

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
2 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

Present: Mr Howard (Chairman), Mr Wiley, Mr George, Mr Guyler, Mr Melvin, Mrs Parker, Rev Farrell and 2 members of the public.

Public comment: Mr Harris spoke about the overgrown hedge around the old allotments in Rags Lane and Drinkstone Road. He has contacted CSD and there was a site visit by Alice Martin. The Clerk wrote to Mr Scott, the landowner in November 2008 asking him to cut the hedges. The Clerk will follow this up through SCC. *Action: The Clerk*

Mrs Moss advised the PC that she and some friends have a proposed project of a Tea Room for the Institute Cottage which will be privately financed. They will pursue the possible change of use.

Mrs Moss spoke about the poor condition of Heath Road which has been eroded by the heavy use due to the closure of the Stowmarket Slip road during the Haughley Bends improvements on the A14. The road surface has been broken up all the way to Onehouse.

Mr Wiley advised that there is a large pothole on the junction of Bury Road/Norton Road.

District Cllr Melvin advised that MSDC budget is currently under review. Any increase is capped at 3.5% whereas the increase of funding from Central Government is 0.5%. It is likely that MSDC will have to use reserves to cover the shortfall.

County Cllr Storey report. At the Cabinet meeting 5 February the recommendation will be made that the Council Tax increase for 2009/10 should be 2.45%. A decision on the LGR is expected on 13 February. It is increasingly likely that SCC elections will go ahead on 4 June 2009.

Police report. 2 crimes reported between 1 January and 1 February: 1 possession of Class C Drugs and 1 theft from a shop.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Cook, Mr Lomax, County Cllr Storey and PCSO Pendergast.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mr Wiley declared a prejudicial interest in item as he has been working on the Institute Cottage.

3 **To approve minutes of the meeting 5 January 2009.** The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Report

Allotments – the Clerk is receiving enquiries if we are going to allocate more land for allotments. There are still 12 residents on the waiting list. Cllrs agreed to delay looking into this until June/July.

Annual Parish Meeting – it was agreed to ask Leigh Jenkins, Suffolk Constabulary to speak on joint funding of PCSO. *Action: the Clerk*

Dog poo – There have been many complaints again this month including a letter from Woolpit Primary School. It was agreed to speak to the operator who empties the bins and check usage so that if one is under utilised it can be moved. A further item will be put in the next Diary pointing out the fine applicable, ask residents to be vigilant and report offenders. Mr Melvin will devise a notice to place on the bins asking dog walkers to report offenders. *Action: Mr Melvin.*

Licensing offence update – Trading Standards interviewed the company and a written warning is likely based on the diligence procedures they have in place.

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

MSDC Community Governance Review, Boundary Changes come into force 1 April 2009. **Woolpit Health Centre** meeting 11 February regarding recent Patient Survey. Mr Wiley to attend. **Woolpit PC School** concerns regarding dog mess around the village. **St Edmundsbury BC, Forest Heath and Waveney Valley DCs** regarding LGR and Boundary Committee on decision and options for Suffolk. **Police Direct** bogus charity collections information. **MSDC** Financial Management due to the boundary change, the precept Band D equivalent will be £775.09 instead of £775.53. **SCC** HGV monitoring at Elmswell, Haughley, Haughley New Street and Wetherden following the completion of works on A14. **SALC** E-Planning course 10 February, Cllrs agreed the Clerk could attend. **Safer Neighbourhoods** Parish Council Quiz Night 24 June 2009. Cllrs to advise if they wish to attend. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** The Local Councillor issue 4 2008; SALC training courses; SALC response to Code of Conduct consultation; Smith of Derby newsletter 1; Rural Services Network; Suffolk Preservation Society events 2009; Clerks & Councils Direct January 2009; Stowmarket & Mid Suffolk South Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 9 & 23 January; NHS Suffolk Rural Dispensing Regulation – classification of Elmswell correspondence received; Bank of Ireland changes to compensation arrangements for our account. **Leaflets:** Wickstead playscapes.

6. Planning – to consider current applications, any others received prior to this meeting and receive MSDC decisions.

4119/08 Erection of single storey detached self-contained granny annex (ancillary to main dwelling). The White Elm, White Elm Road – object. The proposed dwelling does not enhance or even maintain the character and appearance of its surroundings; materials and finish out of keeping with the traditional materials used for the main dwelling, in particular grey metal roofing; this is a very important site on the entrance to the village and the proposal will have a detrimental visual impact; access to the proposed development for elderly and unwell persons is unsuitable; concern that as a separate dwelling the site could be sub divided into two which could set a precedent for future development north of the site; loss of light to neighbouring property, Elm Cottage. Contrary to Policies SB2, GP1 and H13.

0070/09 Steel Agricultural Barn for storage of agricultural machinery. Green Farm, Green Road. Permitted development for information only.

2515/07 Demolition of 34 existing dwellings. Erection of 46 affordable residential units and 5 free market residential units, a community room and on site provision of open space. Land adjacent to Steeles Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

3513/08 Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch. Rosecroft, Borley Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

3853/08 & 3877/08 Installation of 900mm chimney pot to existing chimney stack. Abbey Cottage, the Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

4070/08 Erection of rear conservatory. 11 Meadowlands. MSDC decision – permission granted.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £51.60 litter picking January 2009; Suffolk County Council £120.92 pension payment January; KDS Print £244.00 Woolpit Diary Dec/Jan; Suffolk County Council £605.38 grass cutting of sports field; Suffolk County Council £816.79 grass cutting of playing field

8. To consider requests for grants.

Requests for grants were received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and Optua. It was proposed, seconded and carried that no grants would be given. Mid Suffolk CAB grant request will be considered at the next meeting once accounts have been received. A request for a grant from Woolpit Institute Committee will not be

considered until it is known whether the business proposal from Mrs Moss will go ahead.

The Clerk will contact MSDC regarding 106 dividend release date and restrictions from Steeles Road development.

Action: the Clerk

9. To receive a report from the internal audit conducted on 15 January 2009.

Mrs Cook carried out the internal audit and all is in order.

10. To review the Clerk's working conditions, hours and pay scales following appraisal on 26 January 2009.

Mr Howard conducted an appraisal with Mrs Fuller Clerk on 26 January 2009. It has become clear that the workload has increased since Mrs Fuller employment commenced in 2002. It was agreed that Mrs Fuller supply a record of the hours worked and in percentage terms where the hours were spent i.e. parish meetings, preparation, correspondence, minutes etc; also an up to date copy of Local Government salary scales. Mr Guylar will supply a copy of the contract of employment to Mr Howard and Mr George. Mr George will look at changes to legislation. Cllrs will have a meeting in camera followed by an agenda item at the next meeting. Mrs Fuller will request overtime payment for the additional hours worked during 2008.

11. www.woolpit.org -to consider a one off set up charge for the village website, to receive a recommendation from the working group regarding the cost of advertising on the site and take any necessary action.

Cllrs approved a one off set up charge of £450.00 + VAT to TailorMade IT Solutions. The Working Group recommended a charge for adverts of £30.00 per annum. After discussion it was agreed that there would only be business listings in a business directory at no charge. No advertisements would be included on the site for the time being. The Clerk will advise the Editor, Mr Sieve of this decision. *Action: the Clerk*

12. To consider SCC quotes for grass cutting of the playing field and sports field for 2009. Carried forward to next meeting.

13. To consider quotes for rabbit proof fencing for the new allotments and take any necessary action.

2 quotes have been received. All Season Fencing £1690.00 and JRS £1101.91. JRS quote was agreed and the Clerk will ask for the work to be carried out as soon as possible. The PC will review the tenancy agreement for a section on maintenance/repair of fencing due to damage and make allotment holders responsible. *Action: the Clerk*

14. To receive a report from the Litter Picker. Carried forward

15. Rookery Farm, Drinkstone – update on current issues. Carried forward.

16. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 2 March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....