

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8 September 2026

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), P Corke (Vice Chairman), J Castle-Ridpath, T Dix & S Hall.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

4.1 To receive apologies for absence: County Cllr T Kingsbury.

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

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

4.4 To approve minutes of Council Meeting 14 July: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 14 July were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Gribble met with representatives of the Welwyn Garden City Society. The Clerk attended a Clerk's meeting to discuss Local Government Reorganisation.

4.6 To receive The Clerk's Report: The Clerk's Report was noted. It was also noted that the Local Government Reorganisation has been paused.

4.7 Planning (*Cllrs Castle-Ridpath & Dix*)

a) 6/2026/1452/FULL 51-53 London Road, Retrospective application for the installation of palisade fencing and gates adjoining highway: Objection. The Council agreed its response.

b) 6/2026/1459/HOUSE 16 Oak Road, Erection of annexe: No objection.

c) 6/2026/1391/TPO 4 Evergreen Close: Crown reduction of a Silver Birch tree by up to 20% (approximately 2 – 3 metres) to reduce branch spread and weight. Work is required to manage size, prevent encroachment and maintain tree health. Reduce overhanging branches by approximately 2 metres to prevent encroachment over the driveway and reduce pigeon fouling on vehicles. The tree is close to the house and has grown too large for the garden so the works are required to manage its size and maintain its health TPO 105 T3: No objection.

d) 6/2026/1038/HOUSE 55 Garden Road: Application granted.

e) 6/2026/0880/TPO 5 Evergreen Close: Application granted.

f) 6/2026/0127/COND Land off London Road. Condition 2 (LEMP) and 8 (refuse and recycling): Application granted.

g) 6/2025/2513/COND Land off London Road. Traffic/crossing: Application granted.

h) 6/2025/0603/MAJ 61 London Road: No decision to report.

i) 6/2025/0847/OUTLINE Land adjacent to 52 London Road: No decision to report.

4.8 Hall (*Cllrs Corke & Pinney*) & **Grounds:** (*Cllr Dix*)

a) To receive report on weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory. The volunteer playground inspector informed the Council the tyres on the rocker in the Garden Road playground do not need replacing.

b) To approve quotation for playground works: Resolved: To accept quote for £650.

4.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

a) To receive and approve the payments for July/August: Resolved: To approve payments for July/August.

b) To note receipt of income for July/August: £5,351.05.

c) To review accounts performance against budget for July/August: Hall lets are down, partly due to the cancellation of some regular bookings. This is offset by staff costs which are below budget and other delayed costs. Overall accounts are above budget.

d) To receive bank reconciliation for July/August: Resolved: To approve the bank reconciliation for July/August.

e) To consider reduction in Knebworth FC pitch fee: Further information is required. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To consider implementing LGA/NJC pay settlement: The Council noted SCP 2 has been abolished. Resolved: To implement the LGA/NJC pay settlement backdated to 1 April.

4.10 Environment (*Cllr Castle-Ridpath*) & **Transport:** (*Cllr Gribble*)

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: No update to report. It was agreed to contact enforcement.

Action: Clerk.

b) To discuss other highways matters: (i) The raised platform at the junction of Carvers Croft in Mardleybury Road has been completed. (ii) Mardleybury Road will be closed for works between 16-18 September. (iii) London Road by the junction of the new development is damaged by construction traffic. This should be repaired by the developer at the end of construction.

- c) To note closure of Twin Foxes gate: It was noted the gate was closed from 10.00pm on Friday 17 July until 10.00pm on Saturday 18 July to prevent a permanent Right of Way being established.
- d) To consider quotes for new Garden Road swings: Several quotes had been obtained all over £7,000. It was agreed to obtain further information on guarantees, discounts and funding. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) To discuss planters: Deferred.
- f) To consider how to appropriately spend additional memorial bench funds: Additional funds amount to £310. It was agreed to replace the three rotten orchard benches with two new rustic benches.

4.11 Community (*Cllrs Corke & Pinney*)

- a) To consider charity to support at Carols round the Tree: It was agreed to support Isabel Hospice.

4.12 To receive announcements. (for information only):
None.

4.13 To agree date of next Council meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 13 October at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended 21.30.

JRP 10.09.26

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____