

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

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman) Mrs Cook, Mr Jones, Mr Guyler, Mr Melvin, Mr Hardiman, Mrs Parker, Mr Smith and 2 members of the public.

**Public comment:** Mrs Wortley has emailed The Co-op to support them if they wish to take over the vacant commercial plot now Vindis garage has closed. They have replied that they are in discussions with the owner. WPC shares her views but has no power to do anything other than comment if there is a change of use.

Mr White would like the naming of the road from Rectory Lane to Heath Road to be The Street and a sign erected at the junction to help alleviate delivery problems. It is currently known as Old Stowmarket Road. Mr Melvin will consult MSDC Building Control and the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting. *Action Mr Melvin*  
Mr Hardiman advised of parking congestion Mitre Close and it has been suggested that part of the grass area be made a lay-by. The Clerk will write to SCC to see if this can be achieved. *Action: the Clerk*

District Cllr Melvin advised that MSDC is in turmoil as recruiting at Level 4 is underway. Currently between MSDC & Babergh there are 63 employees looking for the 38 posts. Council tax for 2012/13 has been frozen and the Government grant accepted.

The Clerk read the Police report. There were three crimes reported between 6 February and 3 March. The one of note was an assault with a male being charged. Information warning of counterfeit £20 notes, help to trace a lorry driver who damaged a property in Needham Market and the next Mid Suffolk South Neighbourhood Watch meeting 19 April at Elmswell Fire Station was received. County Cllr Storey advised that SCC has agreed to freeze council tax for the second consecutive year and are on track to make savings of £42.5 million during 2011/12. The number of staff within Adult and Community Services is being reduced from 3557 to 895 as the staff are moving to newly created or other existing organisations which will continue to provide services for the council. The new office building, Landmark House, will be shared by SCC and the Police with staff moving in from July. This project will cut down on office accommodation across Suffolk and save SCC/Suffolk Constabulary £500,000 per year. SCC is working hard to transfer the countryside sites to local community groups, district/borough councils and parish councils by 31 March 2012. SCC is working to make it easier for people to arrange street parties in celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee with the application process for road closures being simplified. The Cabinet meeting 20 March will be discussing the future of back office working after the CSD contract ends April 2014, arrangements for admission to school from 2013/14. The Clerk detailed the dismal service now received via CSD in that they will only take details and give a reference number on each issue. She advised that there must be a different system for PCs so that we can all work together and not have MSDC and SCC putting obstacles in the way. One possibility is to issue clerks with the name, position and phone numbers of officers. Mr Melvin advised that he has already spoken to CEO of MSDC on this matter.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Lomax and the Police.

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

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 6 February 2012.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**White Lines** – the junction of Briar Hill with The Street have been repainted.

**Flint Wall, The Street** – the ivy has now been removed.

**Internal Audit** – Mrs Cook conducted an audit on 11 January and all was in good order.

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

**Woolpit Playing Field Committee** has agreed specification for hedge and tree work and secured a contractor. The Clerk will ask them to advise when the work has been carried out then she will raise the cheque for a grant of £225.00 for 2012. **Smith of Derby** offering a three year contract for the maintenance of the church clock at a cost of £151 rather than £163 per year. The Clerk will accept the offer. **Sir Robert Gardiner's Almshouse Trust** requesting that WPC submit a planning application for the reconstruction of the listed boundary wall damaged by a mains water leak. Elmswell PC has also been asked. Cllrs feel it is more appropriate that EPC submit the application as the property is in Elmswell but are willing to support if EPC is not prepared to do so. **SCC** Healthwatch Consultation. Cllrs do not wish to complete. **SALC** Neighbourhood Planning Training Wednesday 21 March Mr Melvin will attend. **SALC** internal audit services. **SALC** AGM questionnaire. **SCC** information on street lighting maintenance and energy costs 2012/13. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** Clerks & Councils Direct March; BDO audit briefing winter 2012; Suffolk ACRE Update winter 2012; Jubilee Steering Group minutes of meeting 21 February; Suffolk Sport fit villages information; Babergh/MSDC consultation with external partners regarding next stage of integrated staffing structure; SALC courses and Mid Suffolk South Area meeting 1 March; SCC Community Compositing Seminar 25 March; SCC response from the Under Secretary of State for Transport regarding trunk road works; MSDC litter picks 2012.

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

**0352/12** Conversion of garage and store into guest accommodation and house office. White House, The Street – support with comment that the building should be subservient to the main dwelling and that the Tree Officer should take an interest in the oak tree in close proximity.

**0627/12** Reduce canopy of Walnut Tree (T1 on plan) by 30%. Burbank, Heath Road – support

**3838/11 & 3839/11** Conversion of existing substandard garage to provide wet shower room and utility area by partial removal of side wall of garage and rebuild wall. Mullions, The Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**4339/11** Erection of single storey front extension including creation of accommodation within roof space. Amberlee, The Heath. MSDC decision – permission granted.

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

Mr K Harknett £39.21 litter picking February; Suffolk County Council £181.10 pension payment February; Equity pc £49.74 update of security software and 12 month update license; SPL Print £215.00 Feb/March Diary; Suffolk County Council £3581.14 street lighting April 11-March 12; Glasdon UK Ltd £53.24 litter bin and Suffolk ACRE Ltd £25.00 subscription 2012/12. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

**8. To receive an update regarding a safe area for horses along Heath Road, consider the options put forward and take any necessary action.**

John Simpson, SCC is happy for an informal local agreement for horse riders to use the land beside the tarmac path and Mr Wiley has drafted some rules to discuss with horse riders on 8 March.

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

Additional mugs will be available for sale to residents of the parish. An item will be published in April/May Diary to say what is happening on the day. We should hear shortly if the street closure has been approved. It is likely that there will be a charge

450

involved for this. £600 in donations has been banked to date and other businesses have offered use of equipment free of charge. There is a shortfall of tables available at the moment.

**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 Cook produced several designs for Cllrs to peruse. Mrs Parker will take the designs to Mr G Baker to see which ones he can make before a final decision on the design is taken.

*Action: Mrs Parker*

**11. To receive an update on a Community Speedwatch scheme in the parish and take any necessary action.**

Mrs Brown and Mr Rooney have volunteered to be Co-ordinator so the Clerk has left it to them to decide who is Co-ordinator and Deputy. A copy of the Police pack has been provided to both of them to take the scheme forward. The Clerk will write to Cllr Storey requesting a grant from her Locality Budget to help towards the cost of the camera. The Clerk was asked to get names of Co-ordinators of other local groups to forward to Mrs Brown and Mr Rooney to help them with advice.

*Action: the Clerk*

**12. To discuss the distribution of Woolpit Diary and take any necessary action.**

Mrs Martin wishes to be relieved of the task. Mr Wiley will ask a possible replacement if she will take over. If not the Clerk will sort and ask distributors to collect from the office.

*Action: Mr Wiley*

**13. To discuss the vacant commercial plot at the junction of Heath Road and Old Stowmarket Road and take any necessary action.**

A letter will be sent to The Co-op advising that WPC would support their move into the vacant plot.

*Action: the Clerk*

**14. To debate untidy sites within the parish and take any necessary action.**

There are a few areas in the Conservation Area causing concern. Mr Melvin will talk to MSDC Officers to see what can be done as it is understood that MSDC has powers to ensure the landowners clear their area.

*Action: Mr Melvin*

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

Landowners have met with representatives of the Health Centre and discussed various options for the land behind the Health Centre. Mr Melvin is to make enquiries with MSDC Strategic Planners whether the land bid can be dealt with in isolation.

*Action: Mr Melvin*

**16. To receive an update on intelligent Street Lighting implementation and take any necessary action.**

Work will commence week commencing 9 April. Mr Guyler has prepared an entry explaining what is happening in the April/May Diary. Mr Guyler had a meeting with Richard Webster, SCC on 20 February. SCC and Carillion are in discussions again with UK Networks and Ofgem into the possibility of Carillion workers being authorised to work within G39 limits. SCC is making some adjustments to the light on the Museum wall to remove G39 issues.

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

MSDC Cllrs are vigorously urging officers to take urgent action to get the scheme back on track and sort out the remaining existing sheltered housing. Ownership of the land is a major factor in the speed of this matter being resolved.

**18. To receive a report from the Litter Picker and Footpath Warden.**

The Litter Picker is away in March and therefore litter may become more noticeable. All footpaths were walked 25/26 February and all are in satisfactory condition and notices visible.

**19. Date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting – Monday 21 May 2012.** Noted.

If it is necessary to have a planning meeting in April, this will be prior to the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 April.

The meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....