

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

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

In attendance: County Cllr Mellen (in part), District Cllr Mansell, Mrs Fuller Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public.

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

2. **Public comment** Congratulations go to Mrs Kathy Parker who has been awarded a BEM in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. The Clerk will send a letter of congratulations from the Parish Council.

A resident expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety along Drinkstone Road (both now and with the imminent development traffic to the Rags Lane site) and Pykotts Way. Pedestrians used to be able to walk along the field edge but fencing has been put up to stop this. The Parish Council will contact the land owner to see if anything can be done.

People are putting up signs for events and lost pets and not removing them in due course. This will be highlighted in the next Woolpit Diary.

Children are sliding in mud on the recreation field and then using the play equipment leaving it dirty for the next users. A sign will be put up to ask users to clean the equipment if they make it muddy.

A quantity of fly tipping in White Elm Road has been reported to MSDC.

Concerns were expressed regarding pedestrians wearing dark clothing at night and the dangers this causes. An item will be out in Woolpit Diary

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

County Councillor's report. Full details of the proposed budget will be available later this month. The Cabinet met on the 7 December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve SCC's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wishes to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included progress on improving the service. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – reinforcing the service's commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. The Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public so they can access Covid 19 booster jabs. A new campaign was released in December aimed at helping the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate care professionals, and asks the public for patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter. On average, Suffolk County Council receives 551 calls per day from people receiving adult social care, and over Christmas there were around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes had a good Christmas.

Cllr Mellen has been contacted by the Borley Green resident's Traffic Action Group. Clearly issues of large vehicles using Wood Road and Borley Green has increased significantly in recent years and Cllr Mellen will investigate the criteria for a weight restriction on the road. SCC Community Engineer will look at the Wood Road/Borley Green triangle to see what can be done there.

District Councillors' report. Works to install 70 solar carports at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket have now begun. The scheme form part of a £2.8m

investment in solar at the councils leisure centres. Due to the numerous bank holidays over the Christmas and New Year period, waste and recycling bin collection days will not resume to their normal days until 24 January. Brown bin collection will return to normal from 10 January. A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone. Since its launch in July 2021, the Innovate Local initiative has supported 11 small businesses by providing a free pitch at either Stowmarket or Hadleigh markets for up to four weeks. The Innovate Local scheme is open to businesses that have been operating for less than a year and do not currently have a place on a market. The reserved matters planning application for 300 homes between Bury Road and the Cricket ground will be determined at Development Control Committee A on 12 January. The petrol station application is provisionally scheduled to be determined by committee 9 February. Babergh and Mid Suffolk have sent a joint response to National Highways' consultation on improvements to the Copdock Interchange. The Councils are supporting the idea of a new link road for traffic going north-south on A12 bypass the roundabout, despite the fact that this will cause much environmental damage and will be less of an improvement for traffic heading from A12 toward Bury on A14. Part of the housing development on the former MSDC Council Office site in Needham Market has been completed. 8 new affordable homes were ready for families to move in at the beginning of December.

4. To receive declarations of interest

Mr Howard declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 21/06796.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 7 December 2021.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

21/006725 Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access points to be considered, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be reserved) Town and Country Planning 1990 - Erection of 2 No detached single storey dwellings. Land South of 1 Oak Lane - object. The site is outside the settlement boundary and is classed as in the countryside and with a 5 year land supply should not be approved. The route to facilities in Woolpit does not provide safe and suitable pedestrian access, resulting in the likely reliance on private motor vehicle use and increase in traffic. The proposal will cause a loss of biodiversity in the area.

21/06796 Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Twin Stemmed Sycamore - Crown lift over recreation ground by 5m above ground level. T2 Ash – Crown lift over recreation ground by 5m above ground level. Reduce lateral limbs over garden by 3m. T7 Ash - Repollard to previous pruning points. T8 Field Maple – Repollard to previous pruning points. T3 Oak - Crown lift to allow vehicles beneath. T4 Ash- reduce weight on 2 no stems by 50% to reduce risk of splitting and increase light into garden. T5 Sycamore - Crown lift to allow vehicles beneath, Remove 3 limbs growing towards adjacent property to prevent damage to house and increase light below. T6 Ash - Reduce low limbs over road to prevent vehicles hitting them and reduce large limb over park to prevent possible future branch breakage. Recreation Ground, Church Street - support

21/06219 Full Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land to residential use to serve dwelling approved under DC/17/03901 and erection of replacement barn/outbuilding (following demolition of existing). Grassy Lane Farm, Grassy Lane. MSDC Planning Manager has advised that the description is wrong and the reference number is not correct. This will need a review and will need full re-consultation and has suggested we await the amended application.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

21/05637 Erection of rear first floor extension and single storey link extension, conversion of garage and erection of front porch. 3 Steeles Road – permission granted.

21/05660 Erection of single storey side extension. 20 Mitre Close – permission granted.

21/05461 Severance of garden and erection of 1 two storey dwelling with access drive and parking. Tamarack, The Oaks – permission refused due to impact on the character/locality and unsustainable development.

21/05694 Listed Building Consent . Remove the bottom exposed section for the separating wall within the fireplace to allow for a larger log burner. Broomhill House. Broomhill Lane – permission granted.

21/05858 Erection of a veranda to rear of house.5 Grange Close – permission granted

21/05538 Erection storage shed and insertion of door to front elevation. 2 Swan Yard - permission granted

21/06004 Erection of ground floor extension, insertion of 2 dormers, Velux windows and glazed screens on gable ends. Erection of outbuilding. Fingerbread House, Rectory Lane – permission granted.

21/06250 Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Sycamore – reduce height by 6m, reduce crown spread east, southeast and south by 2m, and west by 1m. T2 Ash - reduce crown height by 2m, reduce crown spread south by 2m and north by 1.5m, shape and raise remaining crown. T4 Ash - Raise crown east to 6m. T8 Ash - shorten branch at approx 13m east by 1.5m to reduce end load. T13 Ash - coppice secondary stem west to approx 45cm. T14 Ash - shorten branch at approx 10m east by approx 2m to reduce end load. Rectory Meadow Rectory Lane – no objection

21/06430 Application for a Non Material Amendment relating to DC/21/01481 – Additional roof vents added; ducting amended; retaining embankment; alterations to surface water attenuation pond; and a reduction in car parking. Land at Lawn Farm Warren Lane – approved.

21/06211 Application for a Non Material Amendment relating to DC/21/03985 – Changes to the wording of specific conditions contained on the decision notice as set out in detail within the supporting letter. Land South Of Old Stowmarket Road – approved.

21/01160 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/04247- Condition 13 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme) Land Off Bury Road – part satisfied not Sec G.

EN21/00794 Rags Lane development. Mid Suffolk DC has investigated the loss of the hedge and has advised that the work is in accordance with the drawings supplied for the application and to date they have not found a breach of the Planning Conditions for the approved planning permissions.

7. Clerk's Report

SALC subscription – there will be no increase for 2022/23. SALC are looking into changing how they set subscription fees for 2023/24.

Dog and litter bin emptying – there will be no increase for 2022/23.

Steeles Road grass area – vehicles driving on the grass near the houses has been reported to MSDC asking them if a bollard can be erected or signs put up. MSDC Neighbourhood Team will respond to our enquiry.

Demolished road signs Bury Road/Norton Road junction – have been reported to SCC. The Highways Officer has advised that this has been logged as a Category 7 for the potential future work list.

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

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: MSDC Joint Local Plan inspector post hearing letter, exploratory post hearing meeting 16 December, JLP update for NP groups. CCG briefing 17 December. **SALC** news e-bulletin 13 & 20

December, Help is at hand this Christmas, local support and help sent on behalf of Collaborative Communities Board.. **Rural Services Network** 14, 21 December. **SCC** lorry route map review in Suffolk final week of consultation, Suffolk Pension Fund annual employer meeting 19 January, suffolkonboard newsletter December, licence applications for attachments to street lighting. **SARS** tree recycling service. **Suffolk Headway** winter newsletter. **Traffic Action Group Borley Green** concerns regarding increased traffic/HGVs. 4 copy objections to Petrol Station application.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Payment of £38.90 to Anglian Water (National) Ltd for allotment water 6/9/21-4/12/21 was unanimously ratified. Mr K Harknett £55.30 litter picking December, Suffolk County Council £302.74 pension payment, HM Revenue & Customs £463.56 Tax and N/I October-December, W Jarvis & Sons £720.00 tree work Lady's Well, allotments and pump garden, SLCC £186.00 annual subscription, Mr P Fuller £77.60 expenses October-December, Woolpit Institute £416.00 office rent February-April, Woolpit Institute £240.00 room hire 2021. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order Mrs P Fuller £955.22 December salary, Mr R Balk £190.20 December salary.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

At the end of December the Community Account balance was £252,235.71 of which CIL is £150,945.50, earmarked reserves are £91,964.83 and general funds £9328.38. This has not yet been reconciled to the bank statement as not yet received.

11. To consider the quote from SCC to replace 11 concrete streetlight columns and lanterns and take any necessary action.

A quote for £16,700.00 + VAT has been received. This is for 6m tubular construction columns with a galvanised finish and the lanterns will be LED. There may be additional costs if additional traffic management is required. Concerns were expressed regarding the harm to insects of LED lights and the Clerk was asked to contact SCC on this before a decision is made. *Action: the Clerk*

12. To consider the budget, set the precept for 2022/23 and take any necessary action.

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2021/22 and current reserves along with predicted costs for 2022/23. The Chair had also prepared comparisons of our tax base for Band D properties against those of similar sized parishes. It is noted that CIL reserves cannot be used to subsidise the precept. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set the precept at £60,000.00. Whilst this is a large increase overall it equates to under £1.50 in total a week for a Band D property.

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

Various ideas are being considered over the 4 day period. There will be a full report next month.

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

Rent renewals have now been sent out. A working party will be arranged for 30 January to clear the old allotment area

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 February.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

16. To consider a quote for a replacement screening fence behind the goal and take any necessary action.

Deferred to next meeting as it is difficult to get quotes for the work. Only one has been received to date.

17. To receive a report from the Clerk.

HSBC account – the mandate has been taken into the Stowmarket branch. We await to see if this is processed or more identification of signatories is required.

HSBC charges – HSBC has advised that as of November they have introduced charges for charity accounts. These will be a £5 monthly maintenance fee and various charges for every transaction. This will need to be considered once the mandate change has been completed.

18. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....