

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Aldis, Mr Wheatley, Mrs Ewans, Dr Geake, Mrs Moore, Mr Hardiman and 5 members of the public. Mrs Jenkins joined the meeting at 8.15 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Howard and Mrs Jenkins will join the meeting later.

2. **Public comment:** Dr West advised that Covid vaccinations started 3 weeks ago. He thanked the volunteers who helped, particularly with car park stewarding. With the approval of the second vaccine immunization will be stepped up and Dr West would hope to use the additional car parking area at the rear of the Health Centre. This would take the cooperation of MSDC and David Wilson Homes to agree and provide a temporary surface so this can happen. District Cllrs Mansell and Geake will liaise with Christine Thurlow at MSDC to achieve this. Mr Guyler thanked Dr West, the surgery and volunteers for all they are doing during the pandemic.

Mr Wheatley asked how a complaint regarding MSDC Enforcement can be escalated. There has been no response regarding the breach of Condition 23: no occupation of dwellings at the Green Road development until the pinch point road works are completed. Cllr Mansell will follow this up.

A car in Steeles Road has flat tyres and has not been moved in months. This will be reported to MSDC.

Mr Hardiman advised that more than one teenager is using the zip wire at once. The Clerk will contact our insurers for advice.

The owner has erected a 2m fence around Blue Water Lake on the advice of his insurer. David Wilson Homes question this and where the boundary is. The matter has been referred to solicitors.

There have been some complaints regarding the naming of Pykotts Way.

Mrs Parker advised that the Emergency Covid Group continue to be up and functioning as we appear to be going into a further lockdown.

3. **County & District Councillors reports.**

County Councillor's Report. Suffolk's current COVID infection rates, local hotspots and pressure on hospitals are still giving cause for concern and why Suffolk, along with many other areas of the country is now in Tier 4. Congratulations to all at Woolpit Health Centre for getting the first batch of Covid-19 vaccinations done mid-December. Parents and carers have until Friday 15 January 2021 to submit an application to secure their child's place at a Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2021. A 4% increase in SCC portion of Council Tax has been announced. The council's scrutiny committee will consider the budget and make any recommendations on January 7 before it goes to Cabinet on January 26. It will then go for full council decision on February 11.

District Councillors' report. The whole of Suffolk moved into Tier 4 on Boxing Day. This means we should all remain at home apart from essential activities. The Home but not Alone service was operational over the Christmas period and will continue to be available for those who need help. The draft budget and housing revenue account for the coming year will be discussed by Cabinet in early January. The proposals include a 1.66% increase in Council Tax. All Brown bin customers can leave their real Christmas tree next to their brown bin for collection in January. For those residents who don't have brown bin collections there are a number of drop-off recycling points across the district. The Cabinets of both councils are to discuss the use of hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) as a fuel for the waste fleet. If this is agreed, it will mean up to 90% reduction in carbon emissions as it is using a waste product. The deadline for applications for grants from the Member Locality Budget scheme has been extended to Friday 26th February 2021. The Minister for Housing and Communities issued a statement about housing numbers just before Christmas.

It is confirmed that the number of new houses in Mid Suffolk will not be changed, so that the basis on which the JLP was written remains unchanged.

4. To receive declarations of interest. There were none.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 7 & 16 December 2020.

Both sets of minutes were approved.

6. Planning – to consider current applications and receive MSDC decisions.

20/05722 Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions (following demolition of existing garage and conservatory). Erection of rear balcony. Insertion of feature gable glazing to frontage. Erection of attached one and a half storey side extension to accommodate indoor swimming pool with use of house gym above and garage block with room above. Copperfield House, Old Stowmarket Road. – object by a vote of 6 to 1 (Mr Aldis) The proposals are not in keeping with the size and scale of the existing dwelling and the wider setting, will be imposing and dominate the neighbouring row of cottages and incongruous to the character and appearance of the area.

20/05871 Erection of two self-contained commercial units E(g), one retail unit E(a) and one restaurant E(b). (Alternative to scheme granted under appl 20/02823). Land at Stag Café, Old A45. – object by a vote of 6 to 1 (Mr Aldis) Councillors continues to object to the proposal. There is no direct link back onto the A14 and any increase in traffic will cause issues in Elmswell, Woolpit and Haughley New Street. Contrary to NPPF, E3, E9. With the accumulative impact of business development in this area a proper A14 interchange should be installed.

20/04887 Submission of Details Application (Reserved Matters) for Outline Planning Permission 18/00449- Access for the erection of 2No detached dwellings. Land North of Grassy Lane. MSDC decision – approved.

20/04876 Submission of Details Application (Reserved Matters) for Outline Planning Permission 18/00397- Access for the erection of 2No detached dwellings. Land South of Grassy Lane. MSDC decision – approved.

20/05144 Erection of a one and a half storey rear extension. Lawnswood, Warren Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

20/04753 & 20/04754 Replacement of window to rear elevation with a pair of glazed French doors. Evergreen House, The Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

20/046044 Discharge of conditions for app 20/03406 Condition 3 (Materials) and Condition 4 (Fenestration). Sunnyridge Cottage, Rags Lane. MSDC decision – permission refused. Colour of tiles not confirmed and non-traditional window.

20/04290 Submission of details (Reserved Matters Application) for Outline Planning Permission DC/19/02688 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of 5 detached dwellings associated garages and vehicular access. Land On The South Side Of, Rags Lane. MSDC decision – approved.

20/05191 Application for Non Material Amendment relating to DC/20/00233 - Additional access, including relocation of swale; Additional area of hardstanding; Amendment to Lighting Strategy; Full details are set out in the accompanying Statement. Unit 3, Venture Road, Lawn Farm Business Park. MSDC decision – approved.

Objections to MSDC approval of appl 20/01131 regarding discharge of conditions appl 2112/16 has been received from a resident and advising that he expects WPC to take the matter up. After discussion it was agreed to forward his objections to County Cllr Storey asking her to take up the matter with SCC Highways.

Action: the Clerk

7. Clerk's Report

Telephone box Rectory Lane – an engineer has been requested to repair the phone box but no timescale has been advised by BT as the glass panels need to be ordered. A repaint has been requested and if agreed this should be carried out between April and October 2021.

Reports of explosions – loud noises reported are caused by pile-driving on hard land at the Old Stowmarket Road development but are within permitted limits.

Community Caretaker Grant 2021/22 – MSDC grant will pay the equivalent of the National Living wage. We are allowed to pay more from our own funds.

Green Road development – there has been no contact from MSDC Enforcement to the breach of Condition 23 occupation before highways improvements constructed.

Flooding Bury Road/Norton Road – County Cllr Storey has been asked to take up the matter with SCC Highways and the Highways agency as they both say the matter is not their responsibility.

Hedge by the Old Plough – MSDC have pruned but Mr Hardiman will contact MSDC as they have previously said they were going to remove the hedge for a permanent solution.

New mini-roundabouts Heath Road, Church Street, Old Stowmarket Road – unfavourable comments have been made but once drivers get more accustomed things are expected to improve.

8. To receive correspondence/communications and deal with any matters.

Resident regarding blocked drain in Masons Lane. This will be reported to SCC. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 8, 15, 21, 23 December. **Stowmarketecofuture** Local Green Space designation. **SALC** Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee survey, ebulletin 14 December, 4 January, Mid Suffolk area forum: summary notes, Knock & Check on a neighbour poster, Help shape guidance for new housing development in Suffolk, Christmas Day Bubbles infographic, Suffolk Coronavirus cases accelerate at an alarming rate, coronavirus and the festive break. **Citizens Advice** Merry Christmas and opening times. Residents on pinch point 2 mini roundabouts 1.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd £70.43 allotment water 5/9/20-4/12/20, Woolpit Nurseries £150.00 Christmas Tree, Mr K Harknett £55.96 litter picking December, Laura Bayly £44.00 Millennium Garden December, Suffolk County Council £286.96 pension payment, HM Revenue & Customs £377.73 Tax & N/I October-December, Mr Hardiman £39.98 wheelbarrow for gardener. All accounts were approved. Payments by Standing Order Mrs Fuller £893.96 December salary, Mr Balk £186.13 December salary, E-on £24.78 pump light quarterly bill.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

The bank account balance at the end of December was £159,924.44 but this has to be reconciled with the bank statement when it is received. The Clerk has been working on the new account package and all receipts and payments have been logged. The agreed 10 hours have been used along with an additional 5 hours. This will be considered at the next meeting.

11. To agree date for the budget/precept meeting.

This was agreed as Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

12. To consider a letter received from Woolpit Recreation Ground Trustees to terminate the lease on the field adjacent to the Village Hall and take any necessary action.

Mr Guyler advised that WRGTs have no legal right to unilaterally terminate the lease; this can only happen if the Parish Council agrees to the surrender of the lease. There are also the sub-leases to be considered. Another option would be for WPC to be appointed the Trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity. It was proposed, seconded and carried to pursue the possibility of WPC to become Trustee of the Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity and discuss with Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity for their opinion.

Action: the Clerk

13. To consider a bus shelter and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to look into providing a cantilever type shelter outside Costcutters. Quotes for 3 and 4 bay shelters will be obtained for further discussion and this could be funded from CIL. It is likely that a license from SCC will be required to install this.

Action: the Clerk/Mr Hardiman

14. To consider Suffolk Pension Fund consultation on Ill Health Liability Insurance and take any necessary action.

The Pension Fund Trustees have made the decision that Ill Health Liability Insurance will be necessary for all smaller members in case any employees have to retire early due to ill health. The recommendation is for members who have a turnover of less than £1,000,000; there will be no additional costs. Councillors support the recommendation.

Action: the Clerk

15. To consider the Help Shape Guidance for new housing in Suffolk consultation and take any necessary action.

Cllrs agreed not to respond to this consultation.

16. To consider the Sunnica Energy Farm consultation and take any necessary action.

Cllrs do not wish to comment.

17. To consider management of the Lady's Well site and take any necessary action

A plan and schedule of work has been produced by Mr Wainwright. This will be circulated to Cllrs for discussion at the February meeting.

18. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action.

All plots are rented for 2020/21. Cllrs Wheatley and Jenkins will check on plots in the spring.

19. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Mr Harknett has cleared areas where grass has been cut back in addition to his normal areas.

20. To receive a report from the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee.

The new Village Hall electronic locking system is working well. There are no bookings at the moment due to Covid restrictions. The next meeting will be held in February.

21. Date and time of the next virtual full Parish Council meeting – Monday 1 February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

Signed.....Approved.....

Dated.....1 February 2021