

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mr Guyler, Mr Griffin, Mr Hardiman, Mr Auchincloss and Mr Howard.

In attendance: County Cllr Mellen (in part), District Cllr Mansel, Mrs Fuller Parish Clerk and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Moore, Mrs Jenkins and Dr Geake.

2. **Public comment** It is noted that during work on trees near the roundabout some of the daffodils have been damaged.

Some of the bollards erected at the car park at the Health Centre to stop cars going on the footway have been hit and are now at an angle.

The Swan Inn has been sold and the new owners are in the process of moving in, this is now a residential property.

Mr Howard has received a list of ideas for CIL expenditure from the Chairman of Woolpit Festival Committee.

A resident outline his objections to planning application 22/00914 plot 5 of the Rags Lane development.

A resident requesting that the Parish Council take back the Neighbourhood Plan from MSDC to make the appropriate amendments so that it can go forward to a referendum. This will be made an agenda item for the April meeting.

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

District Councillors' Report Mid Suffolk Council discussed the budget 2022/23 at the Council meeting held on 24 February. Council tax is to remain at the same rate so annual Mid Suffolk proportion of the council tax bill for a Band D property will be £171.59. Sheltered housing charges and garage rents also remain frozen at 2021/22 levels. It was agreed to fund two electric bus services to enable residents to get to and from Stowmarket in a sustainable manner. The funding for this project will be from the Growth and Efficiency fund. Mid Suffolk District Council tenants face a proposed increase of 4.1% to their rents, to cover inflationary pressures and allow investment in improving the quality of council homes. Following the departure of Cllr Wendy Turner there was a by-election for a new district councillor for the Thurston Ward. Green party candidate Austin Davies was duly elected. MSDC remains balanced with 17 members in each of the two groups. Babergh and Mid Suffolk are reducing their office space in Endeavour House. Following COVID there is now more hybrid working and less space is needed so the space will be reconfigured at a cost of about £250,000 but should provide longer term net savings in the region of £675,000 over the next 5 years. Babergh and Mid Suffolk are providing virtual workshops for business owners to improve their digital skills, as part of the COVID recovery programme. MSDC received the keys to 9 new affordable homes in Botesdale in February. These new homes are part of the current investment programme which included 68 new homes in the pipeline for this year in Needham Market, Haughley and Woolpit. Thurston Parish Council lodged a judicial review into the granting of planning permission for 210 new homes off Beyton Road, Thurston. The allegation that MSDC planning committee members had been wrongly advised on the weight to be given to the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan was upheld by the High Court. Cllrs Mansel and Geake Locality Funding has now been agreed and £2,300.00 has been granted for the additional play equipment and seating at the children's play area. The planning application for the petrol station is scheduled to go before MSDC Planning Committee on 6 April. Concerns regarding lorries damaging part of the grass area between Meadowlands and Briar Hill is being investigated. There is to be a meeting between MSDC and SCC infrastructure as both own part of the land.

A meeting to update parishes on the cyclepath to Elmswell has been held on line by MSDC Infrastructure team. Mrs Ewans attended. SCC has walked the route but appeared to have out of date information. Sustrans has carried out a feasibility plan but have not shared this with SCC at this time. Little progress has been made in the last year.

County Councillor's report. Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions. Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29 of January. According to The Department for Transport (DfT) the new regulations are about recognising and protecting the most vulnerable road users and making the highway safer for everyone. The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation. A new deal will potentially give local leaders more powers to make decisions for their communities for the first time. Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 1 February 2022.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

22/00608 Erection of a one and a half storey side and rear extension; Raising pitch of roof of dwelling and construction of front and rear dormer windows including side rooflights in conjunction with loft conversion; Erection of attached garage (following demolition of existing detached garage); Erection of a rear conservatory (amended scheme to that approved under 19/02883). Longfield, The Green – object loss of privacy and amenity to neighbouring property.

22/00638 Erection of one Class e(g) commercial building. Land at Stag Café, old A45 – object, piecemeal development of the site, loss of some parking area could cause parking on old A45, impact of additional traffic and HGVs on Warren Lane, Wood Road and Heath Road to access A14.

22/00905 Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: Fell 1no Hawthorn (T1), 1no hedge line of Yews (T2), 1no small group of Sycamores (T3), 1no Beech (T4), 1no Maidenhair (T5), 1no group of small trees (T6), 1no Maple (T7), 1no Whitebeam (T8), 1no Hybrid Poplar (T9) and 1no group of small trees/shrubs. Reduce 1no Common Cherry (T11) by 40%, and significantly reduce or pollard all trees on boundary line (T12). The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane – object no justification supplied as to why the trees need felling or if anything to replace.

22/00914 Application under S73a for removal or variation of a condition following approval of DC/20/04290 dated 15/12/2020 (Reserved Matters Application for Outline Planning Permission DC/19/02688 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of 5 no. detached dwellings associated garages and vehicular access)- To vary Condition 1 (Approved Plans and Documents) - To allow for integral garage with internal access door and additional habitable space above the garage to plot 05 only. Land to the north of Drinkstone Road (south of Rags Lane) – object overdevelopment of the plot, incongruous to the surrounding out of keeping with properties and character of the immediate area.

22/00913 Application under S73a for removal or variation of a condition following approval of DC/20/04290 dated 15/12/2020 (Reserved Matters Application for Outline Planning Permission DC/19/02688 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of 5 no. detached dwellings associated garages and vehicular access)- To vary Condition 1 (Approved Plans and Documents) to allow for

additional garage space including storage for bikes. Land to the north of Drinkstone Road (south of Rags Lane) - considered, no comment to make.

22/01073 Erection of single storey extension to rear/side (following demolition of existing conservatory. Titchfield, Green Road - considered, no comment to make.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

21/06542 Discharge of Conditions Application for 19/03851 Condition 3 (construction phase management), Condition 7 (surface water drainage), Condition 9 (landscaping), Condition 12 (environmental management plan), Condition 16 (construction management). Land at Lawn Farm, Warren Lane – acceptable/satisfied.

22/00433 Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: Crown reduce 1 no Beech (T1) by 3m and install a cobra cable bracing system to support 3 large limbs, and deadwood 1 no Oak (T2). Monks Close Masons Lane – no objection.

22/00144 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 20/05871 variation of Condition 2 (approved plans and documents) in order to reposition one of the approved buildings to avoid gas main. Land at Stag Café, Old A45 – permission granted.

21/06527 Conversion of garage, erection of first floor over to form family annexe. Erection of cartlodge to front. Burrows End Warren Lane – permission granted.

7. Clerk's Report

CPR and defibrillator training – has been arranged for Saturday 2 April.

Lady's Well trees – BTS has advised that they are to cut trees beside the electricity cables to a clearance of 3ft in September.

Lady's Well lock – this has been replaced with a substantial combination lock.

Highways Ranger – Mr Gardiner has accepted the post and started 1 March. SCC training has been arranged for 11 April.

Hopkins Homes development – are currently carrying out work on the hedge. Mrs Ewans is to arrange a follow up meeting with representatives to receive an update on various matters.

Issues with HGV's Warren Lane/Wood Road Borley Green – County Cllr Mellen, Mrs Ewans and two representatives of Borley Green residents are meeting with Bacton Transport 3 March.

Festival of Suffolk – there will be a torch relay which comes through Woolpit on 28 May. Nominations for a torch bearer are required by 31 March.

Telephone box – glass has now been replaced.

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

A fish and chip van has asked for permission to visit the village. There is no requirement to have permission from the WPC but they need to register with MSDC. The Clerk will respond that WPC is concerned regarding litter and that the vehicle will cause an obstruction in the village and asked that these concerns are mitigated.

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: SALC news ebulletin 31 January, 7, 14, 21, 28 February, training and networking ebulletin 17, 22 February, 1 March, newsletter February, Climate Forum network 7 March, area forum 10 March.

SCC Traffic regulation Order – Mid Suffolk schools waiting amendments, amber weather warning 18 February, Storm Eunice update and power outages. **MSDC** forecast of high winds 18 February. **Rural Services Network** special bulletin compelling rural health and care evidence released, Funding Digest February, Rural Bulletin 1, 8, 15, 22 February, 1 March. **National Highways** important roadworks A14 J43 to J44 14 February to 4 March overnight. **Healthwatch Suffolk** Elective Care survey launch. **UK Powernetworks** our preparation for storms Dudley and Eunice. **Festival of Suffolk** get involved in the torch relay. **Jo Churchill** MP Jubilee torch relay. Resident overgrown trees on entry to village advised that SCC has already been contacted. Resident copy of their objection sent to MSDC regarding the petrol station planning application.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr Harknett £60.74 litter picking February, Suffolk County Council £302.74 pension payment, Mr S Langston £1932.00 Tree work between the car park and Churchgate House and village hall car park and property in Mill Lane, Suffolk County Council £6041.00 Streetlight replacement columns and LED units (Mill Lane £4212.68 and £1828.32 Briar Hill), Mr M Hardiman £37.98 reimbursement for combination lock for Lady's Well. Payments by Standing Order Mrs P Fuller £955.22 February salary, Mr Balk £190.20 February salary, BT £261.38 quarterly bill, Information Commissioner £35.00 annual fee.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

At the end of February the Community Account balance was £245,129.53 of which CIL is £150,945.50, earmarked reserves are £93,214.83 and general funds £969.20. This has not yet been reconciled to the bank statement as not yet received. Cllrs agreed and acknowledged that general reserves will be used to pay this month's payments.

11. To review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and take any necessary action.

Currently item 5j of the Standing Orders is suspended. This is the list of items of business to be included at the annual parish council meeting. It was approved that items 5j I to viii would be included at the annual parish council meeting and items ix – xxi would be considered as per the appended schedule. All other items reviewed and remain unchanged.

Action: the Clerk

12. To consider events to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022.

The committee led by Mr Howard are planning a comprehensive programme of events under the theme of the 1950s for all age groups over the period 2-5 June. Details will be published in the Woolpit Diary.

13. To review Woolpit Diary including layout and take any necessary action.

Mrs Ewans has reviewed and set out the content of the Diary in a different layout which was approved by Cllrs. Some Cllrs feel that we should look to modernise the Diary within the next 12 months. This will be on the next agenda.

14. To consider damage to grass area between Meadowlands and Briar Hill and take any necessary action.

This has been caused by lorries including the bin collection lorry. MSDC Waste Manager will visit the site but part of the affected area is owned by SCC and part by MSDC. County Cllr Mellen and District Cllr Mansell will pursue the matter.

15. To receive a report on the allotments, consider hiring a skip to clear the old allotment area and take any necessary action.

All allotments have been rented out. A tenant has asked to erect a greenhouse on their plot. This was agreed but at the owners own risk. One of the previous tenants has left tyres and a tarpaulin on the plot and they will be asked to remove them. It was agreed to hire a 4 or 6 yard skip for a day to clear the waste from the old allotment area.

Action: the Clerk/Mrs Ewans

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

The accounts are quite healthy at the moment and the Village Hall committee are getting a lot of new bookings. The committee will be putting forward ideas for CIL expenditure shortly.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity**17. To consider a quote for a replacement screening fence behind the goal and take any necessary action.**

Despite asking many companies, only M & E Services have submitted a quote. They will remove all the existing netting and poles and replace with new posts, wire rope to the frame and attach heavy duty new netting at a cost of £3525.00. It was proposed, seconded and carried to accept the quote. *Action: the Clerk*

18. To consider a maintenance and annual inspection contract with Proludic for the children's play equipment and take any necessary action.

Still awaiting additional information therefore this item is deferred to the next meeting.

19. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Bank account – HSBC has advised that the revised bank mandate is now live.

Children's Fun Fair – this will be on the recreation ground from 8 August with the fair open 11-13 August and leaving on 14 August. The same fee as last year will be applied.

20. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 5 April 2022.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

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

Dated.....22.March 2022.....