

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 13th October 2020

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), P Corke (Vice Chairman) T Dix & R Horton.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

6.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Hall who is on holiday, Cllr Pinney due to work commitments. Borough Cllr J Cragg.

6.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: None.

6.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: None.

6.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 8 September: Resolved: The minutes of the 8 September meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the August market. Cllrs Dix & Horton met with a resident (see item 6.10a).

6.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification from Network Rail of overhead line work overnight during October & November. A letter from WHBC about following government coronavirus guidance. A letter of thanks from Taylor Wimpey for use of the hall car park. Notification of a Garden House Hospice charity bike ride. Notification from WHBC of employment sites where permitted development rights have been withdrawn; none are in Woolmer Green. Notification from WHBC about public health messaging. Information from LPPA about the McCloud judgement. Notification from Serco that the WHBC waste business has been sold to KP Waste Ltd. Information from KP Waste Ltd. Notification from WHBC about their CIL charging schedule consultation. Remembrance Day safety advice from HCC. Details from the church of Remembrance Day Covid-19 safety arrangements. The response to WHBC ONS projections from Save Symondshyde. Notification from NHDC that the next Local Plan hearings will commence on 23rd November. Notification from HCC of the closure of Wolves Mere for maintenance. A letter from the Leader of WHBC about meeting with Town & Parish Councils.

6.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) 6/2020/2218/HOUSE 11 Holly Road, Erection of two storey side and rear extension, erection of single storey front and rear extensions: No objection.

b) 6/2020/1890/VAR Entech House: Variation of condition number 11 (off-site highway improvement works): No decision to report.

c) 6/2020/1812/HOUSE 18A London Road: No decision to report.

d) To discuss Local Plan Examination: The Council approved the submission of the representation by the planning consultant on the ONS projections in the Turley Report.

e) To approve response to the Gov. Planning for the Future consultation: The Council approved the submission of the representation on the Government's Planning for the Future consultation.

6.8 Hall (Cllr Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Dix)

a) To approve License to Underlet agreement: Resolved: To approve License to Underlet agreement between HCC and YMCA.

b) To receive a report on the boiler servicing: The hall boilers have been serviced and minor repairs were required. The contractor advised that the untidy wiring in the loft was not of concern and that fitting a shower pump would increase water pressure.

c) To discuss and approve pitch hire agreement: The Council agreed that the following condition should be added; *Knebworth FC will follow all relevant Government Covid-19 guidance and ensure a Covid-19 risk assessment is in place.* Resolved: To approve pitch hire agreement.

d) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory. Cllr Horton found one of the rustic benches in the orchard was rotting along the edge and will shave this off. **Action: Cllr Horton.**

e) To consider quote to replace bark surface in Garden Road playground: The Council approved a quote of £1,350 and decided to ask the contractor to quote for adding a weed suppressing membrane. It also decided to delay the work until the new year. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To consider quote to fell dead tree: Resolved: To approve a quote for £120.

6.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

a) To receive and approve the payments for September: Resolved: To approve payments for September.

b) To receive and approve the accounts for September: Resolved: To approve accounts for September.

c) To discuss first draft of budget 2021/22: If there is no change to social restrictions by March 2022

Council reserves will be severely depleted and not be sufficient to cover costs for the following year. The Council will need to prepare a plan for this eventuality. The Council will only undertake essential spending next year and needs to consider how much grant funding should be made available and whether the precept should be increased more than in previous years. The Council agreed that £1,000 should be set aside for planning consultant fees.

d) To consider a donation to the Royal British Legion: Resolved: To donate £50 to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

6.10 Environment (Cllr Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

a) To discuss and consider quote to erect boundary fence on the common land/resident border: The Council's aim is to define and protect the boundary of the common land and discussions had taken place with the neighbouring resident. It considered quotes but decided erecting posts and stringing one wire between them would be the most cost effective solution. **Action: Cllrs Corke & Horton.**

b) To discuss highways matters: (i) All flooding issues have been reported to highways. Hall Lane also floods and the Council is seeking clarification as to where Highways adoption ends on this road. (ii) The issue of the footway that the developers of the fox cottages failed to install in New Road has been raised again by the residents as no progress has been made. A Highways officer visited the site recently and will update the PC once the matter has been discussed. (iii) A damaged drain adjacent to the Entech site will be reported. (iv) The Council noted that the verge had not been maintained in front of the Ashe construction site.

6.11 To consider ideas for Parish Council Christmas card: The Council chose a village scene for the Christmas card and agreed a copy should be sent to the volunteers that helped collect medication and shopping for those isolating during lockdown.

6.12 To receive announcements. *(for information only)*.

a) Carols 'round the Pond and the New Year's Eve Party will not be able to take place this year.

b) The Remembrance Day service is on Sunday 8th November. There will be no service inside the church.

c) A free bicycle rail is on offer. Cllr Corke agreed to install it beside the hall.

6.13 To agree the date of the next meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 10 November at 7.30pm.

JRP 14.10.20

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____