

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

**Present:** Mr Howard (Chairman), Mr Wiley, Mr Guylar, Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Mr George, Mr Wiley and 1 member of the public.

**Public comment:** PCSO Pendergast advised that 2 crimes were reported between 3 December and 31 December 2009. Damage to the Christmas tree and criminal damage to a dwelling. The Police are still being made aware of youngsters hanging around the Village Hall on Tuesday & Thursday evenings and causing problems for the various groups within. Attention has and will continue to be given to the area on the above evenings at the relevant times. A Police Tasking meeting will be held in Woolpit on 17 February. Members of the public can discuss their concerns with the Police before the main meeting.

Mr Melvin advised the MSDC has served an enforcement notice at Rookery Farm, Drinkstone. The LGR has ground to a halt and MSDC is opening discussions with Babergh DC to see if there is any purpose in working together. MSDC is setting the budget at the meeting 7 January.

SCC has been rated as Performing Well under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment. Creating the Greenest County entry has been shortlisted in the LGC Awards 2010 and CSD have been shortlisted for three awards. All councils in Suffolk have worked together and have helped Suffolk achieve its three green flags award. The budget was looked at by Resources, Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 15 December and areas of increased demand within the Children and Young Peoples Directorate and Adult and Community Services have been identified. The Committee also looked at the Capital programme.

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

2. **To receive declarations of interest.**

Mr Howard and Mr Guylar declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 and signed the interest book.

3 **To approve minutes of the meeting 7 December 2009.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **Clerk's Report.**

**Hedges in Mill Lane** – SCC has inspected and has added the cutting to his two man gangs schedule

**Christmas tree** – the tree was snapped in two and a set of lights pulled off and thrown over the road. Mrs Parker was thanked for organising a replacement tree.

**PC room at Woolpit Institute** – Mr Melvin is investigating a possible grant from SCC Rural Amenity Fund.

**Millennium Garden** – within 3 hours on Gadd Brothers carrying out work and cementing the bin, it was ripped up but has been reset in original price.

**Village Lock up** – the clerk has received an enquiry when the PC purchased the lock up as it has appeared on drawings received by a purchaser of the neighbouring property. The Clerk will advise that they need to check Land Registry information.

**Dog bins** – 3 new bins have been purchase and one erected at the end of the footpath in Green Road.

**Woolpit Diary** – Alwyne Handshaw has agreed to edit the Diary for one year.

**Hedge Woolpit Interiors** – still hasn't been cut. PCSO Pendergast will talk to estate agent as this is causing a safety issue for pedestrians.

**5. To discuss the increase of anti-social behaviour with the Police and possible solutions.**

P C Pendergast suggested that the crime reports are published in the Diary requesting any information. Unless incidents are witnessed there is not much that can be done. Mr Melvin agreed to write a piece for the next Diary. *Action: Mr Melvin*

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

**Tostock PC** invitation to attend Power of Well Being and Code of Conduct Training. **Nigel Panting SCC Streetlighting** confirmation that he will contact representatives for dates for onsite meetings re G39 lights. **James Webb** confirming a note has been made to save 3 PC lighting columns in Steeles Road redevelopment. **Suffolk Acre** new address. **SCC/Suffolk Strategic Partnership** celebrating the London 2012 Open Weekend poster. **Suffolk Roadsafe** drink driving poster. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** Mid Suffolk South and Stowmarket Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 4, 11 & 22 December; Suffolk View winter 2009; Clerks & Councils Direct November 2009; Highways Agency helping you you're your journeys December – February; The Local Councillor issue 4 2009; Results of SALC annual surveys 2008/9; The boundary Committee for England LGR Advice from Secretary of State. **Product information** Mic Dalley groundworks; BE Ipswich Builders Equipment.

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

**3508/09** Walnut tree – 30% reduction to cut back from house, road and lines. Glebe Farm, Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC no objection.

**8. To approve accounts for payment.**

Mr K Harknett £56.10 litter picking December; Gadd Brothers Trees & Landscapes £170.00 Millennium Garden blocks and remove dead sycamore at playingfield; Glasdon UK Ltd £926.46 three dog litter bins and metal guppy for recycling area; Suffolk ACRE Services £4.81 AP for Fidelity Guarantee increase; Suffolk County Council £376.65 pension payment October-December; Mrs P Fuller £39.20 expenses October-December. All payments were unanimously approved and cheques issued.

**9. To discuss and set the precept for 2010/11.**

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2009/10 and current reserves. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £27,000.00 for 2010/2011. This is the same as last year as Cllrs felt was important to minimise any increase in council tax to residents in the current economic downturn. The form was duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

**10. To discuss a request from Gadd Brothers that for the 3 months that the Millennium Garden is not maintained, they carry out work in other parts of the parish to clear brambles and verges and take any necessary action.**

Councillors did not agree to this request as they felt there was not enough work to be carried out. The Clerk will request a quote for clearance of the verge between the junction of Leggetts/Ladyswell to the Old Stowmarket Road crossroads including number of hours and removal of spoil. *Action: the Clerk*

Mr Guyler and Mr Howard left the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

**11. To discuss a request for a donation towards the St Mary's New Amenity Project.**

It was unanimously agreed that the PC should support the project but should provide something useful rather than make a donation towards the upkeep of the Church. It was agreed that a grant of £1000 would be put towards the project. The Clerk will request a breakdown of the costs to provide the toilet facilities so that a specific item can be purchased. The PC would review again once the new budget has been received to see if a further grant can be given. *Action: the Clerk*

Mr Guyler and Mr Howard rejoined the meeting at 8.58 p.m.

**12. To discuss the renewal of [www.woolpit.org](http://www.woolpit.org) domain name costs and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs agreed to renew for nine years at a cost of £90 including VAT.

**13. To discuss quotes received for pollarding the pump garden lime trees and take any necessary action.**

Two quotes have been received, one contractor did not respond. It was agreed to accept the quote from J M Forestry of £125.00. *Action: the Clerk*

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

Due to the snow hardly any litter has been left on the ground.

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

MSDC has served Enforcement Notices under the Town & Country Planning Act in respect of the land at Rookery Farm for industrial rendering. The Notices have been posted at the farm and served in person to the Clarke family residence.

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

There will not be a community room in the new development. Footings are in for phase 1 but work is behind schedule.

**17. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1 February 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....