

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MODAY  
5 DECEMBER 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Melvin, Mr Hardiman, Mr Guyler, Mr Smith, Mrs Parker, Mr Lomax and 3 members of the public.

**Public comment:** Mr Parry spoke of the recent accident along The Street and advised he feels it is a duty of all to take action before any one is injured. Mr Wiley advised he has spoken with Sgt Patterson on this matter and he will contact the PC who attended the incident to arrange more patrols and checks. The Parish Council will look again at instigating a Community Speedwatch Scheme as a few volunteers have now come forward. Mr Wiley is meeting with SCC Highways and will ask them to look at requirements for pinch points or speed bumps and ask for SID to visit the area

County Councillor Storey advised that the new CEO Deborah Cadman is due to start on 19 December. SCC faces a budget gap of £50million over the next two years. Feedback from the two Scrutiny meetings will be included in the Budget paper. Proposals have been the subject of further meetings around the county including the SALC Area meetings. The Budget paper will be presented to Cabinet 24 January and Full Council 9 February 2012. The Cabinet meets on 6 December to discuss the future of the In-house bus and coach fleet, procurement of waste transfer and recycling facilities and 2011/12 budget monitoring report. A Full Council meeting will take place on 15 December. Cllr Storey was asked regarding progress in the Thurston pyramid schools reorganisation. This is still out for consultation until 15 December. WPC is concerned regarding parking around the primary school. District Councillor Melvin advised that in his role as Chair of the Licensing Committee he is extremely concerned regarding government proposals to decontrol a lot of events where licenses would no longer be required. The government are suggesting events with attendance up to 5000 people. A letter opposing the changes is being sent to MPs. Problems in Steeles Road had caused Mr Wiley to meet with Flagship Housing and MSDC. The probability is that Flagship will withdraw from the site due to central government changes in policy.

The Clerk read the Police report. There have been 5 crimes reported between 5 & 30 November; 1 drunk & disorderly in a public place, 1 obstruct/resist arrest, 1 burglary of other building, 1 criminal damage to a vehicle and 1 theft other. No recent problems have been reported in the village. General information was received on the arrest of two men from Stowmarket charged with burglary, an arrest at a scrapyard for possession of suspicious items of scrap, 2 other arrests and cabling seized and witness request regarding fatal accident at Coddenham 26 November.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Cook, Mr Jones and PCSO Pendergast.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mr Wiley declared a prejudicial interest in an item on the payment sheet and duly signed the interest book.

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 7 November 2011.** The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**Flagpoles** – MSDC has asked for locations of flagpoles in the parish which may be used to dress the village for the Olympics. Details have been sent.

**SCC Heritage Consultation** – this will be an agenda item at the January meeting.

**Fidelity Guarantee Insurance** – has been increased to £100,000 and the additional premium will be collected at renewal.

**Unit 18, Steeles Road** – although the column has been removed, we have to wait for the developer to inform SCC before it can be removed from the schedule.

**Junction lines Briar Hill/Meadowlands/The Street** - are to be renewed by SCC.

**Winter gritting workshop** – Mr Melvin had been due to attend but was called to a MSDC licensing meeting.

**Flint Wall** – Mr Willington MSDC is arranging for the ivy to be removed. He has inspected the wall and although some flints are missing he does not consider it in a poor state of repair.

**Clerk's salary** – it is noted that as Mrs Fuller has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration, her salary will increase by one point of the salary scale to 29 in line with her contract of employment from 1 December 2011

**Recent repairs to A14** – our letter to the Highways Agency was copied to Peter Grimm SCC who has asked if this can be appended to a letter to the Under Secretary of State for Transport. This has been agreed.

**Intelligent Street lighting** – a holding response has been received from SCC and a full response should follow shortly.

**Pump light** – a smart meter is being installed 13 December 2011 free of charge. This will send accurate readings automatically.

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

**Mid Suffolk Tenants Forum** information bus to visit Woolpit 21 March. **SALC** increase in subscription for 2012/13 and course information. **Mr Sumerling** copy of letter sent to SCC re Masons Lane. **Hymans Robertson** Ill Health Liability Insurance. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** SCC Budget Consultation Stage 1 results; Mid Suffolk & Babergh DCs Working Together newsletter November 2011; SCC Pension Fund Annual Report 2010-2011; Suffolk ageuk Spread the Warmth for Age UK Suffolk & services leaflet; Highways Agency outstanding work A14 due to commence 22 November for three nights has been postponed until spring 2012; SALC Mid Suffolk Area meeting 1 December information + Elgin website information for roadworks, road closures and gritting route; Policing Suffolk newsletter, NALC Policy Briefing The Localism Act and Suffolk Foundation Creating the Greenest County grants.

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

**2981/11** Conversion and extension of existing church to form three bedroom dwelling. Erection of detached three bedroom dwelling. Construction of associated external works and new vehicular access. Woolpit Methodist Chapel, Heath Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**3523/11** Erection of two detached two storey dwellings and creation of new vehicular access (reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission 3575/10) Land adjacent to the Hollies, Green Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

3 White Elm Road – the planning history of the building was checked which allows for the new building to be built without the need for planning permission if erected within permitted development guidelines, that being not forward of the front building line of the house and not over 2.5m high. The use of the building for business purposes is classed as working from home and generally considered to be ancillary and incidental to the overall use of the property and therefore does not require planning permission.

Mr Wiley left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

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

The following accounts were approved and cheques issued. Mr K Harknett £43.26 litter picking November; Suffolk County Council £174.18 pension payment November; Glasdon UK Ltd £120.50 litter bin for Steeles Road; Mid Suffolk DC £20.00 small society lotteries registration renewal; SLCC £140.00 annual subscription 2012/13 and Mr Wiley £308.75 replacement of felt on youth shelter roof, Woolpit Institute £260.00 Parish Clerk's room rent November 2011-January 2012.

Mr Wiley rejoined the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

**8. To receive an update on the allotments and take any necessary action.**

One more plot has become vacant and will be relet to the next person on the waiting list. This will mean that the waiting list has been reduced by 7 to leave 11 on the list. A tractor tyre which was used for compost has been left by a previous tenant. The Clerk will contact MSDC to see if we can dispose of it via their hit squad.

*Action: the Clerk*

**9. To receive a report on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations from the Steering Group and take any necessary action.**

A suggested programme of events was presented to Cllrs. The Steering Group are concerned that the grant of £2012 from WPC will not cover the cost of events and gifts for the children. Letters have been sent to local businesses to see if they will provide some sponsorship. It was proposed, seconded and carried to underwrite any shortfall up to a maximum of £1500.00.

The Clerk has received a form for the road closure and will complete and return to MSDC.

*Action: the Clerk*

**10. To further discuss an additional bench for the Pump Garden to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and take any necessary action.**

Mrs Parker has been to see Mr Bloomfield and he is no longer able to do hot metal work. She has been to see Designs on Metal and will endeavour to see Mr Chaplin from Buxhall and Mr G Baker before discussing further at the next meeting.

*Action: Mrs Parker*

**11. To consider the response from SCC regarding the provision of bridleways in the parish and take any necessary action.**

SCC Rights of Way Officer feels it is inappropriate to use the grass verge along Heath Road on safety grounds as it is part of the highway. Cllrs were confused by this as at the moment horses have to use the highway. Cllrs are unable to identify any footpaths that can be upgraded to bridleways. The area of most concern is Turners Corner towards The Heath. The Clerk will write again to SCC to ask if the hedge beside the footpath/cycleway can be cut back to allow horses to walk beside the tarmac path.

*Action: the Clerk*

**11a. Urgent action required. To discuss the redevelopment of Steeles Road and take any necessary action.**

At a recent meeting representatives from Flagship housing advised that it is likely that they will withdraw from the Steeles Road redevelopment after the completion of Phase 3. This will leave Phases 4 and 5 outstanding. This means that 12 of the original old people's properties will be left uninhabitable and could be used by squatters and Phase 3 residents will look out onto a wasteland. Cllr Melvin read out an email he has received as District Cllr from Martin King, MSDC Head of Housing. Part of the redevelopment was for 12 properties for older people, 6 in phase 3 and 6 in phase 4. If the rest of the scheme is not completed this will seriously compromise accommodation for elderly residents. The Clerk was asked to write to Flagship, with copies to David Ruffley MP, MSDC Chief Executive, Head of housing and Portfolio Holder for Housing requesting a statement of what is happening to the redevelopment as rumours are rife in the village, how the commitment to 12 properties for the accommodation of the elderly residents will now be met, details of nomination procedures for the whole scheme and assurance that the site will be left clear and safe. Cllrs are appalled that Flagship have not applied for funding for phases 4 & 5 without any interested parties being informed.

*Action: the Clerk*

**12. To consider a request from Ixworth & Stanton Free School Group for a grant towards setting up costs of the proposed free school and take any necessary action.**

It was proposed, seconded and carried that no grant be made.

**13. To discuss speeding restrictions in the parish and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs have copies of letters from Mrs Burns and Mr Parry regarding the accident in The Street 10 November 2011. It is noted that too many cars park on the street that don't need to but it was acknowledged that this slows traffic down. Mr Wiley will discuss the issue with John Simpson SCC Highways at the site visit later this week. He will also ask for roundels to be painted along Heath Road. 3 volunteers have now come forward for Community Speedwatch Scheme and more will be sought to instigate a scheme.

*Action: Mm Wiley/the Clerk*

**14. To discuss Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Focus Review Regulation 25 and take any necessary action.**

Two comments will be made: under housing Policy CS8 Table 4.1 Urge that some housing be allocated to secondary villages as they need new life blood to keep them viable. Under business development Statement 3 WPC supports the statement identifying Woolpit Business Park as a location for employment growth.

*Action: the Clerk*

**15. To consider suitable saving accounts and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to form a Steering Group of Mrs Parker, Mr Guyler, Mr Lomax and the Clerk to investigate appropriate accounts and make a recommendation to full council.

*Action: Steering Group*

**16. To receive an update on village centre Highways matters.**

Mr Wiley has a meeting with John Simpson, SCC 6 December to discuss metal bollards, entrance to Rags Lane, flooding to the house opposite The Bull, parking around the Health Centre, roundels and repeaters, traffic calming, road markings around the parish and road surface outside Gold Star.

*Action: Mr Wiley*

**17. To discuss a time limit waiting restriction within the village centre and take any necessary action.**

Mr Wiley had a meeting with Sgt Paterson who has taken the idea forward to SCC Highways.

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

There is still a fair amount of litter being left in the car park by a group who congregate there.

**19. To receive a report from the Footpath and Tree Warden.**

All footpaths were walked and inspected late September. All were in good condition and notices visible and some hedge trimming was completed on Footpath 5. There is a lot of litter and garden refuse along Footpath 4.

**20. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9 January 2012.** Noted.

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

**21. Steeles Road redevelopment.** (In Camera)

Issues being experienced by a resident were discussed. The Clerk will write to Flagship Housing and copy to MSDC.

The meeting closed at 10.40 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....