

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Melvin, Mrs Parker, Mr Hardiman, County Cllr Storey and PC Brown. Mr Lomax joined the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

Public comment: PC Brown gave the Police report. There were 8 crimes recorded between 16 July and 3 September including criminal damage to a dwelling, car and garden furniture, theft of bushes from a garden and theft from a dwelling, handling stolen goods and fraud by false representation. 3 tickets were issued to drivers travelling along Heath road during a speed enforcement check.

County Cllr Storey advised the Cabinet will be meeting on 11 September which will receive the annual report from Suffolk Local Access Forum. Among recommendations in the report are ensuring that SCC budget for rights of way and wider access continues to be sufficient to deliver a viable service. It also has listed a priority of the development of the Definitive Map. Provision of office accommodation in Lowestoft, Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant, Safeguarding Adult Board annual report and the budget outturn for April to July are on the agenda. SCC has set a budget saving of £26.190m for this year.

A special Cabinet meeting has been called for 24 September to consider bids for faster broadband to facilitate a government grant.

Schools in areas where the SOR has taken place have seen gains in SATS results at key stage 2 with up to 19% improvement in some subjects. The newly released figures also show significant key stage 2 gains across the county.

Cllrs asked regarding the new school building to accommodate additional children at Woolpit Primary School, it is likely that two purpose built classrooms will be provided to the front of the building. The problems regarding parking outside the school were noted by SCC Officers and it is hoped something will be done.

District Cllr Melvin spoke of the Community Engagement Project being undertaken by MSDC. He is concerned that it will raise expectations which MSDC will not be able to provide. Mr Melvin has not received a report back from Planning regarding issues at Lawn Farm. A response from officers regarding untidy site in Masons Lane is disappointing suggesting a local solution is found.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Wiley, Mr Smith and Mrs Cook.
2. **To receive declarations of interest.** There were none.
3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 16 July 2012.** The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **Clerk's Report**

Planning report in Woolpit Diary – a request has been received for details of planning applications to be reported in Woolpit Diary. Cllrs agreed to publish the planning application details and MSDC decisions, referring readers to the MSDC planning website for full details.

Playing Field hedges – a copy of an invoice for cutting the mixed hedge behind the Village Hall has been received to release the grant to the Playing Field Committee for 2011. The Clerk has advised that WPC does not pay for this hedge and doesn't think a grant is due for 2011 as negotiations regarding contractors and terms of the grant were not completed until November 2011.

Sustainable Communities Act Consultation – it was agreed that no response would be sent.

Youth shelter – on two recent evenings, part of the roofing felt has been ripped off and thrown around the area in small pieces. John Wiley will be asked to assess the damage.

Action: Mr Wiley

Abbotts Meadow/Cow Fair path – Suffolk Housing Society and Optua have made arrangements to have the shrubs cut back.

Allotments – one has been given back and the Clerk will offer to the next resident on the waiting list.

Junction at Woolpit Green – SCC has advised that priority at the junction will not be altered. It may be possible to slightly widen the road into the island creating more space for vehicles turning right from Rattlesden. The Clerk will contact John Simpson, SCC for a plan of what is proposed because hydrants and poles in the grass could make this difficult. He will also be asked to contact residents with hedges encroaching on the highway to have them cut back. *Action: the Clerk.*

Community Payment – details of the balances at the end June 2012 have been received from MSDC.

Community Speedwatch – is making slow progress. Completed forms are with the police for vetting.

Pavement between Mill Lane and The Plough – complaints regarding the uneven surface have been reported to SCC. Whilst SCC notes it is rougher than it would like, it does not fit their criteria which constitutes a defect.

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

Mrs Brown more Activities for 13-16 year olds in the village required and she will try to think of ideas. **SCC** building proposal for school organisation review plans on display at Woolpit CP School 5-11 September. **MSDC** Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles revision consultation. **HM The Queen** thanks for letter of and programme of events to celebrate Diamond Jubilee. **Dr West** confirming hedge cut back. **Mrs Barker** concerns regarding trees to rear of property in Wades Wood. It is noted as they are privately owned there is nothing that WPC can do. **The following items have been circulated to Councillors:** MSDC consultation on proposed main modification to Mid Suffolk Core Strategy focused review, huge success for textile recycling scheme, community engagement programme, Under One roof August 2012, Community Support and Funding Roadshow 24 October and Town and Parish Council newsletter August; Rural Services Network news weekly news digests July and August and Rural Opportunities bulletin August; SALC LAIS, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, newsletter of the year competition, forthcoming courses, Mid Suffolk South Area Meeting 13 September, NALC warning of dire consequences of council tax reforms; Suffolk ACRE funding newsletter July, Update summer 2012 and Rural Services Review report; SCC temporary closure of Masons Lane for electrical cable laying 13-24 August, inter-village rounders competition and revised bus services in Suffolk; Suffolk Constabulary SNT priorities July and Suffolk Views summer 2012.

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

2009/12 Erection of single storey infill extension (following demolition of existing conservatory). Pera, Masons Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £48.67 litter picking July and Suffolk County Council £186.65 pension payment July were unanimously ratified. Mr K Harknett £55.43 litter picking August, Suffolk County Council £186.65 pension payment August, SPL Print £215.00 Woolpit Diary August/September, Suffolk ACRE Services £1134.58 annual insurance premium, Anglian Water £10.53 allotments water and D E Rooney £58.00 repairs to allotment tap were unanimously approved and cheques issued.

8. **To receive an update on the additional bench for the Pump Garden to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and take any necessary action.**

The metal is being galvanised. There is a slight change to the design as Mr Baker would like the ends to match the existing seat. We would like the bench in situ in 2012.

Action: Mrs Parker

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9. To receive an update into the provision of a skate park and take any necessary action.

A response has been received from Elmswell PC. Whilst Cllrs have considered a skate park it has not been possible to find a suitable piece of land. The Clerk has spoken to those involved in setting up the skate park at Walsham. Over 7 years ago the cost was £50,000 and they were able to get grant funding for some of the initial outlay. The mobile skate park may be available from Babergh DC but again a suitable site would have to be found and would only be available for 4 hour period at a cost of £250.00. After discussion it is clear that the main stumbling block is a suitable site and it is unlikely to change unless an area of land becomes available, possibly through landbid sites. It was agreed that WPC would keep looking for a suitable site but until that becomes available the matter cannot be taken further. It was decided not to hire the mobile skate park because of the lack of a suitable site, the high cost for a short period of time and raising expectations which we cannot carry through.

10. To arrange a working party for the Millennium Garden and take any necessary action.

The weekend 3 and 4 November was agreed. Mr Wiley has arranged for Mr Jackson to look at the site to report on trees and shrubs which should be kept. An item will be put in Woolpit Diary asking for volunteers on these dates.

Action: the Clerk

11. To consider a date for a litter pick and village tidy up and take any necessary action.

This was arranged for 28 October meeting in the car park at 11.00 am. It is also hoped to clean road signs. Mr Melvin will arrange for more litter picks and bags from MSDC.

Action: Mr Melvin

12. To debate updating the Parish Plan or producing a Neighbourhood Plan and take any necessary action.

Mr Wiley and Mr Melvin attended a recent workshop and new planning procedures are likely to take note of Neighbourhood Plans. This item will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

13. To discuss the proposed price increase for printing Woolpit Diary and take any necessary action.

Notification has been received that the price of printing will increase from £215.00 to £269.00 from October/November issue. Cllrs were concerned regarding the short notice and size of the increase. The Clerk will write asking that the current cost is maintained until the December/January issue. The Clerk was asked to get 3 other quotes to ensure good value.

Action: the Clerk

14. To receive an update on parking around the Health Centre and take any necessary action.

Stephen Andrews, MSDC has confirmed that the report has been passed to MSDC Directors.

15. To discuss having wardens for the allotments and take any necessary action.

We have received several complaints from tenants regarding weeds from neighbouring plot holders interfering with their crops and letters have been sent out by the Clerk. Mrs Parker will be a warden possibly with Mrs Cook to conduct spot visits to ensure that the area is maintained in a reasonable condition. They will report back to the Clerk who will send out any letters as necessary. It is appreciated

that this has been a particularly difficult year with weather conditions exacerbating weed growth.

16. To discuss storage of Parish Council legal documents and take any necessary action.

Some documents are with Ashton Graham, Bury St Edmunds and some with George and Co. The Clerk was asked to retrieve the documents from George and Co and also look into costs of a fireproof safe. *Action: the Clerk*

17. To receive a report from the footpath and tree warden.

The sign by The Plough Footpath 4 has not yet been replaced by SCC. All footpaths are OK although some are subject to dog mess and others litter. The Clerk advised that she has contacted SCC regarding overgrown area along FP1.

18. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

The car park has been a little better this week.

19. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1 October 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.58 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....