

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

**Present:** Mr Guylar (Chairman), Mr Jones, Mrs Cook, Mrs Parker, Mr Hardiman, Mr Melvin and Mr Smith. Mr Lomax joined the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

**Public comment.** District Cllr Melvin advised that he has held a surgery with the 5 owners of land behind the Health Centre. They would part with some land for car parking if some development was allowed on the rest of the land. As this is outside the settlement boundary only affordable housing would be permitted and MSDC has been in touch with various housing associations and one has shown an interest. Ways of financing the project are being looked into.

Mr Hardiman advised that Rougham Primary School is not happy with the federation agreement with Woolpit Primary School. It is likely that the current headteacher at some this year will be returning to Rougham on a full term basis leaving Woolpit without a headteacher. He also advised that 3 electricity poles in Heath Road have been replaced but the light outside the school is still not working.

The Clerk read the Police report. There were no crimes recorded between 3 December and 3 January. There were 22 events calls during the same period, 12 relating to highway disruption. There were no calls regarding the car park. A catalytic converter marking day will be held on 11 January at Taylor Commercials, old A14. The Clerk read the report from County Cllr Storey. The Cabinet meeting 28 January will debate the budget for 2014/15 which will be proposed to full council 13 February. The SCC and Police proportion of Council Tax bills will have a 0% increase. This will mean that over the next 3 years £156m must be saved from expenditure. A report is due to come to the Cabinet from the Policy Development Panel that looked at 20 mph speed limits and criteria. On 4 December the Education Scrutiny Committee met and looked at the recent Ofsted findings. The comments will be reviewed when this committee looks at Raising the Bar again in March. The committee also looked at the Education Other than at School Service. On 18 December the Scrutiny Committee looked at the Energy from Waste project at Great Blakenham. The project is on schedule and budget and looks as if it could be brought on stream in summer 2014 rather than December 2014. This is part of budget savings for future years - £8m net budget saving with £2.7m in the part year 2014/15.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Wiley and the Police.
2. **To receive declarations of interest.** Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 and signed the interest book.
3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 2 December 2013.** The minutes were approved and signed.

#### 4. **Clerk's Report**

**Drain by Church** – dispensing in the drain by a local company has been reported to MSDC Environmental Health.

**Buckingham Palace Garden Party** – nomination form to be completed.

**Village Recorder** – Suffolk Local History Group are looking for someone to take on the role of Village Recorder in Woolpit. The information will be passed to the History Group and an item will be put in the next Diary.

**Ipswich Hospital car share scheme** – being run jointly by SCC and Suffolk NHS will be included in the Diary.

**Car park** – bump boards have been repaired/renewed.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - Malcom McKessar the new Police Liaison Officer has contacted the Clerk and is happy to discuss NW matters. He will be invited to speak at the APM in April.

**Streetlighting** – Karen Smith is now our contact at SCC. If any lights have been out for some time we need to advise her as G39 issues should be sorted in same time frame as any other unit.

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

**SCC Pension Fund:** funding Strategy Statement 2014 employer percentage rate increases by 1% per annum up to 2016/17. **Mid Suffolk CAB** request for a donation, the Clerk will ask for the last set of audited accounts. **The following items were circulated to Cllrs:** SCC Pension Fund: Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13. Rural Services Network development and organising...state of play 2014, Rural Opportunities Bulletin 4 December, Spotlight on Rural Health, weekly news digest 9, 16, 23 December, Seminar approaches to alternative service delivery, Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty and transport December. Community Action Suffolk newsletter 11 December, recruitment and season's greetings. Canine County fortnightly e-zine. MSDC slides from Parish Liaison Meeting 28 December, Community Achievement Awards 2013/14, Town & Parish Councils newsletter December, invite to Neighbourhood Planning event, Parish Precept and Taxbase, Eye airfield planning position. SALC London airspace consultation, ebulletin 6 December, forthcoming courses, Warm Home Healthy People scheme, DCLG Local Government Finance Statement 1 & 2. Suffolk Sport Fit Villages round up December. Suffolk Constabulary latest scam warning.

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

**3521/13** Construction of front extension to garage and alterations to driveway. 2 Stonalls – support.

**3581/13** Erection of rear single storey side extension (following demolition of flat roof projection). New pitched roof over existing flat roof to side. Conversion of garage to study/utility and relocation of oil tank. 26 Briar Hill – support.

**1884/13** Proposed 3 dwellings and 1 new access (following demolition of store building) Land adjacent to Brookfields, Heath Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

Cllr Melvin advised that an application for work at Lawn Farm has been received but is invalid and the applicant has been asked to complete again. The breaches of planning at Costcutter have been pursued again with MSDC.

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

Equity pc £88.13 printer cartridges, Woolpit Institute £260.00 Parish council room rent February-April, SPL Print £245.00 December/January Woolpit Diary, Mrs P Fuller £182.65 expenses October-December, Mr K Harknett £50.40 litter picking December, HM Revenue & Customs £202.63 Tax and N/I October-December, Suffolk County Council £194.12 pension payment and Woolpit Nurseries £150.00 Christmas tree. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

**8. To discuss and set the precept for 2014/15.**

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2013/14 and current reserves. It was agreed to write to Rev Farrell to ask how many years are anticipated for use of the current churchyard and what plans the church has for future burials. After much discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £25,950.00 for 2014/2015 resulting in 0% increase for the parish share of council tax. The form was duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk. Full details of the precept are shown under folio 524.

*Action: the Clerk*

**9. To discuss MSDC Community Achievement Awards and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to put forward a nomination and Mr Melvin will complete the form.

*Action: Mr Melvin*

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**10. To approve the draft letter to David Ruffley from joint parish approach regarding A14 surface and noise and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs approved the draft. Wetherden PC will be informed.

*Action: the Clerk*

**11. To discuss having signage at the bottle bank area and take any necessary action.**

General misuse of the area is causing concern. It was agreed to erect a sign of the rules of use at a maximum cost of £150.00.

*Action: Mrs Parker & the Clerk*

**12. To discuss dog fouling throughout the parish and take any necessary action.**

It is particularly galling that the newly turfed rear gardens of the flats in Steeles Road ( along Green Road) are being fouled in this manner. Various residents have been asked to be observant so we can identify the culprit. The Clerk will contact Orbit Housing to see if they can erect No Dog Fouling signs.

*Action: the Clerk*

**13. To discuss any cover requirements during the Clerk's recovery period for a foot operation and take any necessary action.**

The office will not be manned during February and March. A note will be put in next Diary to advise residents. Mrs Parker will take notes of the meeting 3 February for the Clerk to type up from home.

*Action: Mrs Parker & the Clerk*

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

All plots are rented out. There are now only two residents on the waiting list. Mr Roper will provide a quote for moving the fence. New plot number signs are required and quotes will be requested.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

Building work is completed and the road surfaced. The pavements need to be dressed. Streetlights need to be looked at once developer has left the site.

Mrs Parker left the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

**16. To discuss the redevelopment of the unity housing in Steeles Road including the proposed stopping up of the highway at 66-80 Steeles Road and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs have no objection to the order stopping up the highway however the Department of Transport will be informed of correct addresses for the work and correspondence.

*Action: the Clerk*

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 9.14 p.m.

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

The field has been better but the car park is still very bad.

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

Jenny Semmens reminded all members that she is standing down as Chair at the AGM. Currently there is no secretary. MSDC is having an open event at the Village Hall 13 September.

A request from the WPFC for a grant towards cradle swings will be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....