

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
7 MARCH 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Guyler, Mr Melvin, Rev Farrell, Mrs Cook, Mr Lomax and 2 members of the public.

**Public comment:** District Cllr Melvin advised that the poll regarding the merger of MSDC and Babergh DC will be taken by various methods including phone and text. There will need to be 50% + 1 in favour in both districts for the merger to go forward. There will be 2 separate counts sometime in May. A scrutiny committee has been appointed to oversee the merger. Nominations for MSDC elections need to be in by 4 April.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Parker and Mr George.
2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mrs Cook and Mr Guyler declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 3414/10 Woolpit Interiors and duly signed the interest book.
3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 7 February 2011.** The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**Community Speedwatch** – only one resident has volunteered therefore the scheme will not go ahead in Woolpit at this time. The Clerk will advise Mrs Reed, Elmswell who had asked us to join with them. *Action: the Clerk*

**Congestion in the village** – the Clerk has met with Karen Smith SCC to discuss our letter for further white advisory lines. She advised that these are only for marking drop kerbs and driveways and are not suitable to resolve our issues. She will send a letter regarding her findings.

**G39 street lighting** – A meeting was held with Richard Webster and County Cllr Storey. It is unlikely that G39 issues will be resolved by training Corillion staff as UK Powernetworks will not allow them to work on lines. Various innovations are being put forward such as LED lights and intelligent light systems which would mean that lanterns would not need to be accessed for long periods of time. Although this would still mean financial outlay it would be less than the amount quoted to resolve G39 issues by replacing brackets will columns. Further information and pay back calculations should be available in next few months.

**Street lights outside the Village Hall and the school** – have been replaced today with a whiter light.

**Parish Council noticeboard** – has been removed from Addissons. Mr Wiley is liaising with the Institute Committee and MSDC to see if the board can be incorporated with the Institute board on the outside of the building.

**ARC grant** – the Clerk has spoken to Mrs Grimsey and the Clerk has spoken to the supplier and ordered some of the paving slabs to cover the amount of the grant.

**Heath Road/Borley Green** – a resident has sent copies of correspondence regarding their concerns that this road is used by so many HGVs. Mr Melvin advised that this could become a bigger problem as the planning application for a new café building off the old A45 was passed by MSDC during the previous week. The Clerk was asked to write to SCC requesting that Warren Lane and Wood Road has weight restrictions applied to them to match those along Warren Lane, Elmswell. This should also help regarding issues along Heath Road. *Action: the Clerk*

**Office broadband/telephone** – this was a debacle. Three times Mr Handshaw came to the office to sort out as BT had advised everything had been completed by them when it had not. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of complaint. *Action: the Clerk*

**Gavel and stand** – Mr Howard will give this to Mr Wiley so it can be kept in the office.

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**Website** – unfortunately we had problems with the website going down this month as 123-reg had been trying to contact the Clerk using the old email address. The matter has now been resolved and an apology will be published in April/May Diary.

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

**MSDC** information on nomination forms for parish council elections available from MSDC website. Hard copy forms are available on request. **HM Revenue & Customs** will no longer send information by post. These can be downloaded and an email alert service is available. **Bank of Ireland** Treasury Account interest rates from 16 February. **SCC** information on likely % price increases for street lighting maintenance and energy for 2011-12. **SCC** update on school organisation review. **HM Revenue & Customs** advising that Clerks can no longer be considered self-employed. **Suffolk Air Quality Management Group** Air Quality Management and New Development 2011 supplementary guidance consultation. **SCC** response to our letter regarding possible closure of 7 Household Waste sites in Suffolk and briefing notes on the sites being closed. **SALC** councillors networking event 22 March. **Woolpit Tennis Club** regarding dog fouling sign. This belongs to Playing Field committee. **SCC** playground inspections 2011 passed to the Village Hall Committee. **MSDC** countryside activities and Thornham Walks April. **SCC** The Olympics Games 2012 – are you ready? Passed to Woolpit Cricket Club. **Mr Seeley** looking for organisations to man the gates at the Steam Rally for a donation to the group. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** Clerks & Councils Direct March 2011; Suffolk ACRE update spring 2011.

County Cllr Storey joined the meeting and gave her report. Full council agreed the budget proposals for 2011/12, including savings of £42.5m. The fall in grants and the proposal to keep council tax increase at 0% meant that this level of savings has been achieved. Among the most contentious proposals locally are the proposals regarding library provision and the reduction in bus services. The lease on Elmswell library is due for renewal autumn 2011 and could be renewed on a temporary basis or moved elsewhere. With less money available the challenge is how to protect the library service and how to expand to accommodate the changing patterns of people's lives. Bus services are under review with a 50% cut in subsidies. SCC and bus operators are working together to ensure that all villages retain some sort of service.

In the absence of P.C. Swain, the Clerk read the Police report. There have been 2 crimes reported between 6 February and 6 March, 1 theft from a shop and enquiries are on-going and an assault occasioning ABH which has been dealt with via Community Resolution. Warnings regarding fraudulent tickets have been given ahead of the Olympic Games.

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

**3414/10** Remodelling existing extension, kitchen and laundry room, form new bay windows and door opening to an existing window opening, also form porch and roof lantern. Grange Farm, Green Road – support.

Mrs Cook and Mr Guyler left the meeting at 8.47 p.m.

**3579/10** Change of use 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. Amended plans. Woolpit Interiors, The Street- object. Although the amended plans are an improvement for parking spaces, the access is still in adequate.

Mrs Cook and Mr Guyler re-joined the meeting at 8.58 p.m.

**0247/11** Crown 8 trees and remove 1 tree. Woolpit Playing Field – MSDC does not wish to object.

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**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. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**0668/10** Removal of existing portacabins, toilet block and unauthorised hardstanding and erection of new café building with associated separate access and egress, turning area, parking and landscaping. Woolpit Café, Old A45. Going to MSDC Planning committee for a decision 2 March 2011.

**3437/10** Retention of outbuilding. Fern Cottage, The Heath. Going to MSDC Planning Committee for a decision 2 March 2011.

Mr Melvin advised that both the above application were approved by committee.

**3692/10** Erection of single storey front entrance porch. Erection of two storey side extension. Brook House, Masons Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**936/04** Jewers, Elmswell Road. The Clerk has had no response from MSDC regarding our concerns on landscaping. This will now be referred to Philip Isbell, Lead Planning Officer MSDC. *Action: the Clerk.*

MSDC is investigating an alleged breach of planning at Leggetts. MSDC concerns are unauthorised change of use of land and engineering operations for the use of additional lorry and trailer parking in association with existing road haulage business.

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

Mr K Harknett £54.08 litter picking February; Suffolk County Council £135.07 pension payment February; Woolpit Institute PC room rent February-April; Anglian Water £60.37 allotments 18 August – 18 February; SALC £24.00 allotment seminar 18 February; Suffolk County Council £1472.59 streetlighting October –March; Equity pc £1182.00 supply, set up and install computer and printer for office; Mrs K Parker £21.00 reimbursement for black sacks for Litter Picker. All accounts were unanimously approved and cheques issued.

#### **8. To review the condition of the youth shelter and take any necessary action.**

The roof needs re-felting. Mr Wiley will obtain quotes. *Action: Mr Wiley*

#### **9. To consider a request for a grant towards local celebrations of the Royal Wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton and take any necessary action.**

After discussion it was agreed not to give a grant but to underwrite any loss up to a maximum of £250.00 on production of proper accounts *Action: the Clerk*

#### **10. To consider a request from the Village Hall Committee for financial help with extending the Village Hall car park and take any necessary action.**

Quotes received range from £7,500.00 to £25,000.00 depending on the strength and size of mesh. The Village Hall Committee would be considering comparable quotes in the lower bracket from £7,500.00 to £10,000.00 to cover an area between the two car parks.

In principal councillors wish to support the project in some way however, there are some concerns. The Clerk will write to the VH Committee and ask if they have been and seen an area with comparable mesh as intended to use at Woolpit and spoken to users, any idea how long the mesh will last and what funds the VHC has available to put towards this project. Once this information has been received, Cllrs will consider the matter further. *Action: the Clerk*

#### **11. To discuss changes to woolpit.org website for Woolpit Village Hall Committee and take any necessary action.**

The Village Hall is to have its own website and would like to use the information about the hall on woolpit.org. This would then mean there would be no information About the Village Hall on woolpit.org just a link to their own site. Cllrs have no objection to this.

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**12. To consider the future of Suffolk Libraries consultation and take any necessary action.**

Elmswell library is owned by Elmswell Amenities Association and leased to SCC which is due for renewal autumn 2011. There has been some talk that Elmswell PC may wish to take over the library.

Mr Guyler asked that WPC responds to the consultation on the future of Suffolk Libraries which ends 30 April 2011. It was agreed to do this but it would be better to know what Elmswell PC is planning to do. Mr Guyler will contact Mr Dow, Clerk to Elmswell PC.

*Action: Mr Guyler*

It was agreed to hold an additional Parish Council meeting on Monday 4 April 2011 at 7.00 p.m. to discuss this matter further.

**13. To review the current rules for our allotment tenancy following the Clerk's attendance of the SALC seminar and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk gave a résumé of the seminar. There are no statutory rules on the size of plots and therefore it was unanimously agreed to half the plots as they become available to relet. Our tenancy agreement and rules are written from the NALC model. It was agreed that a letter be sent to all current tenants advising that these rules will be strictly adhered to and draw attention to points 5 (e) The tenant shall not assign the tenancy or sub-let or part with possession of any part of the allotment without the consent of the council and 5 (g) the tenant shall cultivate the allotment for, and shall use it only for the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers for domestic consumption by himself and his family. If any rule is breached a letter should be sent to the tenant giving one months notice to terminate tenancy. Rents within Suffolk vary from between £20.00 to £80.00 but some small parishes are less. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to increase rents from £4.00 to £10.00 from 1 November 2011 to cover the increased costs of water and administration.

*Action: the Clerk*

**14. To consider suitable speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting 4 April and take any necessary action.**

Following the meeting to discuss G39 issues, Richard Webster has been asked to talk on intelligent street lighting. Councillors were unanimously in favour.

**15. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.** It has been a quiet month although the fence around the car park is damaged. The Clerk has already referred this to MSDC and Terry Willington was surveying the damage. The Clerk will contact him for a progress report.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

All were walked 5/6 March and are in good condition and notices visible. Any strimming and trimming required was carried out. There is much litter along path 4 and path 5 is spoilt by dog mess.

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

MSDC planning officers should visit the site after 11 March.

**18. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 16 May 2011.**

An additional meeting will now be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 4 April 2011.

The meeting closed to the public at 10.16 p.m.

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

The Clerk will arrange for the information to be sent.

*Action: The Clerk*

The meeting closed at 10.21 p.m.

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