

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

Present: Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Guyler, Mrs Cook, Mr Melvin, Mrs Parker. Mr Lomax joined the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

Public comment: Mr Wiley advised that the Christmas tree has been put up but there is a lead for the lights to the electricity supply. It was unanimously agreed to urgently purchase 2m of rubber matting to cover the lead for safety reasons. District Cllr Melvin advised that there are strong moves to organise planning enforcement at MSDC. He has been advised that MSDC has discontinued action at the Car Boot site as sales are no longer taking place on Thursdays. An inspection of Lawn Farm issues will take place this week. MSDC has notified him of a report that a new dwelling has been built between Woolpit Wood and Shelland Wood and officers are investigating if there has been any breach of planning rules.

Mr Guyler asked Mr Melvin regarding the recent information regarding council tax update. Mr Melvin will try to get a full explanation before the next meeting.

The Clerk read the Police report. There have been 5 crimes recorded between 5 November and 3 December. 3 crimes of note are theft of pedal cycles from insecure location outside the post office which were later located in a ditch, burglary to a storage shed in Rectory Lane and criminal damage to a gatepost in Masons Lane. The SNT team moves from Elmswell Police Station to Elmswell fire station on 6 December. There has been an increase in insecure properties and vehicles being targeted in other villages. People are reminded to secure all property including sheds and vehicles.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Smith, Mr Hardiman, Mr Jones, County Cllr Storey and Woolpit SNT.

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

3. **To approve minutes of the meetings 5 and 26 November 2012.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **Clerk's Report**

APM Speaker – the Clerk asked Cllrs to consider a suitable speaker for the meeting in April.

Jubilee mugs – we have about 90 mugs left over. It was agreed to present members of the luncheon club with mugs for Christmas. Some will be sent to the Cricket Club for use on match days.

Wood Road – large HGV lorries are using the route early in the morning. The Clerk has contact SCC to see when new signage will be installed.

Lock up – Mr Pledger from Yorkshire is investigating all the lock ups in the country and has advised that there are only 200 left in the country and that most are listed buildings. The Clerk will contact MSDC Conservation Officer to find out if our lock up is listed or arrange for it to be along with the fire engine shed.

Legal documents – the deeds to the Old Jail and Ladyswell have been deposited with Ashton KCJ, Bury St Edmunds who already hold the deeds to the playing field.

Noticeboards – Suitable materials still being investigated.

Empty commercial building, Old Stowmarket Road – the owner hasn't been forthcoming with any information.

Dog fouling – MSDC will write to the perpetrator but if this does not resolve the situation, we need to advise the times the dogs are walked so MSDC can send a patrol.

Woolpit Diary – the editor's contact has been signed and timings complied to for the December/January issue.

5. To receive correspondence/communications and deal with any matters. MSDC Dog & litter bin emptying service charges are to increase by £5 per bin per annum. **The following items were circulated to Cllrs:** SCC winter gritting workshop, Ash dieback update, Community Engagement seminar 21 November, Suffolk Fire & rescue Service stakeholder consultation. Rural Services Network news digest 12, 19 & 26 November + 3 December. Mid Suffolk CAB survey. MSDC Community Support and Funding Roadshow 28 November, Under One Roof newsletter November, Christmas waste and recycling collections, Suffolk Recycling Forum website information, letter from Derrick Haley re interim leader, Affordable Housing Newsletter, Stowmarket Area Action Plan main modifications consultation letter. Suffolk ACRE funding newsletter November, Resource Mapping, Fit Villages funding. SALC Mid Suffolk South area meeting 29 November, LAIS1345 Local Council Precepts, LAIS 1346 Transparency Code, Council Tax update, Terms & Conditions of Employment briefing..

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

3378/12 Erection of single storey building as a base for meals on wheels service. Woolpit Business Park, Windmill Avenue - support

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £48.67 litter picking November; Suffolk County Council £186.65 November pension payment; SPL Print £269.00 December/January Woolpit Diary; Equity pc £108.00 editing December/January Woolpit Diary; SLCC £145.00 subscription 2013 and Mr Wiley reimbursement for light bulbs village pump, marker paint Millennium Garden and new lock for parish room. All accounts were 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 bench has been completed and will be put in situ once the Christmas tree comes down. The old bench has been regalvanised and painted to match the new bench. A date for the installation and unveiling ceremony will be decided at the January meeting for publicising in the February/March Diary.

9. To discuss the working party at the Millennium Garden 8 & 9 December and take any necessary action.

Due to the wet ground this is unlikely to take place. The contingency date is 12 & 13 January 2013.

10. To discuss a request from MSDC for an early termination of the lease on the car park and take any necessary action.

Before considering further Councillors would like to know from MSDC the average maintenance costs for the last 10 years.

Action: the Clerk

11. To discuss surface water at the junction of Steeles Road and Heath Road and take any necessary action.

The drain is a soakaway rather than piping. Recent repairs have made things better but there is still standing water after very heavy rain. Mr Wiley contacted John Simpson SCC regarding surface water problems around the school. John Simpson advised that Highways Department has not been contacted by the LEA regarding the likely increase in traffic with the SOR. As the water issue at the junction is only occasional, this matter will be left until Highways and the LEA have had discussions.

12. To receive an update on the Steeles Road redevelopment and take any necessary action.

The corner of the road has been patched. The land has still to be transferred to Orbit Housing before the construction work of Phases 4 & 5 can commence. It is hoped

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this will be before the year end. Some of the properties owned by Flagship are causing concern. MSDC does still have a duty of care as they were MSDC tenants.

13. To receive a report from the meeting between District Cllr Melvin, Mr Wiley with MSDC to discuss parking around the Health Centre and take any necessary action.

A meeting was held with David McHardy and Mike Evans. Before matters can be taken further a Transport Plan for the area needs to be carried out and the intentions of the PCT for facilities and operations at the Health Centre need to be known. Further issues will be caused with the increased number of cars due to the SOR. The partners at the Health Centre are holding a meeting shortly to consider these matters and look into employing a land agent.

14. To receive an update on the Community Speedwatch Scheme and take any necessary action.

Mr Rooney has decided not to continue as Deputy-Coordinator. Only two of the sites put forward by the volunteers for checking have been approved by the police as the speed guns used for the scheme do not work where there are overhead cables. A meeting is to be arranged in January for the volunteers to get together. It was agreed not to purchase equipment until after the meeting to ensure that the scheme is still viable. The Clerk will ask the CSW Scheme to invite PC Brown and WPC representatives to the meeting in January.

Action: the Clerk

15. To consider a request from Woolpit Institute Committee for financial assistance to replace chairs.

The institute proposes to purchase 80 new chairs at a total cost of £2351.00. They have promises of grants and donations totalling £1838.50. It was proposed, seconded and carried to make a grant of £100.00.

16. To receive a report on the allotments

Renewals of 2012/13 have been completed. We have had 2 plots returned. 12b has been allocated and plot 24a needs to be looked at for drainage before re-letting. Confirmation has been received from David Mitchell MSDC that work can be carried out on the oak tree. The Clerk will arrange for three quotes for work to the trees and hedging. An increase in the rents will be considered at the January meeting.

Action: Mr Wiley, Mr Smith, the Clerk

17. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Nothing to report.

18. To receive a report from the Footpath and Tree Warden.

All paths were walked 25 November. All were in reasonable condition. The sign at the end of path 4 near The Plough has still not been replaced and the sign near Grange Farm is leaning against the hedge and needs reinstating. No instances of ash tree die back were noticed.

Action: the Clerk

19. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7 January 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....