

**DRAFT** MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

**Present:** Dr Geake (Chair), Mr Gallagher, Mr Foster, Mrs Walker, Mr Hardiman and Mrs Robinson.

**In attendance:** Katy Hampshire Project Manager, SCC. Mrs Fuller, Clerk and Mrs Ewans.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Mrs Jenkins.

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

Mr Gallagher as a Trustee of the Village Hall and Mr Foster as a Trustee of Woolpit Village Hall and a member of the Bridge Club.

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting 18 December 2024**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**4. Katy Hampshire, Project Manager SCC with details of Suffolk Plug in Suffolk**

Plug-in Suffolk has received £1.3 million from the central government for the second phase. There are two projects and Woolpit could qualify for the community charging hub as we have many houses which front directly onto the pavement with no place to put a private charger. This scheme will be fully funded by SCC and the EV charger supplier/operator will own, operate and maintain the units. There will be a fee paid to the landowner of £100.00 per bay and once overheads have been met there will be a percentage of profits share on a monthly or quarterly basis. There is likely to be a preferential rate for residents and they would be able to charge overnight. The units are usually between 5-7 kw and SCC manages the overall scheme with WPC having its own agreement with the contractor. The car park opposite the church looks suitable for the scheme and Woolpit is already on the list as a priority for 2 units with 4 plug-ins. There may be a possibility of putting in additional underground infrastructure so extra chargers can be added in the future. It will be a 15-year contract with a 5-year extension option. Units have to be functioning 98% of the time. If the original company are bought out the new company have to accept the original terms. Timescale is out for tender May/June, contractor selected August/September with installation of units early 2025. National Grid is increasing capacity to cope with all electric cars when petrol vehicles are phased out.

Cllrs unanimously agreed that they would like to be included in the scheme.

**5. General discussion to agree moneys earmarked for future projects.**

The 139-year lease of Woolpit Wood is for sale. This is 45 acres of mature woodland and the cost is £225,000. Cllrs will have a look at the woods to see if this could be a future project. The Woodland Trust may be able to give advice where grant funding is available.

Now that the footway has been constructed in Elmswell Road, Cllrs will look into moving the entrance gate to Lady's Well to opposite the path. Although you will still have to cross the road, this will be much safer than walking along the road.

6. To consider CIL grant requests from (for applications received before agenda sent)

**a)Woolpit Friendly Bridge Club**

The club has 16-32 regular attendees on Thursday evenings. A quarter of the membership are from Woolpit and they hope that will grow with the new developments. It was proposed, seconded and carried to purchase a Bridgemate starter pack, 5 additional handsets and storage box totalling £1466.75 + VAT.

**b)Woolpit Village Hall**

A meeting has been held with representatives of WPC, WVHC and MSDC Infrastructure who looked at the issues at the hall. MSDC indicated what type of project it could support and confirmed that the maximum CIL grant would be £100,000.00. Other sources of funding are being investigated. A document is to be prepared which will include accounts, business plan, user groups and residents' surveys, meeting minutes and architect brief. MSDC advised that WVHC are not bound by the MSDC twice a year applications for CIL funding as they have a live application for the Roiger Eburne room. The committee are developing a new website including an online booking system. WVHC are hoping it might be possible to rewrite a more workable document which sets out how the charity is run. Further information should be available for the next CIL meeting.

**7. To discuss surfacing of the Village Hall car park and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk has spoken with Chris Daniel who is no longer trading. He works for a company that does similar work and will find out if they are interested in carrying out the required work.

**8. To discuss the fencing and future re-wilding of Warren Lane land.**

A public meeting has been arranged for 22 April 2024. A site meeting has been held with Cathy Smith Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Richard Parme MSDC Biodiversity and they will attend the meeting along with a representative from the Woodland Trust. Posters will be put up around the village and the meeting advertised in April/May Woolpit Diary.

**9. To reconsider the purchase of two additional SIDS and take any necessary action.**

A pole has been erected on private land in Old Stowmarket Road and one of the SIDs from Bury Road will be moved to this site whilst Bury Road is closed for the new roundabout to be constructed to ensure that this site is suitable and the equipment works there. SCC have not yet moved the pole at The Heath to the correct position. It was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase an additional SID up to a maximum cost of £5000.00 for The Heath once the pole has been moved.

*Action: The Clerk*

**10. To receive an update on the installation of EV charging points in the Village Hall and Church Street car parks and take any necessary action.**

The new scheme will take the risk out for WPC and it was unanimously agreed to advise MSDC that we are very interested in Phase 2 of the new scheme. The WVHC will be asked to look at including EV's within the business plan as power could come from the village hall. We have a problem with Anglia Car Chargers in that the price they quoted for UKPN connection of £1800.00 was incorrect and the real amount is at least £6000.00 per car park. The Deputy Clerk has been asking ACC to refund the

money that we have paid but was not getting a response until she advised that she would be recommending that WPC take court action to recover the money. This resulted in a response from the Managing Director that they are still in business and would like to put in the EV points. He was advised that as far as WPC is concerned we have been grossly misled and require a refund of all money paid to date. Since then, there has been no response from ACC. It was unanimously agreed that a Letter before Action be sent by recorded delivery. *Action the Clerk/Deputy Clerk*

**11. To agree the date of the next CIL meeting as Tuesday 18 June 2024.**  
Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....