

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
1 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Mrs Parker, Rev Farrell, Mr Lomax and 4 members of the public.

**Public comment.** 3 members of the public stated their concerns regarding the planning application which would see the Methodist Chapel demolished. They feel the building should be kept and converted as it is a visually significant building and part of village history.

P.C. Swain advised there have been 2 crimes reported between 3 and 31 October, 1 theft from a shop for which a male has been arrested and charged to court and criminal damage to a vehicle.

The Clerk read a report from County Councillor Storey. This month SCC starts to brief on budget proposals. There has been much media coverage regarding SCC New Strategic Direction and a document will be sent out to parish councils and other interested parties shortly.

District Cllr Melvin advised that the merger with Babergh DC is progressing. Snoasis has put in for extra time to provide the railway station and this will be considered by MSDC shortly.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Wiley, Mr George, County Cllr Storey and PCSO Pendergast.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Rev Farrell declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 as she is a trustee of the charity. She duly signed the interest book.

3 **To approve minutes of the meetings 4 October 2010.** The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**Casual Vacancy** – MSDC has advised that as there has been no request for an election by the required number of electors, the vacancy can be filled by co-option. An item will be included in the December/January Diary.

**G39 issues** – no progress has been made but County Cllr Storey is aware that a meeting still needs to be arranged.

**Masons Lane sign** – MSDC has agreed to move the sign half way up the lane to a more appropriate place near the verge outside Fingerbread House.

**Mead Farm Calvert** – SCC has advised that once sufficient resources become available the concrete post will be repaired.

**2011 meeting dates** – the Clerk will set dates on a similar pattern to 2010 and circulate to Cllrs before booking the venue.

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

**MSDC** Special Parish Liaison meeting 25 November 2010. The Clerk will attend.

**MSDC** copy letter to the Under Secretary of State regarding the abolition of the Standards Board regime. The Clerk will also send a letter supporting MSDC comments. **NHS Anglia Support Partnership** change of ownership application for pharmacy in Elmswell. **SALC** training programme October-December. **SALC** AGM information. **MSDC** Thornham Walks November/December. **Mid Suffolk Tenants**

**Forum** Information on Tenant Services Authority. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** SALC AGM agenda 8 November 2010, minutes 9 November 2009 and Annual Report 2009/10; Unison SCC New Strategic Direction.

**Product information:** Glasdon UK, Record RSS, Littlethorpe of Leicester shelters.

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

**1526/10** Demolition of existing Methodist Chapel and erection of 2 three bedroom dwellings with garages. Woolpit Methodist Chapel, Heath Road – object. WPC

requests that MSDC takes the appropriate action to make the chapel a Heritage Asset as Cllrs consider the building one of the best in the village and should therefore be preserved. No specialist assessment of the structure has been provided. There will be a considerable impact of traffic at the access onto a very busy HGV designated route and the access to the site is opposite a very busy Health Centre.

**2697/10** Alterations to existing vehicular access. Quality Equipment, Heath Road – support.

**3147/10** Erection of single storey and two storey extensions. The Cottage, Sharpes Row – support.

**2190/10** Erection of single storey rear extension connecting main house to annex building. Lime Tree House, 13 White Elm Road has been reported to MSDC Planning Committee. Mr Melvin advised permission was granted.

**2203/10** Proposals at Woolpit Interiors, The Street. The application has been treated as withdrawn.

MSDC has advised that the owners of Clear View, Bury Road have been advised to submit a planning application for the building sited in front of the property along with a small shed on the opposite side of the site.

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

Mr K Harknett £59.49 litter picking October; Suffolk County Council £135.07 October pension payment; Gadd Brothers trees and landscapes £240.00 maintenance of the Millennium Garden July-September; Mid Suffolk District council £20.00 small lotteries registration annual fee. All accounts were unanimously agreed and cheques issued.

#### **8. To receive quotes for the replacement electricity box on the pump garden and take any necessary action.**

After consideration it was agreed to accept the quote from Peter King Electrical for £275.00 + VAT. The Clerk will request the work is completed by the end of November so that the Christmas tree can be erected and decorated the first week of December.

*Action: the Clerk*

#### **9. To agree a budget to furnish and equip the Parish Council room in Woolpit Institute and take any necessary action.**

It was proposed, seconded that a budget of £2500.00 be agreed. This was unanimously carried.

Rev Farrell left the meeting at 9.05 p.m.

#### **10. To consider a request from Sir Robert Gardiner's Almshouse Trust for a grant towards the cost of a new heating system at the almshouses and take any necessary action.**

It was proposed, seconded and carried to make a grant of £500.00.

Rev Farrell rejoined the meeting at 9.09 p.m.

#### **11. To discuss a request from Elmswell Community Speedwatch Group to join them in a joint scheme and take any necessary action.**

An item will be put in Woolpit Diary asking for volunteers to run the scheme. Once this has been ascertained, Cllrs can decide whether to contribute to setting up costs.

#### **12. To discuss The Rural Services Network survey on the topic of the Big Society and take any necessary action.**

The survey was completed.

#### **13. To pay the grant agreed for the refurbishment of the Tennis Club car park to Woolpit Tennis Club rather than Woolpit Sports Field Committee.**

It was unanimously agreed to withdraw the grant from Woolpit Playing Field Committee and reinstate to Woolpit Tennis Club.

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

Problems regarding the emptying of bins in the play area have been reported to MSDC and resolved. There has been a lot of broken glass in various areas recently.

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

There were 23 complaints in September. A meeting of the Rookery Farm Liaison Group has taken place. There is nothing in the agreement which would cause concern and no mention of any planning issues. Rendering will cease by end of March 2011 including the removal of machinery. The lagoon stays and is not part of the agreement. A regular report on the winding down process has been requested.

**16. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 6 December 2010.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....