

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
3 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

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

**Public comment:** District Cllr Melvin advised that MSDC Housing Standards and Needs Consultation document is to be launched shortly and Parish Councils are being asked to support it and help parishioners to complete the form when received. Planning for 215 homes for Stowmarket, some which are in the neighbouring parish of Haughley has been deferred. The forecast of 750 houses on the Chilton Leys site has led to a Local Governance review to look at Stowmarket boundaries.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Cook and Mr Smith.
2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mr Melvin declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 0020/14 as he lives opposite and signed the interest book.
3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 6 January 2014.** The minutes were approved and signed.

**4. Clerk's Report**

**Car park bump boards** – further bump boards are to be repaired/replaced

**Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan** – designated area has been approved

**Millennium Garden** – the Clerk has met with the contractor and work should commence early February and take 2 weeks.

**Community Emergency Planning workshop** – Mrs Parker will attend on 26 February

**Neighbourhood Planning Event** – Mr Guyler and Mr Melvin attended on 3 February

**Highways meeting** – the Clerk met with John Simpson SCC to discuss outstanding issues. Solid white lines between Plough Lane and Green to the side of the highway are to be painted to give the illusion that the road narrows and hopefully reduce speed. JS was concerned regarding the state of this part of the road as we now have lost the kerb edge altogether. He will look into this but in the meantime arrange for the loose stone to be swept up.

The metal bollard outside Oak Cottage and the wooden bollard outside Granmore are not going to be replaced but the surfaces will be repaired. JS doesn't believe that they prevent vehicles going onto the path. The other 3 wooden bollards outside Bridges etc will be fitted with reflective tape at the top.

With regard to The Street, funds for scraping off the surface and taking back down a few inches has been put aside in 2014-15 budget, however this is open to review in 2 months. This will enable a slope so that water doesn't sit at the entrance to Rags Lane and the kerb depth will be reinstated which should also alleviate cars parking on the path.

Wisteria outside Bridges cracking the path; JS thinks that the surface can be repaired and built up.

A replacement 30 mph sign in Bury Road will be ordered.

At the moment the sinking bricks in Abbots Meadow are not dangerous so SCC will monitor to see how things go as to carry out work would be expensive and disruptive.

JS will need to discuss with Jane Storey funding regarding the changes to the junction at The Green before taking further.

Mr Hardiman expressed serious concerns regarding the dip in the road at Abbots Meadow and fears it will collapse and should be done sooner rather than later.

John Wiley has requested financial support from Jane Storey for alterations to the junction at The Green.

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**Pump Garden chains** – have been repaired however Cllrs would like a quote from Mr G Baker for replacement chains and posts to smarten up the area.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

**MSDC** Spring Litter Pick this has been arranged for Sunday 6 April at 2.00pm. The WI will be invited to get involve. A notice will be put in the Diary *Action: the Clerk*. A **14 year old resident** would like to do some work experience clearing Ladys Well. This will be referred to Woods for Woolpit but safeguarding issues must be confirmed before any work can take place. *Action: the Clerk*. **NALC** Local Councils Explained new book. Cllrs do not wish to purchase at this time. **Suffolk Police** MSS SNT Priority setting meeting. Mr Guyler attended and the priority for the next 3 months is road safety. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** The Local Councillor Winter 2013/14. Clerks and Councils Direct January 2014. SALC Section 137 limit for 2014/15 is £7.20, Eye Airfield Position Statement, councillor course, Final Local Government Finance Settlement, Public Transport seminar – bus services 24 February, East Suffolk Catchment Partnership, LAIS 1362 Allotment Disposal and LAIS 1363 Local Audit Accountability Act 2014. Rural Services Network Rural Opportunities bulletin, News Digest 13, 20, 27 January + 3 February, Rural Vulnerability Service Fuel Poverty and Broadband January, Seminar “The Unreachables”, Rural Housing National conference 21 February and Spotlight on Older People. Thurston Community College Forum Agenda and minutes of the meeting 21 January. Community Action Suffolk 9 funding opportunities, new training and news across Suffolk and 20 new training courses, grant closing dates, local events. SCC passenger transport newsletter, broadband in Woolpit, free support for community buildings; passed to the Village Hall and institute committees and Suffolk Better Broadband monthly update. NALC What next for Localism. UK Power Networks Stakeholder engagement preparation for possible severe weather event.

The meeting adjourned at 8.01 p.m

PCSO Pendergast advised that there had been 3 crimes recorded between 4 January and 2 February. There were 29 events called in during the same period of which 17 related to highway obstruction/RTC. There were no calls regarding the car park. 28 vehicles attended the catalytic converter marking day 11 January. County Cllr Storey advised SCC budget for 2014/15 would be set at the full council meeting 13 February. Savings of £38.6m have been proposed and it is not planned to increase council tax. The significant proportion of the savings for 2014/15 will be made through managing demand for care services and the new energy from waste plant. The Police and Crime Commissioner has also pledged to freeze the Police portion of the bill. During 2014-15 there will be a transfer back to the Council of approximately 700 staff as a result of the CSD Contract coming to an end. There will be an initial reduction in staff numbers followed by further reductions in future years through transformation of services to deliver further savings. These savings do not impact on the size of the workforce. On 25<sup>th</sup> February the Cabinet will be looking at a number of items:-20mph Speed limits – policy and criteria. Closure notice for Badwell Ash Primary School. Quarterly Budget monitoring report – up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. School Organisation Review in the BSE area – to consider the outcomes of the consultation process and consider any decisions to publish statutory closure notices. SCC response to Forest Heath Local Plan. Cllr Storey answered some questions that had been posed at previous meetings. The Section 106 funds set aside for education totalling £32,000 went towards the

new classrooms at Woolpit School built in 2013. The Federation between Woolpit and Rougham Schools is a soft federation therefore either party can have the federation dissolved.

SCC is now aware that the petrol price signage at Costcutter is on their land.

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Street light unit 7 at the junction of Steeles Road with Heath Road is ready for connecting but this is still to be carried out.

Trading Standards have confirmed that the shutters on the cigarette cabinet in the Co-op do not have to be closed all the time due to the shop floor size.

Mr Hardiman raised the issue that the 30mph sign along Bury Road still has not been replaced.

The meeting reconvened at 8.19 p.m.

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

**0020/14** Erection of single storey extension to side elevation. Cobbolds Well, The Green - support with comment a well of historic importance is on the site near to the dwelling and extreme care should be taken during the construction work to avoid any damage to the well.

**3521/13** Construction of front extension to garage and alterations to driveway. 2 Stonalls. MSDC decision - permission granted.

**3142/13** Erection of two storey rear extension. Removal of existing render on front elevation to expose Suffolk white bricks. Conversion of existing integral garage to additional living accommodation. Shingle the frontage of the plot. Rose Cottage, The Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

Mr Melvin circulated an email regarding Costcutters. A planning application has arrived at MSDC today and he has been invited to look at it to ensure all issues have been addressed.

Mr Melvin and Mr Guyler attended a seminar on Neighbourhood Plans today. This will be put on the next agenda.

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

Equity pc £108.00 editing Woolpit Diary February/March, Mr K Harknett £50.40 litter picking January, Suffolk County Council £194.12 pension payment, SPL Print £269.00 February/March Diary and Majisign £199.80 2 signs for bottle bank area and 23 signs for allotment plots. All accounts were approved and cheques issued except for Majisign where a pro forma invoice is required before a cheque can be sent.

*Action : the*

*Clerk*

**8. To receive requests for grants from the Playing Field Committee and Mid Suffolk Citizen's Advice Bureau and take any necessary action.**

Councillors agreed to purchase 2 swing seats for the play area from Wickstead Leisure at a cost of £242.21 + VAT.

*Action: the Clerk*

It was proposed, seconded and carried to award Mid Suffolk CAB a grant of £250.00 with a letter of thanks for the help and advice given to the parishioners of Woolpit.

*Action: the Clerk*

**9. To discuss the need for a burial ground once the church yard is at capacity and take any necessary action.**

As no response has been received to our letter, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**10. To consider the consultation on the MSDC Draft Statement of Community Involvement and take any necessary action.**

CLRs do not wish to respond.

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

Allotment plot 24 has been cleared by Mr Annis and the fence needs to be moved. We are still awaiting a quote for this work from Jos Roper. 2 tenants will be sent a letter to improve their plots. *Action: the Clerk*

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

Site huts have been removed but work to the pavement, garden area and lighting remains outstanding. The Clerk will contact MSDC & Orbit Housing. *Action: the Clerk*

**13. To discuss the redevelopment of the unity housing in Steeles Road.**

The Clerk will contact Orbit Housing to see when work will commence and request a steering group meeting between MSDC, Orbit Housing and WPC to discuss a timetable of events. One of our old concrete street light columns is to be removed for the redevelopment; It is not worth keeping. *Action: the Clerk*

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

Nothing to report.

**15. To receive a report from the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee representative.**

Mr Hardiman reported that Clare Baker is to take on the role of Secretary. It is confirmed that Woolpit Recreation Ground is the correct name for the land by the Village Hall but it is also known as Woolpit Playing Field as per the Charities Commission website, both names are correct.

**16. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 3 March 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

The meeting closed at 9.34 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....