

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

**Present:** Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mrs Ewans, Mrs Moore, Mr Hardiman, Dr Geake, Mrs Jenkins and 4 members of the public. Mr Wheatley joined the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Howard..

2. **Public comment.** There was none.

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

**District Councillors' Report.** The first anniversary of the initial COVID lockdown has passed and the deadline for the application for COVID business grants extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Since November the Councils have paid out grants worth almost £16M to businesses across both districts. The Council adopted the revised CIL Expenditure Framework and the revised communications strategy at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The main amendments relate to collaborative bids for infrastructure outside our district. The limit of funding available to parish or community groups is to be £75,000 or 75% of the total project cost, unless it is for sporting or recreation infrastructure. Both Councils are to form a cross-party working group to discuss the joint response to the Future of the New Homes Bonus Consultation. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joint finalists in a national competition to find the 'Council of the Year'. BMSDC are to install PV panels and air source heat pumps at their leisure centres, including Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre. This is to be partly funded by a £1.4M carbon-saving grant from Government. Feasibility studies are also to be carried out for the installation of solar car ports as well. Due to the backlog of planning cases, it is now hoped that the outline application for up to 40 dwellings and land for an extension to the primary school on land south of Old Stowmarket Road, will be determined by committee on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr Mansel advised that she has received a letter advising of a non-statutory consultation on the expansion of Elmswell Primary School during April. This could affect the expansion of the current school or a new school in Woolpit.

**County Councillor's Report.** Suffolk County Council in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Constabulary (the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership), will be trialling the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to tackle speeding hot spots across the county. This pilot which is funded from SCC's 2020 fund will run for 2 years. The cameras will be used to help detect and deter speeding offences that have been highlighted in towns and villages, and educate drivers on the importance of road safety. An ANPR camera will be installed at a site where it has been identified by a local council, with support from their county councillor, that there is a problem with speeding and/or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit. The devices will be moved between sites and will remain in situ for up to one week per site. There is the option of extending this period if needed.

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

5. **To approve the minutes of the meetings 1 and 16 March 2021.**

Both sets of minutes were approved.

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

**21/01724** Application for works to tree/s in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1 No Ash (T1) overextended limb over road by 5m to re-balance tree. Mixed Hedge (T2) lift branches overhanging road to a height of 5 meters. Fell 1No Sycamore multi-stem (T3) due to severe die-back. Fell 1No Ash (T4) which has a heavy lean with severe damage and rot. Remove stem with dead top to 1No Sycamore multi-stem (T5). Abbotswell, Rectory Lane – support.

**21/01481** Submission of Details (Reserved Matters) Application relating to DC/19/03851. Appearance, Layout and Scale for development comprising of a mixture of B1/B2/B8 uses. Relocation of the vehicle maintenance and service depot, including bodywork, accident and paint repairs, and associated buildings. Provision of landscaping and drainage. Land at Lawn Park.

A meeting has been held with James Bailey Planning and Truckeast who have listened to Cllrs concerns regarding lorries using the village roads to get back on the A14. As the transport assessment has only been put on MSDC planning portal today, it was agreed to hold a further meeting on 7 April 2021 to discuss a response to the application.

**21/00189** Erection of a single storey wrap around extension. 6 Heath Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**21/00152** New beer garden area formed to the rear of the site. Works include door opening, timber framed canopy and paving, planting areas. The Bull. The Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**21/01049** Application for works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order MS305 - Oak (T1) - Reduction in length of 2 branches where they are growing downwards and towards neighbouring property. Removal of Ivy from tree trunk to allow for tree growth. Mulberry House Borley Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

## 7. Clerk's Report

**Play equipment** – the annual inspection has been arranged for 6 April 2021.

**Van in car park** – has been reported to MSDC and the Environmental Team are investigating if it has been abandoned.

**No dog signs** – have been put up at the recreation field and children's play area.

**Locality funding** - £3000.00 has been agreed from District Councillors Mansel and Geake towards the MUGA.

**Annual Parish Meeting** – we are awaiting confirmation from SALC but is likely to be a Zoom meeting 19 April 2021.

**Community Speed Watch** – Mr Blomfield has advised he is standing down as co-ordinator and seeing if anyone else in the group are prepared to take over the role.

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

A resident concerned that MSDC are profiting from their procurement of affordable properties at the Green Road development and continued objections to the highways improvements. The Clerk will respond that there is nothing further the Parish Council can do in this matter. Choose refills has asked if there is a site available for them to visit with a mobile refill shop twice a month. The aim is to reduce plastic waste. The clerk will liaise with the Village Hall Committee to see if there is a suitable time the van can use the car park. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:**

**Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 2, 9, 16, 23 March, Rural Funding Digest March. **SALC** ebulletin 8, 15, 22, 29 March, area forum 18 March summary notes, council meetings update. **MSDC** confirmation that Planning Permission is not required for the MUGA. **Hymans** Suffolk Pension Fund new Ill Health Liability insurance arrangement. **Landex** Stackyard Green- Green Road planned closures. **West Suffolk Hive** Eco Festival 2021. **Tom Woodhouse** archaeological excavation south of Old Stowmarket Road article for Woolpit Diary. Local company service information. Resident copy of objection to Bury Road reserved matters application. Resident concerned about dog fouling Old Stowmarket Road footpath. Resident unhappy with WPC response to areas of concerns.

## 9. To approve accounts for payment.

Suffolk County Council £286.96 pension payment, Suffolk County Council £2419.24 street lighting energy and maintenance 2020/21, Mrs P Branham £106.92 edit April/May Diary, Gipping Press £320.96 printing Apr/May Diary, Mrs P Fuller £59.77 ALCC annual subscription & new computer lead, M & E Services £85.00

replacement manhole cover Village Hall car park, Equity pc £70.20 computer email service malfunction investigation. All accounts were approved.

**10. To receive a monthly financial report.**

The Clerk calculates that the balance at the end of March will be £152,622.19. This will need to be reconciled with the bank statement when received.

**11. To consider quotes for tree work at Lady's Well, the allotments site and pump area and take any necessary action.**

Six quotes are now available, two from three contractors. Quotes are with the felling of the elm street and with leaving it in situ. After discussion it was proposed to fell the elm tree as this is the recommendation in the tree survey. This was seconded and carried. It was then proposed and seconded to accept the quote from Wayne Jarvis. A vote was taken and the proposal was carried. *Action: the Clerk*

**12. To consider a quote from SCC for replacement of damaged/deteriorated lantern on street light 35 Briar Hill and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to request a quote to replace column as well as the lantern before proceeding. *Action: the Clerk*

**13. To consider a MUGA for the playing field and take any necessary action.**

This was an ongoing project of the original trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity. The three quotes available are between £39,000 and £45,000. After discussion it was agreed that Woolpit PC as trustees of the Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity support the principal of a MUGA and wish to proceed and look into sources of funding for the project. *Action: the Clerk*

**14. To discuss Woolpit PC becoming the trustee of Woolpit Recreational Ground Charity and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk will contact the current treasurer for the existing signatories to sign over accounts and ask for all financial documentation. All documentation and correspondence needs to be transferred from the current secretary. The Clerk will update the trustees on the Charity Commissioner's website once the password has been received. A letter will be sent to the official custodian of charities to ask what documentation they are holding. Mrs Ewans currently has copies of legal documents passed over from the previous trustees of the charity. An item will be published in the next Woolpit Diary advising residents that WPC has taken over as trustees of WRG Charity. *Action: the Clerk*

**15. To discuss lorries along Heath Road and take any necessary action.**

Concerns of large vehicles along Heath Road are constantly being reported to Cllrs and the Clerk. County Cllr Storey advised there is to be a review of all traffic regulation orders and parish councils will be consulted. This is likely to take place after the elections in May. However, it is noted that Heath Road into Rattlesden is a designated lorry route. It was agreed to wait until the consultation to voice our concerns. An item will be put in the next Diary advising incidents can be reported to via SCC website.

**16. To consider sending a representative for a playground inspection course and take any necessary action.**

Mr Hardiman inspects the play equipment on a weekly basis as required by our insurer. It would be beneficial for him to attend a course at the Parish Council's expense. This was agreed.

**17. To consider Woolpit Diary advertising for 2021/22 and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk advised that current advertisers have paid for 6 issues but due to Covid restrictions 2 issues were not printed. The Clerk suggested a renewal date for

advertisers of the August/September issue and then renew for 4 issues to March 2022. The following year would then run as per the financial year April to March. This was unanimously approved.

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

The rabbit proof fencing has been breached. The Clerk was asked to contact the supplier and advise that the fence is not fit for purpose. All except one plot are being worked on and the Clerk will contact the tenant. A complaint has been received regarding the area to the right hand side of the site. Mr Guylor has spoken to the farmer who has agreed to take on the land and he will be clearing it. *Action: the Clerk*

**19. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.**

The next meeting is scheduled for May.

**20. Date and time of the next virtual full Parish Council meeting – Monday 26 April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 19 April as a virtual meeting. The Clerk will issue an invitation to village organisations.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....approved.....

Dated..... 26 April 2021.....