

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

Present: Mr Howard (chairman), Mr Wiley, Mr George, Mrs Cook, Mr Guyler, Mrs Parker and PCSO Pendergast.

Public comment. PCSO Pendergast advised there has been one reported crime between 2 and 31 December 2008. A male was issued with a fixed penalty ticket following a domestic incident. A squat has been established in one of the empty properties in Steeles Road but the Police hope this will be resolved shortly.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Melvin, Mr Lomax and Rev Farrell.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mr George declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 as he is a member of New Woods for Woolpit.

3 **To approve minutes of the meeting 1 December 2008.** The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Report

Alcohol licensing offence in August – the Police have advised that the sales assistant was issued with a fixed penalty notice and the owners of the premises were spoken to about the incident.

Clerk's hours – Mrs Fuller advised that she worked 633 hours in 2008 and is contracted for 520. This will be reviewed during the forthcoming appraisal.

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

SCC Life of a Lorry Driver event 19 February. **SCC** Community engagement in the 'Your Place' project. Suffolk ACRE will facilitate workshops and Cllrs are invited to attend. However, since Cllr Melvin is a PC representative on the project, Cllrs felt it unnecessary to attend. **SCC** advises that following feedback from local stakeholders, it has been decided to have two community boards in the Mid Suffolk South SNT area. Each board will have 2 representatives from district and county council and six from local town and parish councils. Therefore all those who put themselves forward will be on the board. **SCC** Annual surface clearance of Public Rights of Way. Cllrs have no alterations to the current schedule. **SCC** Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options (Part II) strategic sites and supporting sustainability appraisal. **MSDC** Register of Electors 2009 form. **MSDC** Richard Neal has been appointed Assistant Sports Development Officer and at least one event from the February half term activities programme will be held in the parish. **MSDC** Stowmarket Area Action Plan Development Plan Document consultation for the Issues and Options Policy Document. **Mid Suffolk** Countryside and Thornham events January/February. **David Ruffley MP** to arrange planning meeting with Tim Passmore MSDC on specific examples and how they were dealt with by the Planning Department. Cllrs felt that they have no issues with the Planning Department although the Clerk is concerned regarding the lack of communication from the Enforcement Officers. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation.** SCC Councillor briefing maximising the opportunities for Suffolk from London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic games; SCC publications with information for older people; MSDC events at Thornham and Countryside events 2009; Mid Suffolk Discovery Project newsletter November; Suffolk View winter 2008; SCC Unitary Councils in Suffolk: Independent report on affordability of the financial cases published; SCC Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2007/8; Highways Agency planned roadworks major roads Dec 2008-Feb 2009; Steeles Road Steering Group minutes of the meeting 19 November 2008; Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association newsletter 22 December; NALC Section 137 limit 2009/10 & mileage allowances 2008/9 changes to VAT 1 December 2008; Communities and Local Government – Communities in Control: Real people,

real power: Code of recommended practice for local authority publicity – a consultation.

6. Planning

4070/08 Erection of a rear conservatory. 11 Meadowlands – support.

3513/08 Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch. Rosecroft, Borley Green – support.

3588/08 Erection of detached store for grass cutting and maintenance equipment. Brickfield Business Park. MSDC decision – permission granted.

3467/08 Change of use of part of garage building to annex to Walnut Grove (variation of condition 5 of full permission 171/94). Walnut Grove, Heath Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

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, Heath Road. An appeal has been lodged.

The Clerk has received communication from a resident wishing to start up an alternative therapy business from her home in Heath Road and asking if Cllrs have any problem with this. Cllrs declined to comment as they feel that this is an issue that she should put to MSDC Planning Department.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £ 58.05 December litter picking; Suffolk County Council £120.92 Pension payment December; Mrs P Fuller £81.52 expenses October-December; HM Revenue & Customs £13.78 Tax & N/I October-December; Woolpit Nurseries Ltd £115.00 Christmas Tree and 1 set of lights: Gadd Brothers £80.00 Millennium Garden maintenance November. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

8. To discuss and set the precept for 2009/10.

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2008/9 and current reserves. Cllrs debated the need for a village PCSO but decided against taking the matter further at this stage. It was felt that this needed careful consideration and would need to be a joint venture with other parishes if taken up at all as the cost will be in the region of £14,000.00 per year. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £27,000.00 for 2009/10. This is a 6.9% reduction from 2008/9 which Cllrs felt was important to do what they could for residents in the current economic downturn. Mr George abstained from voting on the precept. The form was duly signed and the full details of the precept figures are on a separate sheet of these minutes.

9. To consider a one off set up charge for the village website www.woolpit.org and take any necessary action.

Further details have yet to be received from Mr Bradley regarding costs as he wants Cllrs to see a copy of his home page before sending detailed invoice and letter. Cllrs are happy with what they have seen so far and the working group will hold a further meeting. It was agreed to send PC minutes and Cllrs details to Mr Bradley for the site. Mr Wiley will arrange a mail drop to all businesses in the village regarding advertising on the site. It was agreed to set a deadline of 31 March 2009 to have the site up and running. Any comments Cllrs have on the home page are to be passed to Mr Wiley.

Action: Mr Wiley

10. To discuss a request from New Woods for Woolpit for a grant and take any necessary action.

Mr George left the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

Cllr perused the budget figures given by New Woods fro Woolpit. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to invite Mr George to give further details on the grass cutting aspect of £400.

The meeting adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

Mr George was unable to quantify this amount but was able to explain the reasons for other items on the budget list and talk about the group and what fundraising they are able to undertake.

Mr George left the room and the meeting reconvened at 9.40 p.m.

It was unanimously agreed to make an immediate grant of £315.00 to cover the cost of the annual insurance premium for this year. Cllrs also agreed to purchase 2 scythes, goggles, ear protectors and pay for the training to use the equipment as the group will be maintaining Ladyswell with this. The Clerk will liaise with the group for details of what is required. Further details regarding the grass cutting will be requested.

Action: the Clerk

11. To adopt the new model publication scheme for the Freedom of Information.

The new model publication was adopted without modification.

12. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Nothing to report. A village litter pick will take place on 22 February and 1 March between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.

13. Rookery Farm, Drinkstone – update on current issues

The Inspector’s decision still has not been received and the Clerk has not received complaint numbers for November and December.

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

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....