

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

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mrs Parker, Mr Guylar, Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Rev Farrell, Mr Lomax and 4 members of the public. Mr George joined the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

**Public comment:** Mr Melvin advised that the detailed budget would be discussed at the next full meeting of MSDC. MSDC is the leading council in Suffolk for planning and has received £1million grant as a result of throughput of planning applications in a timely manner. It is looking likely that the Snoasis project is going ahead.

The Clerk read the Police report. 5 crimes were reported between 4 October and 2 December. 1 theft of cast iron pump, 2 criminal damage to vehicles, 1 criminal damage to a building and 1 theft from a shop. The Police are aware of youths hanging around the Village Hall causing problems for user groups and blocks being removed in the Millennium Garden. Attention will be given to both matters at the relevant times.

County Cllr Storey advised that the Cabinet meeting discussions this week will include the response of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to the Audit Commissions recent report, Older Peoples Accommodation needs, Suffolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework and Budget Monitoring report to 30 September. The full council meeting on the 10 December will include discussion on the Waste Core Strategy Submission Draft, Members allowances and the standards Committee and Audit Committee reports. A slide presentation on expenditure for this year and the outline of some major capital projects for next year including the School Organisation Review and refurbishment of Bury Library was given at SALC meetings.

Mr Baker informed Cllr Storey of a particular incident where bricks were stolen from the industrial estate. A witness was able to give Police details and car registration of the perpetrator yet the Police have advised that they are not pursuing the case. They did advise that they would visit Mr Baker to explain the reasons why but nothing has been heard since. Cllr Storey will take up the matter.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Howard, PCSO Pendergast and PC Swain.

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

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

It was unanimously agreed to bring forward item 10.

10. **To consider a quote from Gadd Brothers to reset disturbed blocks in the Millennium Garden in concrete, re point any loose areas and secure the litter bin.**

The quote of £80 was unanimously agreed and the work is to be carried out as soon as possible.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**Christmas Tree** – this has been erected in the pump garden by Woolpit Nurseries.

**Hedges Mill Lane** – the Clerk met with Lena Johnson who has advised that she does not believe them to be Orbit Housing responsibility as the fence is on the other side of the hedge. The Clerk has contacted SCC to see if they are their responsibility. Mr R Baker advised that he was willing to cut hedges around the parish on this occasion so that the work gets done. Cllrs accepted his kind offer.

**Mid Suffolk Messenger** – the Clerk has received copies and has passed onto Rev Farrell for her team to deliver.

**Fidelity Guarantee Insurance** – has been increased to £85,000.

**Bank accounts** – the Clerk has discussed with SALC and they have no information on any accounts paying reasonable interest rates for councils.

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

Local Council Review. **MSDC** Register of Electors 2009-10 forms for Cllrs to request a copy. **Mr Sieve** regarding renewal of the website domain name and different costs for the number of years required. This will be discussed at the January meeting. **Royal Mail** further letters regarding moving the sorting post from Woolpit to Bury St Edmunds. **NHS** application for preliminary consent for inclusion in the NHS Suffolk Pharmaceutical list – Scarlett Health Care, Station Road, Elmswell. An appeal against no gradulation period has resulted in a period of 3 months to reduce any adverse consequences to the medical practice. **SCC** has advised that EDF is reconsidering the guidance on street lighting given to SCC in relation to other parties being permitted to work on G39 tolerances. A site meeting is to be arranged where Mr Guylar will represent the Parish Council. **SCC** mobile library timetables 2010-11. **MSDC** requesting information on allotment provision. **MSDC** is looking to reduce Community Cleansing Grant and would like our comments. Cllrs would be disappointed if there was nay cut in funding. **Mid Suffolk CAB** information. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** Cash on offer to communities as the Olympic countdown continues; Mid Suffolk TIC re Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival; MSDC Home Grown new arts opportunities; SCC Suffolk's Environment monitoring report 2008/9; Stowmarket Town Council The Town Crier winter 2009; Mid Suffolk South and Stowmarket Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 31 October, 6, 13, 20 & 27 November; Thedwastre North report from Jane Storey week beginning 9 November.

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

**3152/09** Proposed resiting of plot 35 bungalow. Addition of front porch to plot 37 bungalow. Addition of rear conservatory to plot 38 house (revised design to that approved under 2515/07) Plots 35, 37 & 38 Land adjacent to Steeles Road – support.

**3508/09** Walnut tree- 30% reduction to cut back from house, road and lines. Glebe Farm, Old Stowmarket Road – support.

**3492/09** Erection of single storey side extension. 36 Roman Fields – support.

**3080/09** Retention and completion of single storey side and rear extensions and installation of roof lights. Resiting of domestic oil tank (revised scheme to that granted under 3804/07). Cherry Trees, Rags Lane – support with comment if the velux windows are at a height to cause overlooking to neighbouring property they should be of obscure glass.

**3012/09** Erection of single storey pitched and flat roofed extension to form 2 consulting rooms, waiting area and office. Woolpit Health Centre, Heath Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

#### **7. To approve accounts for payment.**

Mr K Harknett £56.19 litter picking November; J Gadd £160.00 Millennium Garden October; Smith of Derby Ltd £172.50 church clock repairs; Mid Suffolk District Council £20.00 annual fee lottery permit; SPL Print £178.00 Woolpit Diary December/January; SLCC £118.00 annual subscription 2010; Gadd Brothers Tree and Landscapes £160.00 Millennium Garden November and Woolpit Nurseries £100.00 provide and erect Christmas Tree. All payments were approved and cheques issues

#### **8. To set the budget for the proposed reworking of the Pump Gardens.**

It was agreed to discuss this item in camera.

#### **9. To discuss recent vandalism in of the Millennium Gardens and take any necessary action.**

The Police are aware of the problem and will give the area attention. It is hoped that when the bricks have been cemented down the problem will be resolved.

#### **11. To discuss the condition of the War Memorial and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk was asked to write to the Institute Committee advising of the Cllrs concerns regarding the condition and hope that the committee will arrange for the memorial to be rubbed down and revarnished.

*Action: the Clerk*

#### **12. To debate the Editorship of Woolpit Diary and take any necessary action.**

Mr Moore has taken a step back and requested more information regarding the position of editor. Two further people have come forward. It was agreed to ask Alwyne Handshaw to take on the editorship. Mr Wiley will contact him.

*Action: Mr Wiley.*

**13. To discuss a revised rent for a Parish Council room in Woolpit Institute and take any necessary action.**

A further letter has been received advising if the Parish Council is prepared to pay for the cost of converting the room for use by the Parish Clerk, the amount expended could be set against rent. However there should be some contribution towards the cost of heating and lighting. After discussion it was agreed to send a letter to the institute committee that the Parish Council was prepared to pay for the conversion of the room on the understanding that

the room is for the exclusive use of the Parish council for 5 years. Costs incurred will be set against a rent of £20 per week for the first three years and £25 per week for the next two. A contribution towards heating and lighting is accepted.

*Action: the Clerk*

**14. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.**

There has been a lot of broken glass this month. A litter bin has been stolen. The Clerk advised that MSDC removed the bin as it was only the metal box of one of the burnt bins. It has been replaced by a smaller bin attached to the fence which will need to be monitored to ascertain if it is large enough.

**15. Rookery Farm, Drinkstone – to receive an update on current issues.**

A meeting of the Steering Group scheduled for 20 November was cancelled. Mr Melvin contacted MSDC to find out the latest position and delays caused by the death of Mr Clarke. MSDC has advised that the necessary documentation is being prepared for enforcement action against the claim there is a lawful planning use. MSDC legal advisor has been in contact with the Clarke family solicitor to ascertain their intentions and they will be meeting with the family and further information is likely to be received mid January. There were 46 complaints in October.

**16. To receive an update on Steeles Road redevelopment.**

Mr Guyler will be attending a meeting this week. Work has started and the footings are in but Cllrs will be surprised if phase 1 is completed by February 2010.

**17. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 4 January 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute.** Noted.

The meeting closed to the public at 9.47 p.m.

**8. To set the budget for the proposed reworking of the Pump Gardens.**

Two designs and ideas on costings have been received. One design is for the whole of the garden and one for the half towards Green Road as the contractor believes plants are unlikely to grow under the lime trees. Both estimates were of similar value.

Mr Lomax proposed a budget of £5,000 which was seconded. Mr Guyler proposed £2,000 and that only the area which is causing greatest concern, i.e. the grassed area to the rear towards Green Road be reworked.

Mr George proposed a further amendment to £3,000 but again only for the half causing the greatest concern. This proposal was duly seconded and Mr Guyler withdrawn his proposal of £2,000. A vote on the second amendment for a budget of £3,000 was passed with 6 in favour, 2 against. Both contractors will be contacted and asked to forward a design for the area from the rear of the pump towards Green Road to fall within the budget of £3,000.

*Action: The Clerk*

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

