

**MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.**

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Guyler, Mrs Cook, Mrs Parker, Mr Melvin and 3 members of the public,

**Public comment:** Mrs Scotford advised that she is sharing an allotment and the tenant is selling his home and moving away. She has not been on the waiting list but hopes she can keep her half of the allotment. Cllrs will make this an agenda item for the next meeting and look at the rules and agreement in force.

PCSO Pendergast advised that there were 3 crimes reported between 7 December and 15 January: 1 criminal damage to a vehicle, 1 attempted burglary of a dwelling and 1 assault occasioning ABH. There have been many thefts of heating oil and bird scarers in the Mid Suffolk area lately.

County Cllr Storey advised that the cabinet met on 11 January and discussed the revisions of home-to-school policy, Suffolk's public health function and the annual health report, divestment of the Safety Camera Partnership to Suffolk Constabulary and a review of the 2010 attainment outcomes in Suffolk Schools. The budget process continues. The budget will be written up taking into account all suggestions and presented to the Cabinet in February. This is acknowledged around the country as being one of the worst times for local government and large savings have to be made.

Mr Melvin drew Cllr Storey's attention to our agenda item 10. She acknowledged that there will be a reduction of sites from 18-11 but not where they will be at this time. District Cllr Melvin advised that budget discussions are taking place at MSDC. There is a reduction of 15.8% from central government this year. It is hoped there will be no compulsory redundancies nor will MSDC dip into reserves. MSDC may receive a bonus if it freezes council tax and if sufficient affordable homes are built. The rate relief grant has been reduced so businesses will now pay 5%. The merger with Babergh DC is going ahead and Cllr Melvin is a Scrutiny Panel member.

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

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

3. **To approve minutes of the meetings 6 December 2010 and 10 January 2011.**

Folio 393 paragraph 1 under public comment The NDS was amended to read The NSD and paragraph 4 to make £28m was corrected to read £2.8m. With these two amendments it was proposed, seconded and carried to approve and sign the minutes.

**4. Clerk's Report**

**Trees near teen shelter** – David Mitchell MSDC Tree Officer has confirmed what needs to be done to comply with procedures. The Clerk has contacted Woolpit Playing Field Committee and the Gadd Brothers to proceed with the work.

**Highways issues** – Charlie Mitson SCC has confirmed that the road will be scraped and levelled to stop flooding in Rags Lane. Poles to protect properties at the junction of Rags Lane/The Street and weight restrictions along Heath Road will be investigated. SCC will talk to the Health Centre regarding car parking.

**Pump area one way reinforcement** - SCC has confirmed that funding for this project has been pulled. The Gadd Brothers will be asked to carry out the refurbishment of the pump garden since this was only put in abeyance for the one way project.

**White lines** – the Clerk will ask SCC to consider white lines between the Swan to Rags Lane, Bridges and the Bull, one car length from Masons Lane to Weaver House and remove the current ones outside what was the garage of Weaver House.

**Casual vacancy** – there have been no applications.

**Community Speedwatch** – only one person has volunteered for the project. The article will appear again in February/March Diary.

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

**Eon** terms and conditions revision. **SLCC** training and events guide. **SALC** information on Residential Care Homes consultation, SCC budget cuts and services and course information. **TIC** winter warmers. **MSDC** Stowmarket AAP DPD. **Sir Robert Gardiner's Almshouse Trust** thanks for the recent grant. **Suffolk Constabulary** changes to opening hours of police stations across Suffolk. **MSDC** countryside activities and Thornham Walks. **Royal British Legion** 90<sup>th</sup> poppy party celebrations. **The following items were passed to Cllrs for circulation:** SCC Pension Fund: Draft Funding Strategy Statement 2011; Shelland Woods EWGS Management Plan; Midsuffolk Action in partnership newsletter winter 2010; The Suffolk Foundation Annual Review 2009/10; Suffolk View winter 2010; MSDC countryside events 2011; The Local councillor issue 4 2010; Clerks & Councils Direct January 2011.

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

**3275/10 & 3277/10** Hang an advertisement sign from an existing high-level frame. Sampson House, The Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**3137/10** Erection of first floor side extension. 7 Cornmill Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**2495/10** Change of use of agricultural land to domestic and erection of cartlodge. Grassy Lane Bungalow, Warren Lane. MSDC Decision – permission granted.

**3432/10** Change of use from mixed use (shop with living accommodation) to single dwellinghouse. H C Addison & Son, the Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**2967/10** Alterations to existing vehicular access – Quality Equipment, Heath Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**3147/10** Erection of single storey and two storey rear extensions. The Cottage, Sharpes Row. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**2190/10** Erection of single storey rear extension connection main house to annex building. Lime Tree House, 13 White Elm Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

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

Mrs P Fuller £119.80 expenses October-December; Suffolk County Council £135.07 December pension payment; HM Revenue & Customs £4.02 October-December payment; Suffolk Accident Rescue Service £200.00 grant; SPL Print £180.00 December/January Diary; Woolpit Nurseries Ltd £129.22 Christmas tree and set of lights; Woolpit Cricket Club back netting for football goal and Peter King Electrical £323.13 replace fuse box Pump Garden. Approval of all accounts was proposed, seconded and carried. A letter of thanks will be sent to Woolpit Nurseries for arranging, installing and decorating the Christmas Tree. *Action: the Clerk*

## **8. To discuss and set the precept for 2011/12.**

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2010/11 and current reserves. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £27,000.00 for 2011/2012. 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. Full details of the precept are shown under folio 400.

## **9. To receive further information from Woolpit ARC to support their request for a grant and take any necessary action.**

The group are still awaiting some of the requested information. This item was therefore deferred to the February meeting.

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## **10. To discuss the possible closure of 9 household waste sites in Suffolk and take any necessary action.**

It was noted that County Cllr Storey has advised that 7 sites may be closed. A petition has been instigated by a MSDC member against the closure. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to SCC Chief Executive advising that WPC is totally opposed to any closure of sites due to the inconvenience to parishioners, the effect on becoming the

greenest county due to extra mileage residents will have to drive, fly tipping and the reduction of recycling.

*Action: the Clerk*

A letter of thanks will be sent to MSDC Chief Executive for the litter collection during the recent very difficult weather conditions.

*Action: the Clerk*

**11. To receive an update on the Parish Council room in Woolpit Institute and take any necessary action.**

The room is nearly ready for occupation. The flooring has been laid and the radiator is about to be fitted. It was agreed that WPC would take over the office from 1 February 2011. The Clerk will inform the Institute Committee.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

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

There are no current issues.

**14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7 February 2011.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....