

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

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Moore, Mr Howard, Mr Guyler, Mr Griffin, Mr Hardiman, Dr Geake, Mr Auchincloss.

In attendance County Cllr Mellon (in part), District Cllr Mansel, Mrs Fuller Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. Public comment Mr Hardiman has taken over as caretaker of the Institute. The litter pick was very well supported and Mrs Moore and Mrs Jenkins were thanked for organising it. It is clear that dog faeces remains an issue in several areas. MSDC collected the rubbish within a day. Woolpit Festival weekend is 2 & 3 October and individual councillors offered to help with the village hall car parking. Mr Auchincloss advised there is now a defibrillator at the tennis club and Cllrs felt it would be good to organise some basic CPR/defibrillator training. A resident has concerns regarding issues with the pinch point in Green Road, this has been discussed at a meeting with SCC Highways and our County Councillor. The footpath to The Grange has been cut by a resident. The footway in Old Stowmarket Road is to be taken up, weeds treated and then reinstated.

3. County & District Councillors reports.

County Councillor's report. The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan was released in June and sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030. Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed. The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month on Suffolk County Council's website. The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk. The Zero Carbon battle bus is visiting Suffolk with the purpose to discuss the concept of net zero carbon and why it is critical for businesses. Cllr Mellon was thanked for setting up a meeting with SCC Highways Officer who came out to see the issues in the parish.

District Councillors' report. Planning permission for the controversial Gateway 14, 156-acre business and logistics park which is to be sited between the A14 and the A1120 at Stowmarket have been approved, despite heavy opposition. MSDC and Norse Group open show homes on the former Needham Market office complex. This joint venture was set up to deliver housing and promote sustainable growth across the district. There will be a total of 133 new houses, flats and bungalows, a natural community space, walk and library. Construction has now begun on the community car park at Woolpit Health Centre which will see an additional 120 spaces created. MSDC brought this project forward in response to the COVID emergency, working in partnership with the Health Centre, Suffolk County Council, NHS West Suffolk CCG, David Wilson Homes and Woolpit parish council. MSDC Licensing Committee voted to update its vehicle hire policy so that taxi drivers will need to transition to zero emission cars by 2030 without financial support from the Council. MSDC has purchased approximately 3 acres of land to provide a green space for flora and fauna in Wash Lane, Great Finborough as part of the Council's drive to increase biodiversity and improve the environment for local people. MSDC along with other district, borough and County Councils have stated they are committed to re homing Afghan people who have fled their homeland but as of yet details have not been confirmed as to how this will be implemented. MSDC and Babergh Cabinets are working on a new parking strategy. This will include both on- and off-street parking. There will be consultation with town and parish councils and the new strategy should be launched by Sept 2022. Free compost will be available from Mill

Meadow, Needham Lake on Sunday 19th September 9am -12 noon. Up to 2 bags of compost is available per person.

4. To receive declarations of interest.

Mr Howard declared an interest in item 26.

5. To approve the minutes of the meeting 3 August 2021.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

21/04435 Erection of a one and a half storey side extension. Mulberry House, Borley Green – support.

21/04504 Erection of garden office (following demolition of summer house). Gamekeeper Cottage, Borley Green – support.

21/04865 Application under S73a for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permissions DC/17/03582 and DC/20/05094 for the erection of 2 No dwellings. Town and Country Planning 1990 - To vary Condition 3 (Approved Plans and Documents) to facilitate retention of the approved dwelling and alternative garage car port structure and materials. To substitute previously approved drawings for 5451_PA_06 REV D (Site Plan) and 5451_PA_05 REV D (Cartlodge) Plot 2 only. Land to the South Of Green Road – object. There are substantial variations both in height and footprint. This is no longer a cartlodge and would appear to have the potential of being a dwelling.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

21/02661 Discharge of condition application 21/01008 Condition 3 (Provision of visibility splays). Myrtle Cottage, The Green – refused. This is because the visibility splays do not demonstrate safe and suitable access on to the highway.

21/03725 Construction of drop kerb and creation of new front driveway and parking area. 6 Heath Road – granted.

7. Clerk's Report

Bury Road hedge – Hopkins Homes will raise the matter internally and should update us with further information and a timescale for cutting the hedge.

Glebe land hedges – the diocesan land agent has written to tenant to cut back hedges.

Bus shelter – the order has been placed and the company are looking at the week commencing 13 September for installation.

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

MSDC Hackney carriage, private hire operator, vehicle and driver policy consultation and Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles (Revision) consultation. Cllrs do not wish to comment. Babergh Mid Suffolk parking strategy consultation. Mrs Evans has booked onto the workshop 15 September. Resident concerns regarding the reduction of the 384/385 bus service. The service is now run by Stephenson's of Essex and the reduction is a temporary measure. Resident regarding the condition of the verge in Steeles Close. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:**

Rural Services Network Funding Digest August, rural bulletin 10, 17, 24 August, 1, 7 September. **SALC** ebulletin 9, 16, 23, 31 August, 6 September, new event – how to engage with young people in your community, NHS Diabetes prevention programme, Mid Suffolk area forum 23 September, community restart poster, Festival of Suffolk celebration during Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **SCC** youth focus an introduction for Parish and Town Councils, Suffolk on board bus timetable update.

MSDC resumption date of examination hearing for JLP 22 September, potential MHCLG funds to improve planning information with parishes, work begins on Woolpit community car park, welcome back fund follow up email, notice of Civil Parking Enforcement Order, compost give away event 19 September, JLP BMSDC examination updated programme and hearing statements, Suffolk energy from waste

facility virtual tours 10 & 11 September. Suffolk Preservation Society Suffolk Heritage Champion awards – an invitation to nominate. **Anna Robson Trust** article for Woolpit Diary.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

The following payments were unanimously ratified:- Woolpit Good Neighbours Scheme £1,000.00 being £500.00 grant from Woolpit PC and £500.00 grant from MSDC Locality budget that WPC was holding on their behalf until their bank account was opened, MAJIsign Ltd £104.40 signs for no barbecues signs and zip wire usage sign, Mr F Harris £300.00 refund of security deposit for children's fun fair. The following accounts were approved and cheques issued. Mr Harknett £67.85 litter picking August, Suffolk County Council £302.74 pension payment, SALC £16.80 e-learning introduction to Parish Council Mr Auchincloss, Smith of Derby £600.00 church clock maintenance for 3 years, Mr Hardiman £54.86 reimbursement for plywood to back signs, Mid Suffolk DC £312.96 two street name signs. Proludic £52,236.94 MUGA (from CIL) was approved but cheque will not be sent until the final meeting with Proludic to ensure everything has been completed. Payments by standing order/Direct Debit Mr Balk £190.70 August salary, Mrs P Fuller £994.77 August salary and Eon £23.97 quarterly bill pump light.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

At the end of August the Community Account balance was £213,173.42 of which CIL is £99,687.10, earmarked reserves are £96,464.83 and general funds £17,021.50. The second half precept payment should be received this month.

11. To consider internet banking for Woolpit PC payments and take any necessary action.

This was deferred to the next meeting.

12. To consider a request for a grant from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and take any necessary action.

A grant of £750.00 was proposed, seconded and carried. SARS would be asked to provide basic CPR and defibrillator training in the village for an additional donation.

Action: the Clerk

13. To approve payments of various fees to complete the Legal Registered Title for the allotments.

The Parish Council needs to debate whether to file for the Legal Registered Title for the allotment land before agreeing to any fees. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

14. To consider a quote from SCC to replace street light units 42 The Street and 46 Rectory Lane and take any necessary action.

SCC has advised that the lights have failed and are no longer maintainable. Replacement of unit 42 will cost £617.00 with a further £478.00 if it is found overhead connection is required. Replacement of Unit 46 is £458.00. After a vote with 7 in favour and 2 against the quote was accepted.

Action: the Clerk

15. To consider employing a lengthsman and take any necessary action.

There are areas where SCC no longer carries out work such as clearing weed from the gutters, keeping footpaths clear. There may be someone in the village willing to take on these tasks. Cllrs were asked to look into the Highways Ranger section of the SCC Community Self Help Scheme before discussing at the next meeting.

Action: all Councillors

16. To consider renovation of the woodwork of the war memorial, external Institute notice board and Parish Council notice board in the pump garden; consider renovation of the railings outside the Institute and chains around the pump garden and take any necessary action.

Cllrs are minded to pay for the renovation of the war memorial and consider paying for the other items at the Institute but standing orders do not allow payment to be approved without knowing a figure. The Clerk will look into costs of varnishing the Parish Council notice board and renovation of the chains around the pump garden.

Action: The Clerk

17. To consider the purchase of a new poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday and take any necessary action.

The Clerk was asked to find out if the old one is still available and in good condition before a decision is made to purchase a new wreath.

Action: the Clerk

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

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for the time being.

19. To consider future operating arrangements of the new Health Centre car park and take any necessary action.

Mr Guyler has drafted a letter for MSDC raising matters of concern and to request that WPC will be included in the negotiations on access arrangements and usage. It was agreed to send the letter to MSDC and request a meeting.

Action: the Clerk

Mr Hardiman left the meeting at 9.08 p.m.

20. To discuss public concerns regarding highway safety in various areas of the parish and take any necessary action.

Some Cllrs have met with SCC Highways Officer and our County Cllr visiting some of the areas of concern. The report from the meeting has not yet been received.

However Mrs Ewans outlined the officer's thoughts

Heath Road hedge – SCC officer suggests this should be done with a consensus of the village rather than sending notices to the landowners. If SCC has to carry out the work they will bill the landowners. Mrs Moore will talk to the landowners involved and Mrs Ewans will contact The Baker family for a quote but the hedge needs to be cut back hard to gain the best width of road as possible and clear the overhead cables.

Ladyswell area – SCC will not be pre-emptive and will wait until an issue arises.

20 mph village centre – the criteria for SCC to consider an area for 20 mph has been received and distributed to Cllrs for consideration.

Village centre and pinch point – SCC officer had no thoughts on these issues.

Mill Lane one-way – SCC are not totally adverse making this area a cul de sac which surprised some Cllrs as when this was mooted for Masons Lane SCC would not allow it.

Wood Road – possible weight restriction, width restriction.

The report from SCC officer is awaited before discussing these matters further.

21. To receive an update on the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022.

Mr Howard has registered our interest in celebrating events. John Moore is assisting Mr Howard and they will be attending a Zoom meeting with the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and Bruno Peak on 30 September.

22. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action including an update on the management of the uncultivated area.

There has been no response to date from tenants in setting up an Allotment Association. One plot has been handed back and the Clerk will look to re-let it. Vegetation needs to die down on the uncultivated area of the allotments before taking any further action.

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

Necessary changes have been put in place for COVID regulation changes. Lettings are beginning to improve.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

24. To consider additional play equipment and take any necessary action.

Mr Hardiman feels that there should be additional equipment for 3-5 year olds. A site meeting will be held to look into the matter.

25. To consider a new goal net and take any necessary action.

This will also be considered at the site meeting.

26. To discuss the trees and land adjacent to Churchgate House and the car park/recreation ground and take any necessary action.

A summary of the position of the trees and the current situation was circulated to Cllrs. Some of the issues to consider are valuation of the land, would this affect the charities lease and is permission from the Charity Commission required. Again it was felt that a site meeting is required before discussing further.

27. To consider resurfacing the village hall car park and take any necessary action.

Cllrs will visit the site before taking the matter further.

28. To receive a report from the Clerk.

The security deposit for the Children’s fun fair has been returned. Paperwork and money are still awaited from the previous trustees. Nothing has been heard from HSBC regarding the mandate update which was sent to the bank in June.

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

The meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....