

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
2 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mr Wiley (Chairman), Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Mrs Parker, Mr Hardiman, Mr Jones, Mr Guyler and Mr Lomax.

**Public comment:** Mr Guyler expressed concern regarding the state of the children's play area as it is full of thistles. The Playing Field Committee are in the process of repairing the broken palings around the area before spraying and laying more bark. The Clerk read the report from County Cllr Storey. The Cabinet will meet on 10 September and discuss primary school places in the West; quarterly budget report for Revenue budget and Capital Spending 2013/14; Future back office requirements, transport arrangements for children in Rattlesden and Woolpit area in view of the Thurston catchment change from September 2014 as this has been referred back by the Scrutiny Committee; Inter Authority Waste Partnership. The Council meeting 19 September will look at the Annual Public Health report and the Economic Development delivery plan for Suffolk. I was pleased to see the Police bike in use at Elmswell Fire and Police fair on 18 August. I attended the Beyton Middle School careers fair and spoke to several young people about potential careers in politics. This month Cllr Storey will be chairing two Scrutiny Committees – the first is a call-in of the Cabinet decision regarding the St Edmundsbury Vision 2031 document and the other is the Education Scrutiny Committee where they will be discussing progress being made on 'Raising the Bar'. On 26 September the Scrutiny Committee will be discussing Broadband in Suffolk – looking at the progress locally and how 'superfast' is being rolled out across the county.

The Clerk read the Police report. There were 12 crimes reported between 15 July and 2 September. 5 of note are 3 theft other all carried out on the same night in Heath Road, Steeles Road and Roman Fields. Criminal damage at the primary school building site the same night as the thefts and theft from a motor vehicle which was parked in Drinkstone Road which had the window smashed and a handbag on show stolen. Speed checks have been carried out near the school and 3 Fixed Penalty Notices issued and 2 speed awareness courses offered. Further checks along The Heath resulted in another 3 vehicles being caught speeding. The Police bike has arrived and has been well received by residents.

District Cllr Melvin advised that planning and licensing meetings have taken place in August and other planning issues are being pursued. Costcutter have been given a month, which has now expired, to put in retrospective applications. The Planning Officer is now discussing with MSDC legal department the next step regarding the house built in the wood.

It was agreed to write to MSDC CEO Charlie Adan regarding the lack of response from officers on various issues.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Smith, County Cllr Storey and the Police.

2. **To receive declarations of interest**

Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest in planning applications 2241/13 and 2228/13 plus agenda item 15 and duly signed the interest book.

3. **To approve minutes of the meetings 15 July 2013.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **Clerk's Report**

**Good Councillor Guide** – a new edition is available to purchase from SALC

**G39 street lights** – SCC has confirmed that it has been written into the new maintenance contract that G39 units will be repaired in the same timescale as other units from 1 October 2013.

**Suffolk Village physical activity survey** – it was agreed not to complete.

**507**

**Revised bus services** – the Galloway's 384 and 385 service will have a revised timetable from 2 September.

**Planning workshop** – the Clerk is attending this on 9 September.

**Parking in Abbots Meadow turning circle** – Orbit Housing has confirmed they will ask staff and visitors to park in their curtilage or further along the road to keep the turning circle clear.

**Millennium Garden** – letters have been sent to get quotes for the work required.

**Woolpit Green junction** – residents are corresponding with SCC regarding their safety concerns at the junction.

**Activities Day 23 August** – This was well supported by children between 7-14 years old. There was lots of fun to be had on kangoo boots, the skate park and in the cricket nets. The organisers advised that the children were some of the best behaved they had experienced at these events. Mrs Parker was thanked for organising the event.

**Hedge in Mill Lane** – this has not been cut and the Clerk will contact Suffolk Housing Society again.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

**Suffolk Legal** copy of notice of public path extinguishment order for parts of Footpath 4. This is to extinguish the sections of the footpath that are recorded through residential properties following the redevelopment of Steeles Road. **SALC** newsletter of the year 2013. **ssafa** lifelong support for our Forces and their families information. **The following items were circulated to Cllrs** : SALC The Local Councillor issue 2 2013, Environment Agency on improving the water environment in your area, Parish Polls reform, forthcoming courses, LAIS 1355 Spending Review LAIS 1356 Rewiring Public Services LAIS 1357 Renewable Energy Planning guidance, electric blanket campaign 2013 and e-bulletin 2, 16 & 30 August. NALC connecting power to local people. Orwell Housing 3 bed shared ownership bungalow in Felsham. Community Action Suffolk e-news 17, 24, 31 July 7, 14, 21 & 29 August, training courses September & October, funding newsletter August. MSDC Affordable Housing newsletter June, Town and Parish Council newsletter July. Rural Services Network Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty July, transport August, Broadband, evidence about your local area for Neighbourhood Plans, news digest 22 & 29 July, 5, 13, 19 & 27 August + 2 September. Rural Opportunities bulletin. Spotlight on the heart of the village, spotlight on young people, free seminar what makes a community sustainable. Fit Villages round up July. Suffolk Villages physical activity survey. Information received from K & M Lighting Services, came&company, Sovereign play equipment.

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

Mrs Parker left the meeting at 8.03 p.m.

**2241/13** Erection of safety fence 8m high x 70m in length between Cricket Club and Tennis Club. Woolpit Cricket Club, Rectory Lane – support.

**2228/13** The demolition of 66-80 Steeles Road, Woolpit and the erection of 25 affordable homes including associated external works and alterations to the highway. Land Steeles Road – support with comments there needs to be a hammer head or turning circle by plot 18 and the ditch along the west side of footpath behind plots 3-11 needs to be piped and connected to the existing east/west ditch which will be under the road in front of plots 11-18.

**1884/13** Proposed 3 new dwellings and 1 new access (following demolition of store building). Land adjacent to Brookfields, Heath Road – object. Overdevelopment of the site, detrimental to the character and appearance of the streetscene, Brookfields is a bungalow, plot 1 of proposed development a two storey dwelling and plots 2/3 bungalows. Any development should maintain the roof level and building line. An

additional entrance should not be established from Heath Road. The site is situated on a highly visible entrance to the village and adjacent to the Conservation Area and is more suitable for 2 bungalows.

508

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 8.18 p.m.

**2270/13** Works to Crab Apple and Norway Spruce. Old Crown, The Street – support.

**2280/13** Change of use of land and creation of 20m x 40m outdoor riding arena.

Woolpit Nurseries, Old Stowmarket Road – support.

**2302/13** Erection of a two storey extension. 10 Horsefair – support.

**2115/13** Removal of a semi mature Walnut Tree. Glebe Farmhouse, Church Street – MSDC does not wish to object.

**2257/13** Land at Lawn Farm. Screening opinion for proposed 5mw solar Farm.

MSDC decision – Environmental Impact Assessment required.

**3815/13** Erection of extension to poly tunnel. Woolpit Nurseries, Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

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

Ratification of payments to Mr Harknett £36.75 litter picking July and Suffolk County Council £192.20 August pension payment were unanimously approved. Equity pc £178.15 edit August/September Woolpit Diary and ink cartridges, BDO LLP £240.00 audit of accounts to March 2013, SPL Print £307.00 Woolpit Diary August/September, Anglian Water £60.25 allotments 11/5/13-7/8/13, Mr Harknett £60.25 litter picking August and Suffolk County Council September pension payment. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

#### **8. To approve the quote for the replacement of street light unit 38 Briar Hill and take any necessary action.**

A quote of £996.38 + VAT has been received from SCC; £521.41 for the installation of the column, bracket arm, lantern and removal of the old unit and £474.97 for the transfer of electricity supply. Further information is required regarding the costs of transferring the supply and the colour of the light. We could go for an LED lantern and the clerk will ask for the difference in maintenance and energy costs between current lantern and LED.

*Action: the Clerk*

#### **9. To confirm agreement of the 1% salary increase for the Clerk under the NJC salary scale.**

As the Clerk is contracted under the NJC salary scale, the increase which is back dated to 1 April 2013 was unanimously confirmed.

#### **10. To approve and accept the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2013 following receipt of BDO audit opinion.**

There were no matters which came to the auditor's attention requiring the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report. Cllrs unanimously approved and accepted the Annual Return.

#### **11. To consider gating the car park and take any necessary action.**

The Police advise that most car parks in Bury and Elmswell are gated and locked at night. The Clerk was asked to write to MSDC to see if they will consider gating Woolpit car park as there are lots of problems there at night including littering which we clear up which is a considerable undertaking.

*Action: the Clerk*

#### **12. To discuss a commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of World War one and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk will contact Drinkstone RBL to see if there will be any local commemoration that we can support. Mr Wiley advised that Woolpit Museum may have a display regarding World War I during 2014.

*Action: the Clerk*

#### **13. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action.**

Another plot holder may go down to half a plot from November. As plot 24 will no longer be rented out that area will need to be reviewed. It was thought that the fence could be brought in, the area cleared of any rubbish, weed trees removed and mowed.

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

Work has recommenced and the site supervisor has advised that building will be completed by the end of November. Before they leave the site the road will be relaid.

Mrs Parker left the meeting at 9.14 p.m.

**15. To discuss the redevelopment of the unity housing in Steeles Road and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk was asked to write to Julie Abbey-Taylor, MSDC Housing to ensure that those eligible residents in both tranche 1 and 2 have been considered to be rehoused in the bungalows being constructed in phases 4 & 5 of the original redevelopment of Steeles Road following the agreed criteria. *Action: the Clerk.*

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 9.16 p.m.

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

Debbie Brown is looking for a successor to take over as co-ordinator although she will still be involved in carrying out checks. The Clerk has thanked her for getting the scheme up and running and asked her to keep us informed.

**17. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.**

Things have been bad lately with the litter picker collecting 2 bags of rubbish from the field. The mess in the car park reflects badly on the village and he has had several visitors comment on it.

**18. To receive a report from the Footpath Warden.**

All the paths were walked during 30 & 31 August and all are in reasonable condition with brambles being cut back along footpath 4.

**19. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 7 October 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

Mr Hardiman advised that the Village Hall will be holding a fabric sale 4 October. The committee are having difficulty renting the hall as there is no Wi-Fi and are looking into installing a basic system. The Secretary has resigned and the committee are looking for someone to take over. Mr Guyler asked if the Village Hall AGM was advertised to the general public in 2013, Mr Hardiman will find out.

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....