

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 MAY 2010 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mr Guyler, Mr Wiley, Mr Lomax, Mrs Parker, Rev Farrell and 4 members of the public.

**Public comment:** Mrs Parker asked County Cllr Storey about the SOR with the new government as schools are concerned. Cllr Storey attended a meeting last week advised that the 3 primary schools would take the extra 2 years of pupils and then they would move up to Beyton for school years 7 & 8. There was a counter proposal that Thurston School should be used as the Upper school and Beyton as the 6<sup>th</sup> form arm of Thurston.

The Clerk read the Police report. There were 6 crimes reported between 1 April and 16 May; 1 attempted burglary of a building, 2 thefts, 1 criminal damage of a vehicle, 1 theft from a motor vehicle and 1 theft from a shop. Warnings on distraction burglaries at supermarkets and looking after possessions abroad were included in the report. A information sheet regarding Police Direct and other topics has been provided for publication in Woolpit Diary.

1. **Election of Chairman.** Mr Wiley was proposed, seconded and duly elected.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman.** Mr Guyler was proposed, seconded and elected. Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

3. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Howard, Mr George, Mrs Cook, Mr Melvin & PCSO Pendergast.

4. **To appoint Parish Council Representatives to other bodies.**

Institute Committee – Mr Wiley.

Woolpit Village Hall and Playing Field Committee – Rev Farrell.

SALC – Mr Guyler and Mr Lomax.

Youth Initiative – Mr Howard and Mr Wiley.

Tree/Footpath Warden – Mr Eburne.

Pump Garden – Mrs Dean

Public Transport Liaison Officer – Mr Wiley.

School Governor – Mrs Parker

Woolpit Charity Lands – Dr E Cockayne, Mrs C Moss, Mr T Parker & Rev Farrell.

St Marys Building Trust – Mr Eburne.

Millennium Garden – Mr Howard.

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

6 **To approve minutes of the meetings 1 March & 19 April 2010.**

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed.

7. **Clerk's Report.** Nothing to report that is not already on the agenda.

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

Susan Room **SCC** to produce drawings for the reinforcement of the one-way system around the pump garden. Cllrs welcome the initiative. **MSDC** There will be no reduction in the funding per hour for the Community Cleansing Grant but consumables will no longer be funded. **SCC** has appointed Sita UK Ltd as its preferred bidder to design, build, finance and operate an Energy from Waste facility at Gt Blakenham. **SCC** funding available for youth projects. **MSDC** Activities in Mid Suffolk project requesting financial support. This will be discussed at the June meeting. **MSDC** Village of the year competition. It was decided not to enter this year. **St Edmundsbury Borough Council** Community Governance Review. Cllrs felt that Woolpit should maintain the status quo regarding boundaries and number of councillors. **SCC** G39 street lighting issues. EDF will not allow any other contractor to

work on their overhead lines. Cllrs wish to push for a meeting between EDF, SCC, and PC representative along with Jane Storey. The issues will also be referred to David Ruffley MP. **Woolpit Playing Field Committee** asking who owns the car park in Rectory Lane. The Clerk has advised that they do but as the car park is in need of repair it is likely that we will receive a grant request. **Mr McFie**, Woolpit under 12's Football Club. As the Club has folded the goals are up for sale. It is noted that these were part funded by the Suffolk FA and the football club. Cllrs feel that these belong to the village and should be returned for storage. **Suffolk Police** quiz night 9 June 2010. A team will be entered. **MSDC** Wrights Way Lower Broom Road Tree Ridge work is to commence shortly and those residents concerned have been contacted. **Mrs Barker** problems with 2 trees in the ridge. The Clerk will contact Terry Willington, MSDC. **SCC** Pension Fund Annual meeting 14 July 2010. **Optua** has received a full grant to refurbish conservatory cushions at Abbots Meadow and therefore will not require our partial grant. **Royal British Legion** wishes to deliver presentations of their work to village groups. The letter will be passed to WI, over 60s and Woolpit Room. **Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit** encouraging all parishes to become more involved in community emergency preparedness. A copy will be sent to Trish Baker, who was our Emergency Planning Officer for comments. **MSDC** annual footpath clearance programme 2010 covers footpaths 4, 6 & 9 for two cuts. A copy will be sent to Mr Eburne. **SCC** copy of order for prohibition of heavy commercial vehicles along Warren Lane, Elmswell. **SCC** notice of temporary road closure of Broomhill Lane 21-25 June. **SALC** Legal Topic Notes updates. **NALC** level of burial fees. **Energy Saving Trust** join green communities information. Don't be a Tosser poster, Suffolk Show poster, Countryside Activities and Thornham Walks May & June passed to Mrs Parker. The South & Heart of Suffolk Walking Festival 15 May-6 Jun. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** Mid Suffolk South & Stowmarket Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 March, 6 & 12 April; Clerks & Councils Direct March & May; Suffolk onboard passenger transport newsletter April-June; MSDC The Great Outdoors Unexpected Art in Unusual Places + Arts events in Mid Suffolk May-September; Events in Thornham 2010; Suffolk View Spring 2010; SCC Submission of Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document to Secretary of State; SALC training programme April 2010-March 2011; Highways Agency help with journeys March-May; SALC Local Associations Information Service/Planning Issues; Suffolk ACRE Update winter 2010; MSDC street naming and numbering service. **Product information:** Pro-Teq, Sunsafe Play Systems, Glasdon, Barconwood, Kompan, Record RSS Ltd, SMP Playgrounds.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to bring forward item 11.

The meeting adjourned at 8.37 p.m.

#### **11. To consider a complaint regarding cutting of fir trees outside The Firs, Broomhill Lane and take any necessary action.**

Mr Wiley outlined how things came about for the Parish Council to carry out the work and that the work was carried out in good faith. Mr Wiley had knocked on the door and finding no one at home had delivered the letter dated 26 January 2010 through the door. It was unfortunate that Mrs Gough was away on an extended holiday. The trees were encroaching at least one foot into the road and there was evidence of wheel marks on the opposite verge as vehicles had to drive on it to get round the overhang in this narrow country lane. It is understood that there have been complaints to SCC regarding the firs and SCC had tried to cut back but Mrs Gough had stopped them. The Parish Council have had the trees looked at by an arboriculturalist and they will not die.

Mrs Gough stated that there was no time scale on the parish council letter. The Highways Act 1980 states you have to give 14 days notice and she believes this was not given. Due to the fashion of the cutting, she has contacted a tree surgeon who has said the trees will never recover. A copy of this report was passed to the Clerk.

The Chairman apologised if any error had been made. Another issue raised was why the sign at Broomhill Lane advising that it is not suitable for heavy vehicles has been removed. Mrs Gough has been in contact with SCC but they have advised that the signage on the Elmswell Road stated allowed tonnage should be sufficient. The PC will contact SCC to see if this can be reinstated. *Action: the Clerk*

Mrs Gough will now discuss the matter with her partner.

The meeting reconvened at 8.55 p.m.

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

**1159/10** Erection of chimney to side of dwelling. Conversion of garage to ancillary office accommodation. April Cottage, Green Road – support.

**0742/10** Erection of two-storey side extension and single-storey side extension to form car port. Erection of porch to front. Demolition of existing double garage. Brook House, Masons Lane – support.

**1294/10** Remove one Dawn Redwood as detailed on plan T1. Brook House, Masons Lane – support.

**0874/10** Erection of single-storey attached annexe extension (following demolition of existing garage) 40 Briar Hill. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**0486/10** Erection of conservatory to side of property. 13 Mitre Close. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**10. To approve accounts for payment.**

Mr K Harknett £52.68 litter picking April; Suffolk County council £15.00 Mr A Handshaw attendance at Suffolk Broadband Partnership conference 12 May; Gadd Brothers £160.00 April maintenance of Millennium Garden; Suffolk ACRE £25.00 annual subscription. All payments were approved and cheques issued.

**12. To receive an update on the Parish Council Room within Woolpit Institute and take any necessary action.**

There has been no reply to our letter dated 13 January 2010. There are grants available to help towards the cost of converting the room but until a suitable rent is agreed the matter cannot be progressed. This item will be carried forward to the June meeting.

**13. To consider a revised plan and quote for the Village Pump garden and take any necessary action.**

Having received the drawing and the bill of quantities and revised plan to be completed with the set budget of £3000.00, it was proposed, seconded and carried to carry out the work. However, following correspondence that SCC is to carry out work to reinforce the one way system around the pump area, we are not in a position to place the order until further details of this project are known. The Clerk will contact Gadd Brothers and advise them of the situation. *Action: the Clerk*

Mr & Mrs Grant have kindly offered to cut the grass and weed the area until the work is carried out.

Concerns regarding the electricity box were raised and Mr Wiley will contact David Smith to carry out an inspection. *Action: Mr Wiley*

**14. To discuss the belief of the Institute Committee that the War Memorial is the responsibility of the Parish Council and take any necessary action.**

The Parish Council will take on the responsibility of the upkeep and advise the Institute Committee that it is assumed that the War Memorial names board is owned by the village as a whole. The Clerk will contact Mr K Weston to revarnish the Memorial. *Action: the Clerk*

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

The contractor is making progress and the first phase should be completed in the summer. Recently lorries carrying earth are using Green Road and then the village centre for access. This may not be associated with the redevelopment but Mr Guyler will contact the site foremen to ensure that the building works lorries are using the correct route.

*Action: Mr Guyler.*

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

Mr Harknett has requested a larger bin in the car park as he feels that the current capacity during the summer will be insufficient. The Clerk will contact Sarah Carter, MSDC to see what can be done as their contractor who empties the bin is at full capacity.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

MSDC has advised that both the decision for Lawful Use and the appeal against Enforcement Notices served in December will be heard at the same Public Inquiry commencing 14 September 2010. Lorry movements bringing soil onto the site to raise the level of the land on the north of the site do not require planning permission.

**18. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 21 June 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

The meeting closed at 10.07 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....