge.

d) To consider responding to the BAA Stansted Noise Action Plan consultation: Cllrs agreed not to respond.

6.10 Publicity: (*Cllr Collingridge*)

a) To review progress on Business & Transport leaflets: Deferred until next meeting.

b) To consider whether information about the "We Need a School" campaign should be included on the Parish web site: Cllrs agreed to change the information on the web site to reflect the Council's neutral stance.

Action: Cllr Collingridge.

6.11 Grounds: (*Cllr Gribble*)

a) To receive a report on the monthly playground inspections: Cllr Corke carried out the playground inspection. Issues highlighted at the last inspection are still to be addressed.

Action: Cllr Watson.

b) To review progress of the playground & Children's Centre Signs: The artwork for the playground signs is complete and a sample sign was approved. It was thought the Children's Centre sign at the hall grounds entrance will include the village hall.

Action: Cllr Gribble.

c) To receive a report on the Allotment Society and consider water provision: The Society is still awaiting the lease agreement. A water collection system was suggested for consideration.

d) To review progress of the old pavilion site: No progress to report.

6.12 To consider supporting The Sustainable Communities Act Communities Bill: Information had been circulated. The Parish Council will support the bill. Individual cllrs could also support it if they wish.

6.13 To receive a report on the Village of the Year celebrations: The celebrations were a success. A representative of CPRE said it was the best they had attended.

6.14 Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 7.30pm

JRP 10.9.09

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____