

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
7 JUNE 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mr Wheatley, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Howard, Mr Guyler, Mrs Moore and 5 members of the public. Dr Geake joined the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

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

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

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

District Councillors' report. Due to the COVID restrictions the Annual Council meeting had to be held at Wherstead Park on 24 May. Paul Ekpenyong was elected as the new Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council and Barry Humphreys was elected vice chair. Cllr Ekpenyong's chosen charity for this year will be East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Due to a small outbreak of the COVID delta variant, Tactical Management Teams sprang into action to support the arrival of mobile testing units in Needham Market's ex council offices in Hurstlea Road, with 2,000 tests completed in 3 days. The testing unit will stay in place with no appointment needed. The £3.6 million refurbishment of The Regal Theatre has been completed with the venue offering three screens, a new café and bar area, and improved parking and toilet facilities. 'Our Parks' is running free fitness classes at venues across Suffolk, all venues are Covid secure. A 2-month public consultation has been launched on walking and cycling infrastructure, allowing residents to share their ideas about current facilities and what they want to see in the future. On 12 May, Development Control Committee A resolved to grant outline planning permission for another 40 dwellings to the south of the David Wilson scheme. This new scheme offers land for the primary school extension should SCC think it necessary. The project to provide a new 136 space car park as part of the development to the south of Old Stowmarket Road has been brought forward in response to the COVID pandemic. The detailed planning application was approved by Development Control Committee A on Thursday 3rd June. There will be temporary access to the new car park from the rear of the existing Health Centre car park, but once access is available through the new housing development the temporary access will revert to pedestrian and cycle access only. The funds for the project are being sought from the Community Infrastructure Levy. The funding arrangements were determined by Cabinet on Monday 7th June. The proposal is to split the funding 50/50 between the Strategic fund and the Woolpit ring-fenced fund was approved.

County Councillor's report. Local elections took place on Friday 6 May for the 75 county councillor seats with the Conservatives retaining overall control of the Council, with a strong majority of 55 seats. Following the recent election, the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Independents have formed a political Group. The Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent (GLI) Group has 15 councillors overall and will take on the role of official opposition at Suffolk County Council. For the year 2021/2022 Councillor Andrew Stringer will be the Leader of the Group. An additional phase of public consultation has opened in the Boundary Commission's review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements. The consultation closes on 21 June. The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting and preservation campaign commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Partners including Suffolk County Council are working together to preserve and enhance existing woodland while increasing both canopy cover and access to green space. Tree Wardens will work with communities and parish councils to link up existing woodland with woodland walkways and hedgerows as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This tree planting will create natural corridors for biodiversity and link up existing footpaths and bridleways. Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation from 17 May to 28 June on an updated version of the Developers' Guide. The guide is a document to support all those involved in major planning applications in the county. Suffolk

County Council has launched a 12-month trial of Katch – a new sustainable electric taxi-bus service running in East Suffolk. Suffolk County Council is keen to facilitate further schemes across the county. Since being elected last month Cllr Mellen has received quite a lot of correspondence and is attempting to respond to each enquiry and try to help where the County Council is directly involved. Cllr Mellen was asked to investigate 20 mph speed limits for the county

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

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 26 April, 4 & 17 May 2021.

All sets of minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning – to consider current applications

21/03041 Erection of two bay cart 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 home gym above and garage block with room above. Copperfield House, Old Stowmarket Road. Cllrs could see no difference to application 20/05722 which was refused in December. It was agreed to object with the same comments as before; not in keeping with the size and scale of the existing dwelling and the wider setting. These proposals will be imposing and dominate the neighbouring row of cottages. The proposals are incongruous to the character and appearance of the area.

21/02812 Erection of a two storey rear extension. 5 Wades Wood – support.
and receive MSDC decisions.

21/01481 Submission of Details (Reserved Matters) Application relating to 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. MSDC decision – approved.

21/00918 Discharge of Conditions Application for 1636/16- Condition 4 (Illumination) and Condition 6 (Archaeological Works), Land South Of Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision Condition 4 satisfied Condition 6 part satisfied.

21/02425 Erection of single storey rear extension. Lamas, The Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

21/02050 Erection of a two bay cart lodge. Mulberry House, Borley Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

7. Clerk's Report

MUGA – the order has been placed with Proludic and should be erected in July.

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

Resident various photos of vehicles at Green Road pinch point. The resident will be asked to redirect the photos to SCC Highways and County Cllr Mellen as issues of concern are beyond the control of WPC. **Jo Churchill MP** nominations for Suffolk Heroes. **MSDC** community recognition 2021 asking for ideas for events. A **resident** concerned regarding the revised opening hours at the Co-op from 0600-2100 Monday to Friday and 0800-1600 on Sundays to 0600-2200 Monday to Saturday and 0800-2100 on Sundays. The Clerk has spoken East of England Head of Food Operations who has advised that this is a commercial decision and needed to help defray operation costs and to keep the shop viable. The Clerk was asked to check permitted hours before responding that the matter is beyond the control of the parish council. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 5, 12, 18, 25 May + 2 June, Rural Funding Digest May & June, **SALC** coronavirus update –public attendance, ebulletin 10, 17, 24 May 1, 7 June, FAQs return to face to face meetings, upcoming event – East Anglian Community Energy event 24 May, Mid Suffolk joint area forum 8 June. **MSDC**

Community Recognition 2021, notice of examination of Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan, notice of examination BMSDC JLP, BMSDC JLP hearing programme, paper banks update, formal adoption of Drinkstone NP, Suffolk fly tipping campaign, IT service maintenance 31 May, survey of wheelchair accessible taxis. **SCC** Community Emergency Planning Group update May, Elmswell CP school expansion consultation. **Community Action Suffolk** support and funding for community groups to reopen in Suffolk. **Highways England** response to upcoming heavy goods transfer 6 June. **LGBCE** further chance to have your say on a new political map for SCC. **Suffolk Preservation Society** Neighbourhood Plan event – training for councils 5 July. **Healthwatch Suffolk** Suffolk Carers week activity 7-13 June. **Sicon Foundation** litter picking. **Parliament** Jo Churchill supports the return of The Big Lunch and a month of community fun this summer. **Jane Storey** SCC annual report. **Resident** concerns WPC did not save the Swan Inn.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £60.54 litter picking May, Laura Driver £44.00 Millennium Garden May, Mid Suffolk DC £1421.87 dog and litter bin emptying 21/22, Mrs P Branham £118.92 editing June/July Diary, Gipping Press £285.58 printing June/July Diary, Glasdon UK £316.71 litter bin for playing field, Mr R Balk £14.75 reimbursement for new broom, Suffolk County Council £284.94 pension payment, Woolpit Nurseries £187.00 plant and 3 additional pots, Sandra Brown £75.00 internal audit of accounts 2020/21. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order Mr R Balk £194.27 May salary, Mrs P Fuller £937.38 May salary.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

The balance of the Community Account at the end of May is £216,907.08 of which £196,151.93 is CIL and reserves and £20,755.15 general funds.

11. To complete and sign the Statement of Assurance and Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2021.

The form was duly completed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12. To consider the CIL Annual Report for 2020/21 and take any necessary action.

Mr Guyler has produced a report showing capital expenditure totalling £2999.53. Mrs Ewans expressed her concerns at agreeing items against CIL retrospectively and that the purpose of CIL is to support infrastructure needed because of new housing. Mr Guyler proposed that the CIL report showing £2999.53 expenditure be approved. There was no second and the proposal fell. Mrs Ewans proposed that the CIL report shows no expenditure. This was seconded and carried.

13. To consider the litter bins in the playing field near to the car park and take any necessary action.

The new larger ground based bin has been installed but all the bins were overflowing this week. It was agreed to keep both of the smaller bins on the fencing for the time being and monitor the situation.

14. To receive a recommendation from the Interview Panel for the co-option of a councillor to fill the current casual vacancy and take any necessary action.

Three candidates were interviewed. The panel recommended John Griffin for the vacant post. This was approved by full council and Mr Griffin was co-opted as a member of Woolpit PC.

15. To consider a request from Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme that Woolpit PC confirms that the £500 from Councillor Sarah Mansell Locality Budget for the Woolpit Coronavirus Emergency Planning group can be transferred to the Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme and take any necessary action.

District Cllr Mansell will investigate if this is permissible as the grant was specifically for food boxes. It was unanimously agreed that if the Locality Budget grant cannot be transferred that Woolpit PC will make a grant to Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme for £500.00.
Action District Cllr Mansel/the Clerk.

16. To consider the future school arrangements in Elmswell and Woolpit and take any necessary action.

Mrs Ewans is to meet with the CEO of Thedwastre Trust to find out more about Woolpit school and its plans. It is hoped to arrange a joint meeting of SCC, Elmswell PC and Woolpit PC to discuss future school arrangements sometime after 21 June.

17. To discuss future maintenance of the Millennium Garden and take any necessary action.

Mrs Driver will be leaving to have a baby in August. Two names were put forward for the Clerk to contact to see if they were available and what they charge.

Action: the Clerk

18. To consider tree, hedge and wildflower planting in the parish and take any necessary action.

The group has met and is creating a schedule of areas which could be improvement with planting. This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

19. To consider the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and take any necessary action.

Mr Howard will form an informal group to consider ideas for the period 2-5 June 2022 before bringing a recommendation to full council.

20. To consider arranging a village litter pick and take any necessary action.

Mrs Moore and Mrs Jenkins will arrange a litter pick in the autumn which will be publicised in the August/September Diary.

Action: Mrs Moore/Mrs Jenkins

21. To consider the number of road signs required for Elmswell Road and Norton Road and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to have one sign at the end on the road at the junction with Old Stowmarket Road for Elmswell Road and junction with Bury Road for the Norton Road sign.

Action: the Clerk

22. To receive an update on the Health Centre car park.

This was covered in the District Councillors' report.

23. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action - including to discuss the response from Landmark Rabbit Control to our concerns regarding the rabbit proof fencing and organising a meeting with tenants.

The Clerk was asked to send letters to six allotment holders regarding the condition of their plots. Mrs Ewans will draft a further letter to Landmark Rabbit Control regarding the fence once the Clerk has provided details of the original specification and quote. It is hoped to set up a meeting with tenants to discuss future management of the site but no date was set.

Action: the Clerk/Mrs Ewans

24. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

As Mr Hardiman was not in attendance no report was given

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity**25. To consider a request from Woolpit Cricket Club for financial assistance to carry out repairs to 200 year old oak tree and take any necessary action.**

Woolpit CC accounts have been circulated to Cllrs. WCC is asking for a grant of £1000 towards the cost of the tree work of £1740 and to for WRGC to waive the ground rent for 2021/22.

Councillors are still awaiting the last 6 years financial documentation from the previous trustees so are not in a position to make a decision at this time. The Clerk was asked to write to Woolpit CC and advise that the WRGC require two further quotes to consider.

Action: the Clerk

26. To consider quotes for the repair and maintenance of the rubber matting and underlying soil in the children's play area and take any necessary action.

After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to accept the inclusion of ongoing releveling of matted play area as required, maintenance of low hanging branches around the playing field and maintenance of identified low hanging braches intruding on neighbouring properties as identified on a site visit on the revised contract for £490.00 + VAT from Parkers Pitches. This brings the annual fee of the contract to £2500.00 + VAT.

The Clerk was asked to find out what weed killer is used in the play area.

Action: the Clerk

27. To consider quotes for tree work and take any necessary action.

Insufficient quotes have been received to be able to consider this item. Carried forward to the next meeting.

28. To receive an update on letting arrangements and fees for the playing field and take any necessary action.

Mrs Ewans had drafted a new letting agreement for the recreation field. The Clerk is sorting out an invoice for the deposit for the children's fair in August.

Action: the Clerk

29. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 5 July 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed by.....J Ewans... ..

Dated.....5 July 2021.....