

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

Present: Mr Melvin, Mrs Parker, Mrs Cook, Mr Jones, Mr Hardiman, Mr Smith and Mr Lomax.

In the absence of the both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried that Mr Melvin chair the meeting.

Public comment: Mr Smith advised that he is looking into applying for planning permission for a parcel of land in Heath Road opposite the school which could incorporate a car park to help alleviate parking issues at the school and Health Centre.

Mrs Cook advised that 3 Scouts from the village have been selected to go to the World Jamboree in 2015 and are looking at ways of working to raise funds for the trip. It was suggested that they contact the Steam Rally Committee. The Clerk will investigate whether the Youth initiative reserve can be used for this purpose.

Mr Hardiman advised of the substantial litter between White Elm Road and the woods. The Clerk will contact MSDC to request this is cleared. *Action: the Clerk*

Mr Parker asked if a Parish Council notice board can be erected in the Pump Garden. The Clerk will investigate and put on next agenda. *Action: the Clerk*

District Cllr Melvin advised that MSDC proportion of Council Tax will increase by 1.72% and council house rents by approx. 5%.

The Clerk read the report from County Cllr Storey. The Cabinet proposal that SCC council tax for 2014/15 be frozen was accepted by full council. The Cabinet meeting 25 March will look at school admission arrangements 2015/16, the future of the SCC Archaeology Contracting Team, Children's Centre Review, Review of Homecare and Community Meals. Broadband enquiry regarding Woolpit Green has gained the following response - Woolpit Green looks like it is only around a mile from the new cabinet which is (or is about to be) sited at Heath Road – so they should get superfast broadband around 10-20Mbps as an estimate.

The Police report advised that there were 4 crimes recorded between 2 February and 2 March; 2 of note being to make off without payment from garage and possession of Class A drugs. There were 35 events called into the police during the same period: 19 relating to the A14, 4 concerns for welfare, 5 relating to road traffic accidents and 2 other calls. A new initiative "Paws on Patrol" will be launched in March aimed at dog walkers to report community issues encountered on walks from blocked rights of way to suspicious activity.

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

2. **To receive declarations of interest.**

Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest in item 14 and signed the interest book.

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 3 February 2014.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **Clerk's Report**

Drain opposite phone box, Church Street – SCC has been contacted to ensure that BT reinstate correctly as it is currently raised and is a safety issue.

Street light 7 Heath Road – is now working.

Street Sweeping – Mrs Johnson is scheduled for a hip replacement but Mr Johnson has agreed to cover during her absence.

Emergency Plan – Mrs Parker attended a seminar to what this would entail setting up a plan for Woolpit. Cllrs agreed that this needs to be discussed at length and will be an agenda item for the May meeting.

Advert in Woolpit Diary – Woolpit Complimentary has requested a half page advert to promote their family fun day in August. Cllrs agreed a one off half page at a cost of £13.00.

Litter green area beside The Room, White Elm Road – was reported to SCC as owner of the land who has advised that MSDC has responsibility for clearing litter. It was debated that this could be part of the spring litter pick but Cllrs felt that items in this area could be a health hazard. MSDC will be asked to send out the Hit Squad to clear.
Action: the Clerk

Grass cutting – it was unanimously agreed to request that Eastern Facilities Management Solutions continue to cut the playing field and sports field for 2014/15.

APM speaker – the Clerk has not received a response from Mr McKessar NW Co-ordinator or Robert Hall Good Neighbour Scheme. It was agreed to ask Sue Herne, MSDC to talk about setting up an Emergency Plan.
Action: the Clerk

Bollard outside Oak Cottage, the Street – the Clerk has contacted John Simpson, SCC to request that the metal bollard is reinstated following a request from the property owner to District Cllr Melvin as this prevents lorries hitting the cottage.

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

Suffolk Preservation Society membership application. Cllrs agreed to take no action. **Woolpit Health Centre** request for additional speed restriction notices or traffic calming systems in Heath Road has been referred to SCC. **CCLA** opportunity to switch to ethical investment fund. As our investment is so small, no action will be taken at this time. **EON** price changes notification. **Ipswich & Suffolk Credit Union** poster. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** Rural Services Network News digest 10, 17, 24 February + 3 March, Rural opportunities bulletin, RSN seminar – art, culture, landscapes, local authorities and geography, Rural Vulnerable Service –Broadband, Spotlight on Heart of the Village. MSDC Shared ownership open day event 6 March, warning of skimming device Needham Market cash machine, Suffolk Walking Festival 10 May -1 June, update on unity housing redevelopment tranche 2. Skanska overnight road works A14 junction 43-47 17 February for 10 nights. Community Action Suffolk 26 funding opportunities and news from around Suffolk, New networks for Suffolk, pioneering parish events and young people make a difference. Suffolk Preservation Society letter 5/11/13 changes to the society. UK power networks Stakeholder engagement January, preparations for adverse weather conditions 5-14 February and progress to restore power supplies. SALC public transport seminar 24 February, precepts referendums, Progress power information update – Eye Airfield Develop + drop in sessions, LAIS1364 VAT Consultation and LAISU2D, Sports England Protecting Playing Fields Programme, Mid Suffolk South area meeting 6 March, latest on precept grant, annual training programme. NALC Making Localism Work, ebulletin 14 February and events 2014. Ben Lord West Suffolk Hospital Arthrosic appeal. SCC weather update 13 February.

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

0714/14 The retention of an ATM installed through the glazed shop front. Costcutter Woolpit Service Station – no objection.

0715/14 Integral illumination and screen to ATM fascia. Internally illuminated Free Cash Withdrawals lettering to black surround above ATM fascia. Blue LED halo illumination to ATM surround. Costcutter Woolpit Service Station – no objection.

0495/14 Erection of front porch. The Drey, Borley Green – support.

3581/13 Erection of single storey side extension (following demolition of flat roof projection) and new pitched roof over existing flat roof to side, conversion of garage to store and utility and resiting of oil tank. 26 Briar Hill. MSDC decision –permission granted.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Majisign £209.40 bottle bank and allotment signs, Suffolk County Council £2837.33 street lighting 2013/14, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd £294.25 2 cradle swing seats for play area, Eastern Facilities Management Solutions £1455.82 grass cutting recreation ground and sports field 2013/14, Anglian Water £10.32 allotments 8/8/13 to 12/2/14, Information Commissioner £35.00 annual registration fee 2014, Mr K Harknett £39.20 litter picking February, Mid Suffolk CAB £250.00 grant agreed at February meeting and Suffolk County Council £194.12 pension payment. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

It was agreed to discuss changes to the bank mandate at the May meeting.

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

Rev Farrell has advised that at the current rate of usage the churchyard has space for another 10 years. It is possible that when the lower churchyard is full the PCC might consider reusing the oldest parts of the churchyard but this hasn't been discussed yet. The Clerk will request that the PCC seriously discuss this option as WPC may not be able to finance an additional cemetery in the future if capping is introduced.

Action: the Clerk

9. To discuss the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and take any necessary action.

Mr Melvin and Mr Guyler attended a recent seminar and any plan would have to include both residential and commercial property plans. Cllrs feel that at present a plan serves no purpose for the parish and will take no further action at this time.

10. To consider quotes for the replacement streetlight unit 49 and 53 Mill Lane and take any necessary action.

Both need replacing as allowing the ingress of water. It was agreed to replace with LED units at a cost of £531.34 each.

Action: the Clerk

11. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action including discussing quotes for moving the fencing and to take any other action.

2 quotes have been received to re-fence the area beside plot 13. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from JRS for £236.00. 2 half plots have been given up and re-let during the month. There are now 4 residents on the waiting list and the first on the list has only been waiting for an allotment since December 2013. Mr Annis will be sent a letter of thanks for clearing the wood and rubbish from plot 24. All members were asked to come up for ideas for use of this piece of land. The Clerk will instruct a contractor to cut/clear the area in preparation for a site meeting in May.

Action: the Clerk

12. To discuss a request that the Parish Council take steps to ensure remedial work is carried out from Jewers to the junction of Heath Road with Church Street and then regularly maintained and that the Tennis Club car park is renewed

It was agreed to contact SCC as landowner to ask what they plan to do to clear as this is a safety issue as people walk along this area on a regular basis. Quotes will be sought for filling and rolling the Tennis Club car park.

Action: the Clerk.

Mrs Parker left the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

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

The Clerk has spoken to a senior project manager at Orbit Housing who has advised that the footways and street lighting will be completed by the end of March. The garden area has started now the weather has improved. Mr Hardiman advised that

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Mrs Parker has spoken to the site foreman and seen the revised plan for the garden and they are simple and low maintenance.

14. To discuss the redevelopment of the unity housing in Steeles Road.

Tranche 1 redevelopment commences on 25 March and surveys on tranche 2 are being started shortly.

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 9.08 p.m.

15. To receive a report from the Litter Picker. Nothing to report.

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

Jenny Semmens is standing down as Chairman but despite advertising for someone to take over, nobody has come forward. At the AGM it will be suggested that other members of the committee take on responsibility for various issues then JS may stay on as Chairman for a further 6 months. Wi-Fi to the hall is in progress. Lettings are good for 2014 especially for wedding receptions. There are problems of children playing football against the Village Hall.

17. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 19 May 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted, with a site visit to the allotments at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....