

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2010 AT 7.00 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Melvin, Mrs Parker, Mr George and 11 members of the public.

Julie Abbey-Taylor MSDC Strategic Housing Manager gave a presentation on the problems with current unity housing, what can be done and consultation with tenants. This was followed by a question and answer session. Further meetings will follow in due course.

**Public comment:** The Clerk read the report from County Cllr Storey. SCC agreed that the New Strategic Direction is a work in progress and it should keep looking for opportunities for divestment. There have so far been 120 expressions of interest. The NDS is a medium to long term plan to deliver services in a different way and save the council money.

SCC Cabinet is meeting to discuss the transfer of the Fire Control function to the Cambridge Fire Service, some children's services from the NHS to SCC, the Stour Valley free school, quarterly budget report and the minerals and waste development framework.

Budget papers will be produced for the Resources, Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting 15 December and will give an indication of areas SCC are looking at in terms of budget cuts. £40m needs to be saved.

Mr Melvin advised that MSDC needs to make £28m in savings and therefore some services will need to be withdrawn. The CSD offices in Stowmarket and Eye will be closing in 2011.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Guyler, Mrs Cook and Rev Farrell.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mr Melvin declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 3575/10 and Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest in application 3137/10 as they are friends of the respective applicants. They duly signed the interest book.

3 **To approve minutes of the meetings 1 November 2010.** The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**Dog waste bin, Rectory Lane** – a resident has expressed concerns as the bin has been overflowing on several occasions. MSDC are monitoring the situation

**Verge edge, Heath Road** – several residents have complained as verges are being damaged by large lorries. These complaints have been passed to SCC Highways Department. Mr Wiley will speak to Charlie Mitson, SCC to see if a weight restriction can be applied for this Road.  
*Action: Mr Wiley.*

**Litter picking** – Mr Harknett requires more sacks  
*Action Mrs Parker.*

**Diary Advertisements** – the Clerk has met with Mr Handshaw, Diary Editor. A letter to current advertisers will be sent in January so that there is more time to sort adverts from the waiting list.  
*Action: the Clerk*

**Meeting dates** – these have been passed to the post office to book the room.

**Special Parish Liaison meeting** – the Clerk reported on the meeting 25 November.

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

**MSDC** parish precept form 2011/12. **MSDC** council tax will be £773.18 for band D equivalents in Woolpit. **SCC** notification of temporary closure of C436 The Heath to Woolpit Green, C434 Green Road to Plough Road and C432 Woolpit green bridge.

**Elmswell Library** asking if we wished for them to write a piece for Woolpit Diary. Cllrs are happy to accommodate the article. **NALC** car allowances changes of VAT. **MSDC**

snow clearance. Cllrs decided to review in the summer. **SALC** subscriptions to rise by 3%. **SALC** information on SCC New Strategic Direction and precept

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referendum. **SCC** open weekend in Suffolk grant application form. **SCC** Pension Fund: Independent Public Service Pension Commission. **SCC** Suffolk Trading Standards consumer champion network. **MSDC** Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy. **MSDC/Babergh DC** newsletter. **MSDC** register of electors request form. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** Came&company Parish Matter autumn 2010; Suffolk ACRE Update autumn 2010; Thedwastre North report November 2010; SCC Pension Fund Annual Report 2009/10; Clerks & Councils Direct November 2010; Mid Suffolk Discovery Project autumn –spring 2010/11.

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

**2495/10** Change of use of agricultural land to domestic and erection of a cartlodge. Grassy Lane Bungalow, Warren Lane. Support with the comment cartlodge only to be used for residential use in conjunction with the dwelling.

**3432/10** Change of use of ground floor from convenience store to private accommodation. H C Addison and Son, The Street. Whilst Cllrs regret the lost of a village amenity, they support the application.

**3275/10** Hang an advertisement sign from an existing high-level frame. Sampson House, The Street – support.

**3579/10** Change of use and extension of former commercial property to form two dwellings. Extending one property from single storey to two storey. Demolition of existing garage. Rear extension to form garden room. Woolpit Interiors, the Street – object. The proposed parking at the rear is almost inaccessible and inadequate. There is already a chronic shortage of parking in the centre of the village and this inaccessibility would lead to more on street parking and congestion within a conservation area.

**3653/10** Remove existing rotten painted timber windows and replace with double glazed powdercoated aluminium windows. Woolpit CP School, Heath Road – support.

Mr Melvin left the meeting at 9.05 p.m.

**3575/10** Outline permission with all matters except access reserved for erection of two detached two storey dwellings and creation of new vehicular access. The Hollies, Green Road – object. The proposal is out of keeping with the density of surrounding development and will be cramped development of the site. By reason of the close proximity of one of the proposed dwellings to the neighbouring property Pipers, there would be an adverse impact on residential amenity from overlooking and dominance of the private garden.

Mr Melvin rejoined the meeting at 9.14 p.m

**3137/10** Erection of first floor side extension. 7Cornmill Green. Subject to a site visit, object as the proposal will detrimentally affect the amenities of neighbours with the loss of daylight to first floor rooms due to the close proximity of the extension.

**1526/10** Demolition of existing Methodist chapel and erection of 2 three bedroom dwellings with garages. Woolpit Methodist Chapel, Heath Road. MSDC decision – refuse. The Chapel is considered to be a Heritage Asset, the application fails to provide evidence to demonstrate the site is unlikely to be contaminated land and by reason of its design, form, scale and size the proposal is out of keeping with the prevailing character and appearance of the area. In addition by reason of close proximity of one of the dwellings the neighbouring property would be adversely affected from overlooking and dominance of the private garden space. A delegation from Woolpit spoke against the application at the MSDC Planning Committee meeting.

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

Mr K Harknett £52.88 litter picking November; SLCC £135.00 subscription 2011/12; Mid Suffolk District council £98.70 treatment of wasp nest near children's play area; Onehouse Parish Council £250.00 hire of computer & printer 2010/11;

Suffolk County Council £135.07 November pension payment. All payments were approved and cheques issued.

**8. To consider requests for grants and take any necessary action.**

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service – It was proposed, seconded and carried to give a grant of £200.00.

Victim Support Suffolk – it was unanimously carried not to make a grant.

Woolpit Childcare Centre – after discussion it was decided to ask for further details of what is planned, what the £1000.00 is to be spent on, a plan and a breakdown of costs. Once this additional information has been received, Cllrs will reconsider the request.

*Action: the Clerk*

**9. To consider a quote for work on trees near the teen shelter and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk was asked to contact David Mitchell for his comments to clarify the situation in the conservation area. If he is content that this work can be carried out, Cllrs agreed the quote of £180.00.

*Action: the Clerk*

**10. To discuss the recent congestion in the centre of the village and take any necessary action.**

A further letter will be sent to businesses in the centre of the village to request that they encourage their employees to use the car park. The Clerk will request that SCC considers painting white advisory lines from Bridges to The Bull car park entrance to try to alleviate congestion at this bottleneck. The Clerk will contact Susan Room, SCC regarding the proposed modifications around the pump area.

*Action: the Clerk*

**11. To discuss the Parish Council elections in May 2011 and decide on suitable publicity.**

It was agreed to publish an article in the February Woolpit Diary.

*Action: the Clerk*

**12. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.** Nothing to report.

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

MSDC has made an unannounced visit to the site and is confident that the rendering will run down and cease by March 2011 once current contracts have been completed.

**14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 17 January 2011.** Noted.

The meeting closed to the public at 10.02 p.m.

**15. IN CAMERA.** To discuss a request from our insurance company for information regarding The Firs, Broomhill Lane and take any necessary action.

The information requested will be sent to our insurance company.

*Action: the Clerk*

The meeting closed at 10.12 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....