

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 10 November 2009

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

8.1 To receive apologies for absence: None

8.2 To receive declaration of interests: Cllr Collingridge declared a prejudicial interest with regard to the allotments as he is in partnership with the landowner. Cllr Gribble declared a personal interest in the chestnut tree in the hall grounds which is at the back of his property.

8.3 To approve minutes of Council Meeting on 13 October: Resolved: The minutes of the 13 October meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8.4 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Watson met with planning and established that the trees on the far side of the pond are not the responsibility of the Parish Council. She also attended an HAPTC Executive meeting, HCC Transport Plan Consultation, a NALC Quality Council Seminar and public consultation on the review of the East of England Plan to 2031.

Cllr Collingridge met with CMS.

Cllrs Watson and Collingridge attended a site meeting on the Children's Centre.

Cllr Day attended a Standards Committee Meeting.

Cllr Gribble met with Aidan Freeman of Herts Sports Partnership which has funding for village sport facilities.

Cllrs Watson, Collingridge, Corke & Gribble attended the Remembrance Service.

8.5 To receive correspondence: A letter was received from Herts Highways who are applying for Private Finance Initiative credits to fund the replacement of the county's street lighting. HCC Waste Procurement consultation document was received.

WHBC are inviting comments on their Open Space Strategy Consultation.

Action: Cllr Watson

An e mail was forwarded from Grant Shapps' secretary of a complaint from a resident who is hiring the hall.

8.6 Planning: (Cllr Corke)

a) 4 New Court: Application approved on appeal.

b) To consider a response to EERP Review to 2031: WHBC will be consulted before the Parish Council prepare a response.

Action: Cllr Watson

8.7 Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) To review progress on the Children's Centre: The site meeting had reported that the building work is progressing well. After the meeting it was noticed that the apex of the roof was not in line with the edge of the new building as had been agreed with Mace prior to the work commencing. An urgent e mail has been sent to the Project Manager. The Parish Council's solicitor has informed the Council that the Children's Centre building will belong to the Parish Council as it is built on Parish land. Therefore the Parish Council will insure the building as a whole when it is completed.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

b) To review progress of installing environmental measures in the hall: An application has been submitted to the Lottery Fund for £3000 which could also fund the removal of the concrete on the pavilion site. If this is unsuccessful HCC could be approached for funding. It was suggested that if the contractors are unable to resolve the issue of building the Children's Centre as agreed they could be asked to remove the pavilion site concrete as compensation.

Action: Cllr Corke

c) To consider disturbance of a recent noisy party: Reports of the party from the cleaner and caretaker were circulated to cllrs. They were also informed that the Farmers Market organisers had reported to the Chairman that bottles and glasses littered the grounds. The cleaner did not have time to clean the toilets before the Farmers Market started. The hirers did not leave until 1am. Resolved: To deduct £150 from the damage deposit to cover the extra work & hire.

Action: Clerk

8.8 Finance: (Cllr Day)

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

b) To consider budget items for 2010/11: Water from the hall roof is not flowing through the down pipes. The problem will be investigated and a quote obtained to remedy the issue.

Action: Cllr Watson

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

- a) To receive progress on the Parish Plan, B197: No progress to report.
- b) To receive a report on PPP grant and consider works for 2009/10: Following a meeting with the Footpath Officer and a CMS representative the grant must be applied for by April 2010. A quote will be obtained to replace the finger posts. The grant could also be used for work to install a new bench that is being purchased via the Community Chest.

Action: Collingridge & Watson

8.10 Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

- a) To review progress on Business & Transport leaflets: The cost of producing 750 Travel Leaflets is £954 and not £100 as originally quoted as they are now in booklet form. A quote will be obtained to print the leaflets independently.
- b) To consider distribution of the Woodcarver's booklet: The booklet is under production. A volunteer has offered to organise the production of a film on woodcarver Harry MacDonald. Cllrs agreed to progress with the application for a commemorative blue plaque.
- c) To consider producing a calendar: Cllrs agreed that the calendar for 2010 should feature pictures of the recent film Love/Loss.
- d) To consider producing the Parish Christmas cards: The school have agreed to ask the children to submit entries to the Christmas Card competition. Prizes of £25 & £15 vouchers will be awarded.

Action: Cllr Corke

Action: Collingridge & Watson

Action: Cllr Watson

8.11 Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

- a) To receive a report on the monthly playground inspections: Cllr Corke carried out an inspection in October. A quote had been obtained to repair the fence in the hall playground of £35+VAT. The contractors also quoted £340+VAT to prune the chestnut tree which Cllrs considered too expensive. A further quote will be obtained. Resolved: To accept the quote of £35+VAT to repair the fence.

Action: Clerk

- b) To review progress of the playground and hall grounds entrance signs: The playground signs have been erected. Cllrs agreed that a sign of the same design should be produced for the hall grounds entrance.

Action: Cllr Collingridge

- c) To review progress of the old pavilion site: The Football Foundation has requested further information. An application has been submitted to the Lottery Fund. (see 8.7b)

Action: Cllr Corke

8.12 Allotments:

- a) To review progress of the Allotment Society: The Tenancy Agreement between the Parish Council and the Allotment Society is still to be completed. The site has been seeded with crops which the landowner has offered to weed kill. Planning applications have been submitted to WHBC to construct the access track and water harvesting stations. An application has been submitted to HCC for a cross over on the pedestrian path to access the track.

8.13 To consider a donation to The Royal British Legion: Resolved: In accordance with its powers under s137 of LGA 1972 the Council agreed to donate £30 to The Royal British Legion.

Action: Clerk

8.14 To receive announcements:

- a) The Chairman has asked Welwyn Parish Council if she can see documents relating to the separation of Woolmer Green from Welwyn Parish.
- b) Cllrs agreed that village businesses be invited to the next meeting for drinks.

8.15 Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 8 December 2009 at 7.30pm.

JRP 11.11.09

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____