

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 12 February 2008

Present: Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr H Bryant, Cllr A Gribble.

In attendance: Mr A. Edmonds (Clerk), Mrs J. Pearce (Deputy Clerk), Members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr N Collingridge, Cllr S Day.

2. Minutes of Council Meeting on January 8th 2008: The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Collingridge attended the February Councillors' Surgery. Cllr Watson attended a Schools & Families Meeting in view of the proposed Children's Centre planned for the village by the Pre-school Learning Alliance. St. Michael's School also have proposals for a Children's Centre.

4. Correspondence: A letter of thanks was received from Action Medical Research for lending them cutlery and crockery for a charity event. The Police Authority Policing Plan was received. Cllr Watson reported that PCSO R. Taylor was involved in an accident along Mardleybury Road. WHBC are selecting a number of homes to take part in a House Survey.

5. HAPTC: Confirmation had been sent in for Cllrs Watson, Collingridge & Day to visit the new Police Headquarters.

6. Planning: (Cllr Bryant)

a) 4 Oak Road: Application approved.

b) Care Home, 59 London Road: Despite a request for the application to be called in to the Planning Committee WHBC have said the deadline for this has expired.

c) 9 Wolvesmere: Application approved.

d) Marshalls MOT Status: Application approved.

e) Cawdor, 59a London Road: No decision to report.

f) Applications: Three new applications will be discussed at a Parish Planning Meeting at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 18th February.

g) WHBC Constitution: Planning Section: The recent Care Home application has brought to light seeming anomalies in the procedure for calling in delegated items to the Planning Committee of which the Parish Council were unaware. First, Parish Councils can only call in 'approve' delegated applications if they intend to oppose them, otherwise only a Borough Councillor has the authority to call in 'reject' applications. Secondly, requests to call in applications must be received one month before the date of the Planning Committee Meeting, which Cllrs agreed was unworkable.

Cllr Watson's investigations have found that the percentage of call ins had dramatically decreased in recent years and Cllrs agreed that villages should have greater involvement in larger scale developments in their community. Cllrs Watson & Bryant will try to raise the Parish Councils concerns at the next Planning Committee Meeting on 14th February. **Action: Cllrs Bryant & Watson**

7. Hall: (Cllr Watson)

a) Heating: A letter will be sent to the contractor to find out when he is able to carry out the work. **Action: Clerk**

b) Insulation: Deferred until next meeting.

c) Tiling: Cllrs accepted a second quote of £770 + VAT. **Action: Clerk**

d) Party Deposit: After discussions with the hirers it was agreed to refund the deposit in full. Cllrs supported the decision.

e) New Years Eve: Three applications were received. Cllrs decided that the party that was open to all residents as well as raising money for charity was the most appropriate.

f) Filmscene: Cllrs decided not to take up the Filmscene offer.

g) Fencing: A quote of £608 was received to replace the car park perimeter fence. Cllrs agreed not to replace the fence at this time.

8. Finance:

a) Payments and Accounts for January: These had been circulated and were agreed.

9. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)

- a) Mardleybury Road Speed Limit: Deferred until next meeting.
- b) Footpath Map, Board & Leaflets: Deferred until next meeting.
- c) Parking Restrictions: Deferred until next meeting.
- d) War Memorial: One contractor requires pictures of the Memorial.

Action: Cllr Bryant

10. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)

Website: Cllrs agreed that articles from the Parish Newsletter should be included on the website.

Action: Cllrs Collingridge & Watson

11. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)

Playground Inspection: Cllr Watson carried out the inspection and suggested the climbing rope could be replaced with chains. This will be investigated and two quotes obtained. Next inspection Cllr Burge.

Action: Cllr Burge & Clerk

12. Registration of Council Land: The Deeds of Exchange will be complete when they have been signed by Weatherheads. Cllr Watson expressed thanks to the Clerk for his hard work in this matter.

13. Pond: Cllr Watson declared an interest.

a) Grass Maintenance: Cllrs considered that the Council should take over grass maintenance around the pond, if financial arrangements could be agreed with WHBC.

Action: Cllr Watson

b) A letter will be sent to the residents of 6 New Road reminding them that they have right of way along the adjacent track leading to their garage but should not leave vehicles parked there.

Action: Clerk

14. Annual Parish Meeting: Karate will be asked to cancel their club to enable the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the main hall. Key people will be notified.

Action: Clerk

15. Village of the Year Competition: To support the entry for the Village of the Year Competition, Cllrs will consult with local businesses. Cllr Bryant agreed to contact Entech, Marshalls & Cawdor and Cllr Gribble is to contact St Michael's School and Lessiter's Chocolate Factory.

Action: Cllrs Bryant & Gribble

16. Woolmer Green Sports & Social Club: The Parish Council have given written support to enable the WGSSC to secure funding, but attempts to contact them for their comments on the disposal of the grant have been unsuccessful. The Council will pursue the matter.

Action: Clerk

17. AOB:

a) Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils: Cllr Watson will circulate details of a meeting on 25th February. Mr C Conway from WHBC Planning will be speaking. Cllr Watson urged Cllrs to attend.

b) Funding for Villages: Cllr Watson informed Cllrs that North Herts Council makes funding available for village projects but there is no similar scheme at WHBC.

c) Knebworth Village Sign: No reply has been received with regard to the positioning of Knebworth's new village entrance sign.

d) Drains: Highways maintenance men arrived in New Road to clear drains but were unable carry out the work.

e) Cllrs' Surgery: Cllr Bryant will attend the March Surgery.

Action: Cllr Bryant

18. Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 March 2008 starting at 7.30pm.