

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

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

Public comment: Mr Guyler has spoken with SCC regarding G39 street light issues which still have not been resolved. SCC has advised that as of 1 April 2013 the contract has been re-let to Balfour Beatty who will be obliged to carry out G39 work. District Cllr Melvin advised that as a member of MSDC Scrutiny Panel they are looking at the amount, conduct and use of sect 106 payments. Some funds are held by SCC and some by MSDC with no single point of ownership and the Scrutiny Panel has requested that someone is put in overall charge. A sizable sum has come from the Steeles Road redevelopment. MSDC Planning Department are considering taking enforcement proceedings for a property erected adjacent to Shelland Wood. A scaffolding company at Lawn Farm are being pursued for working outside their permitted working hours. A planning application is awaited for kennels at Lawn Farm.

County Cllr Storey advised SCC is working on the budget but there will be no increase on Council Tax for 2013/14. £35m and £42m will need to be found by SCC over the next two years. Balfour Beatty has been awarded the contract for SCC Highways work but they must maintain the same office structure so that Cllrs and Clerks know who to contact.

P.C. Brown advised that there has been one crime reported between 3 December and 7 January, criminal damage to a vehicle. Sites along The Heath have been targeted for speeding which has been successful. 11 Drivers have been stopped and spoken to with 7 fixed penalty notice tickets being issued. There has been a rise in the number of burglaries in recent weeks across the area. Thieves are targeting insecure properties and vehicles and the Police advice is to make sure items are secured and property is locked even when at home.

It was agreed to bring forward item 14 to discuss with P.C. Brown.

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

Only two sites have been agreed as safe sites and no overhead cables. The Police will carry out speed checks at other sites in the parish. All the volunteers have been vetted and have confirmed that checks will be carried out on a weekly basis. It was agreed to order the equipment required.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Lomax.

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

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 3 December 2012.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Report

APM speaker – the CSW Co-ordinator will be asked to talk about the training and how the scheme is running.

Lock Up and fire engine shed – are not currently listed. The Clerk will contact English Heritage to see what the criteria are for a building to be listed.

Dog fouling – no further incidents have been reported to the Clerk but the situation will continue to be monitored.

Wood Road HGV signage – the Clerk will contact SCC again.

Missing signpost – the signpost at Old Stowmarket Road/Elmswell Road has been reported.

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

LivewellSuffolk quit smoking poster. **The following items were circulated to Cllrs:** Suffolk Hedgerow Survey 1998-2012; EFMS Insight December 2012; SALC The Local Councillor issue 4 2012; Rural Network Services Rural opportunities bulletin, weekly news digest 10, 17, 24, 31 December and 7 January, Call for evidence – the future of the LEADER programme; SALC forthcoming courses, Sustainable Communities Act, Precept Referendums, NALC ebulletin 20 December and Local Council Tax Support funding; SCC Community Resilience newsletter issue 1; Suffolk ACRE funding update; MSDC Under one Roof issue 11 and 2013/14 indicative taxbase, Thurston Community College representative for Community forum meetings; Stowmarket Golf Centre Village Golf spring 2012; Jane Storey Chancellors Autumn statement and December report.

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

3547/12 Erection of single storey extension to rear of property and first floor extension over existing adjoining garage. 56 Briar Hill – support.

0946/11 and 1253/11 Continued use and retention and completion of works to convert garage/store to annex. Street House, The Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

0930/11 Change of use of land at Elmswell Road, Woolpit for parking of HGV vehicles and trailers only for a temporary period of three years. Land between Goldstar and O C Jewers, Elmswell Road. MSDC decision – permission refused. Constitutes a piecemeal extension to the current haulage and container operation and would have an adverse impact on local and residential amenities and the character of the countryside.

3445/12 Works to lime tree. Danesfield, Drinkstone Road. MSDC does not wish to object.

3575/10 Erection of 2 detached two-storey dwellings and creation of new vehicular access. The Hollies, Green Road. MSDC has agreed matters regarding the visibility splay and types of bricks and tiles to be used.

EN12/00091 Erection of shed. 6 White Elm Road. As the shed has been dismantled, MSDC has closed the enforcement case.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £48.67 litter picking December; Suffolk County Council £186.65 pension payment December; HM Revenue & Customs £108.58 Tax & N/I October-December; Woolpit Nurseries Ltd £100.00 Christmas tree; Woolpit Institute £100.00 grant for new chairs and Mrs P Fuller expense October-December. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

8. To discuss and set the precept for 2013/14.

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2012/13 and current reserves. As we have given the mower to New Woods for Woolpit, it was agreed that the reserve of £2800.00 for a replacement mower can go back into general reserves. After much discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £27,000.00 for 2013/2014. With the continued difficult economic climate, Cllrs realise it is important to freeze the Parish Council precept. The form was duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk. Full details of the precept are shown under folio 485.

9. To arrange an unveiling ceremony of the additional bench for the Pump Garden to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and take any necessary action.

This will take place on Saturday 16 February at 11.00 a.m. by Margaret Cook who designed the bench Glyn Baker who has constructed the bench. The local press will be invited to attend. *Action: the Clerk*

10. To discuss the working party at the Millennium Garden 12 & 13 January and take any necessary action.

This has been postponed until the spring when it is hoped we will have dryer weather.

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

Cllrs have agreed that they do not wish to commence with the termination of the lease. The Clerk will advise MSDC. *Action: the Clerk*

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

Orbit Housing should be in control of the site shortly. Steeles Road has been patched but the street lights have still to be sorted. There are a lot of loose ends that Flagship need to deal with. The latest phase of the development will be used to decant residents from unity housing for the redevelopment of that area of Steeles Road.

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

A Local Transport Plan is to be completed by the Health Centre. David Ruffley MP is prepared to chair a meeting of all parties involved which is to be arranged by the partners of the Health Centre.

15. To receive a report on the allotments, consider the current rent rate and take any necessary action.

Due to the current weather conditions, tenants are not carrying out much work on plots at the moment. It was agreed that plot 24a is not suitable to be rented out. An increase in the rents for 2014/15 will be discussed at the July meeting to allow for the years notice to be given to tenants when renewal for 2013/14 is requested.

16. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

There was very little rubbish over the Christmas period but this changed over the following weekend.

17. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 4 February 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....