

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
3 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTES.

Present: Mr Howard (Chairman), Mr Wiley, Mr Melvin, Mr Guyler, Rev Farrell and Mr Lomax. County Cllr Storey joined the meeting at 8.05 p.m.

Public comment. The Clerk read the report from the Police. 4 crimes have been reported between 7 October and 2 November; 1 dwelling burglary, 1 criminal damage to a vehicle, 1 distraction burglary and 1 dangerous dog causing injury in a public place. Mid Suffolk West Safer Neighbourhood Team has joined with Mid Suffolk South SNT. Sgt Curtis will still be the supervisor and 2 PCs and 2PCSOs from the south team will move over to be based in Elmswell and the group will be known as Mid Suffolk South SNT. Our local SNT officers are P.C. Haygreen and PSCO Pendergast.

District Cllr Melvin had nothing to report.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Cook, Mrs Parker and Mr George.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mr Guyler declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 3467/08 Walnut Grove, Heath Road as he is a close friend of the architect.

3 **To approve minutes of the meeting 27 October 2008.** The time of the meeting was changed to read 7.30 p.m. It was proposed, seconded and carried to approve the amended minutes.

4. Clerk's Report

Highways issues – the road markings around the pump area will be reinstated as soon as possible. SCC will arrange for the hedge on the south west corner of the junction of Old Stowmarket Road/Heath Road to be cut back as necessary. If the brambles on the verge between Leggetts boundary and Ladyswell entrance are dangerous, SCC will cut back.

Fly tripping – David Abbott MSDC has investigated the rubbish outside 12 Meadowlands and understands that a skip has been ordered to take the rubbish away once the owner returns from holiday. He will not take any action at this stage. He could find no garden waste in Broomhill Road but asked that cllrs monitor the situation. Mr Abbott advised that he has been contacted about 2 abandoned vehicles near the flats in Wrights Way. He has found out the vehicles are not abandoned and are on private property. Although one vehicle is covered with brambles and looks unsightly, he cannot take any action. Cllr Melvin will enquire at MSDC regarding any legislation which may cover this.

Millennium Gardens – the Clerk met with Jay Gadd and he explained the work carried out in the original tidy up of the garden. This was all plants and shrubs cut and pruned from path, planted beds weeded and soil turned over, weeds removed from block paved paths and nettles on far right cut down and cleared. Gadd Brothers were asked to put forward ideas for the area at the rear of the garden.

New allotments – were given over to 7 out of the 8 new tenants on 1 November. Rabbit proof fencing still needs to be provided.

Old allotments – A tenant has advised that there is a rat infestation and several tenants are taking action to eradicate them. Mr Melvin will check at MSDC the legal position if the Parish Council needs to take action or whether it is the responsibility of tenants.

Jewellers planning application site meeting – Cllrs could be available on either Monday 10 or Wednesday 11 November in the afternoon. The Clerk will advise the planning officer.

Village Christmas tree – Cllrs would like a 12 foot tree to be in place by 5 December. The Clerk will advise Woolpit Nurseries.

2009 meeting dates – These were agreed and the Clerk will book the Institute.

Clerk's appraisal – Mr Howard will conduct and report back to the working group. SALC will be approached for a standard form. Hours worked by the Clerk may need to be reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 8.10 p.m.

Cllr Storey advised that the Cabinet will meet on 4 November to discuss a) coast defence again b) the on-street parking account - this includes car parking fees on Angel Hill, Cornhill and Buttermarket in Bury St Edmunds for which the money is ring fenced for use in funding transport, highways and environmental improvements. Some of the schemes approved from this source is extra "20's Plenty" schemes outside schools, extra safety measurers in the vicinity of schools and the Christmas Park and Ride scheme in Bury c) the progress of the Schools Organisation Review and the progress made in Lowestoft. d) 14-19 age group reforms and the transfer of the responsibilities from the Learning and Skills Council back to SCC. The paper is suggesting Suffolk join in partnership with Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to plan and manage commissioning of 16-19 provision from 2010 onwards. From 2013 all young people will be required to stay on in some structured educational training until aged 17 and until 18 in 2015.

Budget planning for next year has been taking place against the backdrop of the LGR and the economic downturn. Figures and forecasts will be presented to a Resource Scrutiny Committee on 16 December.

The Clerk asked if there was any progress with arranging the meeting to discuss G39 issues. Cllr Storey advised this is still ongoing but progressing slowly. Goods Vehicle Operators Licensing issues were taken up by committee so that PCs are advised of any in their parish. Rev Farrell suggested 20's Plenty should only be enforced during school hours as in Australia where the scheme works extremely well.

The meeting reconvened at 8.21 p.m.

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

SCC our comments on a request for reflective marker posts to highlight the edge of the road in Wood Lane. Cllrs believe that there is little or no point to these bollards which could set a precedent with SCC may regret. Also this is very low priority work when SCC has advised that there is no budget for more important issues. **Suffolk Constabulary** acknowledgement of letter sent to the Chief Constable. **MSDC** Local Development Framework Update. The Stowmarket Area Action Plan will be MSDC's next priority document. Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document involving land bids has been split into two separate sections a) Stowmarket and its surrounding villages and b) the rest of the district. The Clerk was asked to find out what comprises villages around Stowmarket. **MSDC** Migrant Workers Surgeries Pilot Project. Due to poor uptake the venue has been moved to CSD Stowmarket. **SALC** training update October/November. **SCC** HGV incident reporting and incorrect mapping fault reporting information. **Mr Sage** copy letter sent to Tim Passmore Leader of MSDC to which he has not received a reply. **Woolpit Village Hall** are looking to extend the car parking area by covering a grass area with a pegged down mesh and have asked if the PC has any objection to the proposal. This will be an agenda item for the December meeting. **Expo** event for community groups 7 November. **The following items were passed to councillors for circulation:** Communities and Local Government: Communities in Control: Real people, real power: Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – a consultation; NALC Chief Executive Briefing – Banking Crisis; SALC Freedom of Information Act: Publication Scheme; Suffolk Police Crime Prevention newsletter 7 October; SCC Draft Fire Action Plan 2009-2010. Leaflets I C Solutions Group Ltd; RG Maintenance Services Ltd; Wickstead Playscapes.

6. Planning – to consider current applications and receive MSDC decisions.

Mr Guyler left the meeting at 8.42 p.m. Rev Farrell had to leave the meeting at 8.47 p.m. due to another commitment.

3467/08 Change of use of part of garage building to annexe to Walnut Grove (variation of condition 5 of full permission ref: 171/94) Walnut Grove, Heath Road. There were some issues with information on the application form. Cllrs asked the Clerk to get a copy of the permission notice 171/94 from MSDC and ask what Cor2 and Cor5 policies are as PC's have not been issued with this information. With this additional information, the application will be considered again.

2850/08 Porch to front entrance of house. 4 Briar Hill. MSDC decision – permission granted.

Mr Guyler rejoined the meeting at 8.54 p.m.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr Harknett £58.05 litter picking October; Suffolk County Council £120.92 pension payment October; Woolpit Playing Field £84.60 reimbursement for ROSPA annual safety inspection of play equipment; Mid Suffolk District Council £20.00 annual fee small society lotteries; KDS Print £279.99 Woolpit Diary October/November. BDO Stoy Hayward £334.88 audit of account to March 2008. These payments were approved and cheques issued. Gadd Brothers £330.00 in respect of initial tidy up £250.00 and October maintenance £80.00. Mr Howard proposed that the invoices be settled as WPC had agreed the quotes but that the hourly rate be requested along with a programme of works for information purposes. Seconded and carried. Mr Howard as Cllr with responsibility for the Millennium Gardens would like to meet the Gadd Brothers and they will be asked to contact Mr Howard.

Cllrs feel that the area covered with nettles needs to be treated as a separate project. The Clerk was asked to contact the Community Payback Scheme. *Action: the Clerk*

8. To receive an update on the village website www.woolpit.org and take any necessary action.

Mr Wiley and Mr Sieve had met with Mr Wilson-Clover and he was keen to take on and was going to produce 3 home pages for consideration. Despite various contact from Mr Wiley nothing has been forthcoming. Cllrs feel that enough time has elapsed and Mr Howard will contact another person who may be prepared to take on the task.

9. To receive a recommendation from the working group regarding a review of Woolpit Diary and take any necessary action.

SPL printers quote is the cheapest. It was agreed before a final decision is made to request a further quote from them for 950 copies and 1000 copies of 28 pages + cover and 32 pages +cover in 110gsm pale green card, white paper to be 80gsm. This is due to the working group recommending a further page of adverts.

Action: Mr Wiley

10. To discuss the additional information provided by Suffolk Constabulary regarding the licensing offence in August.

Mr George had asked for this item to be included on the agenda. In his absence this item was carried forward.

11. To discuss the proposed boundary changes under the Community Governance Review and take any necessary action.

MSDC is recommending that the parish boundary is changed to include Bridge Farm and the Car Boot Sale site within Woolpit and that Brook House becomes part of Shelland. Cllrs are in agreement with this. If the recommendation is accepted by MSDC full council, the changes would be effective from 1 April 2009.

12. To discuss the draft consultation letter from SCC to Masons Lane residents on transport issues and take any necessary action.

Cllrs are happy with the content of the letter although the positioning of Weaver House on the map is incorrect and the Co-op car park is not marked. Anthony Smith, SCC will be asked to amend the map prior to sending out. *Action: the Clerk*

13. To approve the Annual Return following the audit by BDO Stoy Hayward LLP take note of the issues raised and decide action to be taken.

Councillors approved and accepted the audited Annual Return. The only issue arising is the level of Fidelity Guarantee cover. The auditor feels that this is insufficient for the current bank balance and the precept received in 2008. Cllrs agreed to review this prior to the renewal of the insurance cover.

14. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

The litter bin in the children's play area is often not emptied. The Clerk will notify MSDC. *Action: the Clerk*

15. Rookery Farm, Drinkstone – update on current issues

There were 80 complaints during September, many due to the injection of waste into land.

The Steering Committee met on 20 October and minutes will be circulated to Cllrs. MSDC is to consider responding to the consultation on waste regulation. A check is to be made on the guidance for removal of waste materials from slaughterhouses. A representative from DEFRA animal health will be invited to the next meeting. An update on the legal cases was given. If permission is given for a Judicial Review, MSDC's Council hopes for a listing by Easter for a substantive hearing. A decision on the Lawful Development Certificate Appeal Public Inquiry is expected by the end of November 2008. The committal application for the Planning Injunction is parked behind the LDC inquiry outcome. Ian Hill of the Environment Agency explained their role in Rookery Farm issues. SCC Highways and MSDC Waste and Environmental Services have agreed how they will deal with road spillages. An overview of ongoing odour investigations was given. The next meeting will be held on 9 December 2008.

16. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1 December 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

