

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

Present: Mr Wiley (chairman), Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Rev Farrell, Mrs Parker, Mr Lomax and County Cllr Storey.

Public comment: The Clerk read the Police report. There have been 8 crimes reported between 2 & 28 February. 1 theft of a car trailer, 1 criminal damage to vehicle, then 6 crimes that relate to the same incident in which 3 persons were arrested. These were 2 criminal damage to vehicles, 2 assault occasioning ABH, 1 possession of Class B drugs and 1 criminal damage to dwelling. The vacant PC post at Elmswell is currently being advertised.

District Cllr Melvin advised that MSDC budget statement has been set and the council tax increase will be 3.5%. The government grant to MSDC has only increased by 0.5%. The decision on the LGR has been put back until July.

County Cllr report. Cllr Jeremy Clover has died and Cllr Storey will be covering part of his ward until the County Council elections 4 June. Stakeholder meetings for the Schools Reorganisation start in this area again in March. The budget has been set and the increase in the SCC proportion of council tax is 2.45%. Due to the decision on the LGR being put back to July, SCC elections will take place on 4 June. It is possible that there will be an election next year for Unitary councillors. A meeting is being arranged by SALC with representatives from SCC, EDF and Carillion to discuss G39 issues regarding street lighting.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Howard, Mr Guyler and PSCO Pendergast.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** There were none.

3 **To approve minutes of the meeting 2 February 2009.** The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Report

Woolpit Diary – as the February/March issue is now printed, the Clerk will write to KDS Print advising that we are changing printers. *Action: the Clerk*

Dog litter bins – a further bin has been requested for Masons Lane. This will be discussed further at the next meeting as it may be necessary to have a larger bin in Briar Hill.

Pump area improvements – Susan Room SCC has confirmed that a bid has been submitted for the road safety improvements around the pump area during 2009/10. The No Entry sign painted on the road has already worn away. The Clerk will advise SCC. *Action: the Clerk*

Masons Lane closure to through traffic – the Police have no objections but SCC has not heard from the fire or ambulance services. MSDC has not replied regarding refuse collection. Cllrs advised that the lorry only goes up to where the roads meet at Threeways and then turns round. The Clerk will advise Susan Room. *Action: the Clerk*

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

SCC streetlighting information issued at the end of February 2009. **SCC** rural pavements request Old Stowmarket Road to Ladyswell. The Clerk will mark on the map the area where we would like a pavement. **Woolpit Playing Field Committee** has advised that the funfair will be using the playing field 2-10 August. **Mr Newsome** regarding his concerns that his vehicles have been hit on seven occasions and Weaver House on one occasion. The Clerk has advised Mr Newsome of the current situation with SCC enquiries on Masons Lane closure to through traffic and the installation of a concrete kerb and bollard on the east side of Masons Lane. Having

contacted Susan Room and gained the information detailed in the Clerks report above, the Clerk will advise Mr Newsome of these facts. **SCC** Suffolk Pension Fund Annual Employers meeting 9 March 2009. **Joint venture by councils** one day seminar on bringing art events to communities 26 March. **MSDC/SCC** The South and Heart of Suffolk Walking Festival 2009. **British Red Cross** volunteer project called Home from Hospital. This will be promoted in Woolpit Diary. **SALC** Buckingham Palace Garden Party nominations. **Suffolk Preservation Society** annual talk and party 19 March. **MAP** Your Place matters survey of charities. **MSDC** Parish Liaison meeting 30 March. Mr Melvin will attend the evening session. **NHS Suffolk** application to dispense from Gipping Valley Practice, Barham has been granted. **MSDC** annual playground inspections 2009. **SCC** a further opportunity to influence and shape Suffolk's future. **MSDC** Thornham Walks and Countryside Activities March. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** BDO Stoy local council briefing spring 2009; The Local Councillor issue 1 2009; Clerks & Councils Direct March 2009; Stowmarket & Mid Suffolk South Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 6 & 20 February; SCC transport newsletter issue 1 February 2009; The Town Crier Jan/March 2009. **Leaflets:** SMP Playgrounds, Adventure Playgrounds Ltd; Commercial Grounds Maintenance.

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

0322/09 Erection of single storey side extension and detached double garage and erection of access gates. Jubilee Place, Heath Road – support.

0210/09 Change of use of storage room within the Woolpit Institute to sorting of mail room for Royal Mail. Creation of footpath. Woolpit institute – support with the comment there must be no vehicle access to the side of the building for road safety with The Street.

Sand and gravel extraction from modified mineral working site, restoration to agriculture by disposal of inert waste, and installation of inert waste recovery recycling plant. Lawn Farm Quarry, Wetherden. Cllrs support the comments made by Elmswell PC regarding road usage by HGVs and this could also affect Wood Road and Heath Road. There are also concerns regarding dust and noise. The Clerk will send a letter of objection to SCC. *Action: the Clerk*

0914/08 Erection of one dwelling house, formation of vehicular access, car parking and turning areas, screen walls and all ancillary works. Land to rear of Waverley house, Heath Road. The appeal has been allowed and permission granted.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £45.15 litter picking February; Suffolk County Council £120.92 February pension payment; Suffolk County Council £1414.88 street lighting October – March 2009; Woolpit Institute £80.00 hire of room July-December 2008; Anglian Water £26.71 allotments 24/9/08-17/2/09; J Roper £1104.91 rabbit proof fencing at new allotments. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

8. To consider requests for grants.

It was unanimously agreed that no grants would be made to Home Start as the majority of their funding comes from SCC and MSDC and Vitalise as this is a national charity with funds nearing £2 million. It was proposed, seconded and carried that a grant of £500.00 would be made to Mid Suffolk CAB. Whilst it is acknowledged that they receive funding from SCC and MSDC, they provide a vital service which will be heavily used during the current economic climate.

9. To consider SCC quotes for grass cutting of the playing field and sports field for 2009.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotes of £745.75 for the playingfield and £552.74 for the sports field. This represents a 5% increase on last year.

10. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Mr Harknett is on holiday from the end of February to mid March therefore litter will not be cleared during this time.

11. To discuss maintenance of the flint wall in The Street and take any necessary action.

Although this was reported to Terry Willington, MSDC many months ago, no remedial work has taken place. The Clerk will contact MSDC again as the wall is deteriorating and flints falling out. The ivy also needs to be removed.

Action: the Clerk

12. To confirm ownership of the playing field following an enquiry by the Village Hall Committee.

There appears to be some confusion as to the details of the deeds as the playing field was purchased in 1956. The Clerk will contact the solicitor Ashton Graham and ask them for confirmation of the content of the deeds on ownership and the lease to the Playing Field Committee. Mr Wiley has copies of some of the minutes which he will also copy. The Clerk will advise the Playing Field Committee of our actions.

Action: the Clerk

13. To review the effectiveness of our internal audit and systems of internal control.

Cllrs approved that Mrs S Eburne would carry out the Internal Audit again this year. Cllrs unanimously agreed that having reviewed the independence and competence of Mrs Eburne, the internal audit procedures are effective.

It was unanimously agreed that the internal control systems are effective. It is noted that Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover will be increased should the balance in accounts exceed current levels of cover.

14. Rookery Farm, Drinkstone – update on current issues (part in camera)

There were 10 complaints in November, 13 in December and 6 in January.

The meeting closed to the public at 8.55 p.m.

Further discussions took place regarding Rookery Farm for which the District Council's proposals were noted.

Cllrs are waiting to hear from The Institute Committee regarding the Cottage so that WPC may see in which way it can support them.

15. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 18 May 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

All residents and the press are welcome to attend.

