

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

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Jones, Mr Melvin, Mr Guyler, Mr Hardiman, Mr Smith, Mr Lomax and 1 member of the public.

**Public comment:** The Clerk read the report from County Cllr Storey. This will be a splendid year with plenty to celebrate with the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. With many villages planning events I see no reason why we should not use Locality Funding towards them but only if necessary to make up any shortfalls. All authorities are working together to ensure that no bureaucracy gets in the way to spoil the day. This is a quiet month and I will be taking the Budget report to Cabinet on 24 January and presenting the proposals to save £27m in this coming year. This is on top of the £42m saved in the current year. The report will give details of the savings proposed for each of the directorates but no area has been left unscathed.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Parker and County Councillor Storey.

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

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 5 December 2011.** The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. Clerk's Report

**Horses along Heath Road** – The Clerk and Chairman are to meet SCC Rights of Way and Highways Officers to discuss the issue on 24 January in the hope that some provision for horses can be made beside part of the combined footpath/cycle path.

**Flint Wall** – The Clerk and Chairman are meeting with MSDC Conservation Officer to discuss the condition of the wall on 11 January.

**P C Swain** – has been transferred to Ipswich and Insp Pepper is actively seeking a replacement in the New Year.

**Quotes for work under £1000.00** – the Clerk has contacted SALC regarding the difficulty being experienced in obtaining 3 quotes for small jobs. Standing Orders makes it clear that the RFO shall strive to get three quotes therefore we must continue to do so.

**Developer contributions** – Robyn Rake, MSDC has advised that she is unable to email the spreadsheet due to the large size but will extract relevant information and email it to WPC. It was agreed that at the end of June and December each year would be sufficient.

**Phone line costs** – BT has advised that the original quote was for a regular line and not a feature line which we have.

**Intelligent streetlighting** – Richard Webster SCC, has advised there is a cost saving of £22 per unit if we have PC lights changed at the same time as SCC, there is a financial benefit carrying out G39 modifications at the same time, SCC need to be contacted when we want the 2 poles near the Steeles Road redevelopment removed and we need to put it in writing to SCC which lights we want to remain on all night. The Clerk was asked to get this information in writing. *Action: the Clerk*

**Conservation Area Review** – Patrick Taylor, MSDC needs to consult on the review and therefore it was agreed to have the presentation and consultation at the beginning of the Annual Parish meeting 16 April 2012.

**Grass cutting** – it was agreed to instruct Eastern Facilities Management Solutions (the company formed by SCC to carry out grounds services) to cut the grass at the sports and recreation fields for 2012.

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

**Suffolk ACRE Community Buying Ltd** Oil buying syndicate information will be published in the Diary; **MSDC** Countryside Activities and Thornham Walks Jan/Feb; **Highways Agency** response to our letter regarding recent repair work on A14. They have recently completed investigations at all Important Areas with First Priority Locations which includes an area near Woolpit, to identify what noise mitigation measures should be installed to address these issues by 2020/21. The outcome of the investigation near Woolpit is that resurfacing with low noise materials, when resurfacing is required, is the most appropriate action. A report will be sent to MSDC for consultation in spring 2012 and the Clerk was asked to contact MSDC for a copy when received. *Action: the Clerk* **Flagship** two letters of response to our letter regarding the redevelopment of Steeles Road. It is noted that the resident experiencing difficulties with noise has been moved to another property in the development. Due to radical changes to Government funding of affordable housing, Flagship will not be able to complete phase 4 & 5. They are in discussion with their contractor as to how the development will be left when phase 3 is completed which may involve the demolition of the remaining properties. Once discussions with the contractor and MSDC have been completed Flagship will advise WPC about when and how the redevelopment of the site will be completed. Mr Melvin and Mr Wiley attended a meeting on Unity Housing where the Steeles Road issue was raised and MSDC is likely to look for another developer to complete the scheme. Mr Melvin advised that an agreement will be drawn up with Flagship regarding street lights, drainage, roads etc and then the land allocated for phases 4 & 5 is likely to be handed back to MSDC. A letter will be sent to the Chief Executive MSDC asking that to avoid looting of metal and squatting, that the remainder of the former sheltered housing and meeting room are disconnected from utilities, demolished and the area fenced off and that as a stakeholder WPC be kept fully informed on any developments. *Action: the Clerk.*

**The following items were circulated to Cllrs:** Clerks & Councils Direct January 2012; Mid Suffolk Discovery Project newsletter winter 2011/12; John Peel Centre Dec 2011-Mar 2012; The Suffolk Foundation annual review 2010/11; Suffolk View winter 2011; MSDC Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11; Suffolk Constabulary incidents involving dropped objects from bridges along A14 & A12; SALC Localism Act 2011 information sheet; MSDC winter gritting workshop presentation documents.

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

**4065/11** Work to convert existing garage to form annexe. Lawn Cottage, Warren Lane – support with comment that the annexe must be subservient to the main dwelling.

**4105/11** Internal alterations and change to fenestration. Lawn Cottage, Warren Lane – support.

**4339/11** Erection of single storey rear extension including creation of accommodation within the roof space. Amberlee, The Heath. From the documentation it is clear that this is a front extension and not rear as stated by MSDC – support.

## 7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £43.26 litter picking December; Suffolk County Council £181.10 December pension payment; Woolpit institute £260.00 PC room rent February-April; SPL Print £215.00 Woolpit Diary December/January; Woolpit Nurseries £100.00 Christmas tree; Suffolk County Council £1700.72 grass cutting of the sports field and recreation ground 2011; Mrs P Fuller £124.48 expenses October-December and HM

**8. To discuss and set the precept for 2012/13.**

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2011/12 and current reserves. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £27,000.00 for 2012/2013. With the continued difficult economic climate, Cllrs realise it is important to freeze the Parish Council proportion of council tax to residents. The form was duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk. Full details of the precept are shown under folio 444.

**9. To receive an update on the allotments and take any necessary action.**

All allotments have been rented for 2011/12. One tenant has sadly died since payment of renewal fee was received. Mr Guylor will contact the family to see how they wish to proceed for the year.

*Action: Mr Guylor*

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

Nothing to report. A further meeting will take place 14 January.

**11. 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 Parker has contacted various local craftsmen and most need an idea of how much finance is available. It was unanimously agreed a maximum of £1500.00 is available for the project. A steering group of Mrs Parker, Mrs Cook and Mr Jones will come up with a recommendation on a design for the next meeting.

**12. To discuss setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme in the parish and take any necessary action.**

An information pack from Suffolk Constabulary has been received. At least 6 volunteers, working in groups of 3 are required to take the matter further, including a single point of contact. A further item requesting volunteers will be put in Woolpit Diary. Once we have enough volunteers to take the scheme further, training will be arranged which takes about 1.5 hours. Sites where checks can take place need to be identified and checked for suitability by Bury Traffic police. The Clerk will write to those who have recently expressed an interest in the scheme to ensure they are willing to volunteer.

*Action: the Clerk*

**13. To discuss Woolpit Diary and take any necessary action.**

Concerns have been expressed to Cllrs that the December/January issue was late. Mr Wiley and Mrs Fuller will meet with the editor to find a way forward.

*Action: Mr Wiley/The Clerk.*

**14. To consider Suffolk Country Council A New Heritage Organisation for Suffolk consultation and take any necessary action.**

The consultation document was more suited for individuals to complete and therefore no response will be made.

**15. To receive a report on a meeting at MSDC regarding the options available to redevelop Unity housing in the parish.**

Repair and upgrade of the properties is not an option and therefore redevelopment will take place. It is likely that Woolpit will be the first village with Unity Housing to be redeveloped. Indicative plans have been drawn up and were shown to those in attendance. It is noted that there are 2 owner occupiers.

**16. To receive an update on village centre Highways matters.**

Mr Wiley and Mr Lomax met with John Simpson SCC. Various issues were discussed. Further works to improve drainage near the junction with Norton Road are due to take place shortly; bollards have been replaced opposite the Co-op but reflectors remain to be fitted; a plan to build out/kerb and erect bollard at entrance of Rags Lane will be forthcoming with costings. There may be a need for some funding

443

to come from WPC/County Cllr budget; white lines renewal should take place in the spring/summer; 30mph repeater signs along Heath road will be checked; SID has been requested for use along The Street/Bury Road to discourage speeding vehicles and drainage issues at Rags Lane will be added to a future works bid list.

**17. To discuss a time limit waiting restriction within the village centre and take any necessary action.** SCC is looking into the matter.

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

**19. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 6 February 2012.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.33 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....