

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9th January 2018

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), P Corke (Vice Chairman), S Hall, J Hawkins & A White.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

8.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr G Pinney due to work commitments.

8.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Gribble declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.8e as he has access to the hall grounds from his property.

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

8.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 12 December: Resolved: The minutes of the 12 December Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Corke, Gribble, Hall & Hawkins attended the Christmas Market. Cllrs Corke & Pinney participated in Carols Around the Pond which was well attended. Cllrs Corke & Hall presented prizes to winners of the Christmas Card competition.

8.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A letter from NHDC about the application for a gypsy site at Pottersheath & Danesbury Park Roads (see item 8.7a). A letter from WHBC about Council Tax (see item 8.9b). A resident has sent a written request asking for access to PC minutes prior to 2007.

8.7 Planning (*Cllr Corke*)

a) 17/02755/1 Retrospective application for the change of use of land to use a residential caravan site for two gypsy families, each with two caravans including no more than one static mobile home and laying of hardstanding and erection of a timber fence: Objection due to inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

b) 6/2017/2881/HOUSE, 59 Garden Road, Erection of dormer extension to side elevation, new roof to replace existing and reconstruct new ground floor side extension: No objection.

c) 6/2017/2861/HOUSE 15 Twin Foxes, Conversion of Garage and alterations to opening on existing front elevation and single storey rear extension: No objection.

d) 6/2017/2695/MAJ Entech House: No decision to report.

e) 6/2017/2651/HOUSE 5 Evergreen Close: Application granted.

f) 6/2017/2515/HOUSE Paynes Farm: Application withdrawn.

g) 6/2017/2516/LB Paynes Farm: Application withdrawn.

h) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: No update to report.

8.8 Hall (*Cllr Pinney*) & **Grounds:** (*Cllr Hawkins*)

a) To receive a report on the New Year's Eve party: The New Year's Eve party was a success with approximately 100 attendees.

b) To consider renewal of gas & electric provider: Resolved: To accept quotation and offer from British Gas of a 3 year contract. **Action Clerk.**

c) To review progress of clearing rubbish: Following advice from the Parish Council solicitor the contractor responsible will be informed that if they do not remove the rubbish within 21 days legal action will be taken. **Action Clerk.**

d) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Inspection satisfactory.

e) To consider advice on preventing the establishment of permanent rights of way: A legal letter is required to be sent every 5 years to residents in Wolvesmere, Wolves Croft and Twin Foxes Management granting permission for the use of access gates to the hall grounds in order to preclude the establishment of a permanent Right of Way after 20 years. Resolved: To accept quote from the solicitor of £250 plus £15 per house for issuing a legal letters to the relevant residents. **Action Clerk.**

f) To discuss discarded waste in the Jolly Garden: Some residents have pruned both their vegetation and a shrub in the Jolly Garden and deposited all the waste in the Jolly Garden. Another resident has replaced a fence and left the old panels in the Jolly Garden. All will be sent letters asking them to remove the rubbish. **Action Clerk.**

8.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for December: The Council noted that the end of year loss due to the replacement of the windows will be less than predicted. Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for December.

b) To discuss the 2018/19 budget: Minor adjustments were made to the budget. The increase in the tax base and the precept will result in a 37p per year increase in the Parish Council portion of Council Tax for a band D property. Resolved: To approve the 2018/19 budget.

8.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

a) To discuss highways matters: (i) An accident occurred at the Mardleybury junction on the B197 this evening. The police attended. (ii) It has been noticed by residents and Clls that the street lighting from Knebworth to Stevenage is not operating. The Council consider this to be dangerous as the edge of the road cannot be seen. Knebworth PC will be consulted for information and it will be reported to Highways online. (iii) The Council noted that the milepost between Knebworth and Stevenage has fallen over and it was proposed to report this to Knebworth PC. **Action: Clerk.**

b) To discuss cleaning of war memorial: Advice on cleaning the war memorial was sought from the War Memorials Trust. They stated that cleaning war memorials is only recommended in order to check the condition of the stonework, when necessary to carry out repairs or to improve legibility of inscriptions as cleaning wears away the stone. In light of this information the Parish Council consider that cleaning is not required. The PC would be supportive of the church should any work be necessary in the future.

8.11 To receive announcements. *(for information only):*

a) Cllr Hawkins will attend the Cllrs Surgery on 3 February.

b) A resident has enquired when Badminton Smash Up will resume. This will be dependent on attracting sufficient interest.

8.12 To agree the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 13th February at 7.30pm.

JRP 09.01.18

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____