

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
2 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Smith, Mrs Parker, Mr Jones, Mr Howard and 2 members of the public.

Public comment: County Cllr Storey advised that the only item on the agenda for the meeting 12 February was the budget for 2015/16 and the Medium Term Finance Plan. The decision to close 9 children's centres has been called into Scrutiny. Mrs Parker asked regarding the failure of gritting on the A14. It is noted that this is the responsibility of the Highways Agency but the closure of the A14 caused many vehicles to be diverted through villages. Mrs Parker also asked if there will be extra support for Woolpit School following the recent Ofsted report. Cllr Storey will investigate.

The Clerk read the Police Report. There were 3 crimes recorded between 2 and 26 January; 2 assault on police for which a male has been charged and criminal damage due to an item thrown from a bridge causing damage to a vehicle. There were 23 calls to the police during the same period on various issues. Priorities set for the next three months are outbuilding burglaries and heating oil theft. More Community Speedwatch volunteers are needed across Suffolk. Information on various scams was received.

JG asked that MSDC be contacted to remove the old Mitre Close street name sign frame.

Action: the Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

These were received from Mrs Cook, Mr Hardiman, Mr Lomax and Mr Melvin.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

Mr Howard declared a prejudicial interest in item 19 as a member of Woolpit Twinning Association and duly signed the interest book.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting 5 January 2015.

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Report

Transparency Code – the £25,000 turn over refers to gross income or gross expenditure not exceeding £25,000. As our precept is over £27,000 the code does not apply to WPC and external audit is still necessary.

Verge Old Stowmarket Road to Goldstar – although SCC erected the fence when the new road was constructed responsibility was transferred to the adjacent landowner, WPC. We will therefore need to claim on SCC insurance for the damage caused by SCC trees.

White Elm Road flooding – the Clerk has written to Steven Halls SCC regarding information on getting the ditches cleared but has not received a response. The Clerk will contact County Cllr Storey.

Action: the Clerk

Car Park – MSDC has advised that they will not turn the light off from 2000 hours as officers are concerned regarding a liability claim if someone should trip. The Clerk was asked to contact John Buckingham, MSDC to erect a sign of their responsibilities in the car park.

Tree plaque – Mr Hardiman will be asked to cement in as soon as the weather allows.

BT Broadband upgrade – the Clerk has received 2 bills for the same period and is sorting with BT.

Action: the Clerk

PAT testing – is now required on the office equipment, The Clerk will contact the Institute Committee to see if this can be incorporated into their schedule but receive separate invoice.

Action: the Clerk

Meeting with Costcutter – Mr Guyler and the Clerk met with managers. The litter picking is logged every day and they will look into picking up cigarette stubs in the car

park. The store and the garage are 2 separate operations and the burger van is not connected to Costcutter in any way.

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

Mid Suffolk CAB thanks for the grant of £250. **Woolpit Health Centre** has cancelled the meeting regarding Neighbourhood Plans. **A resident** has sent a copy of their letter to SCC regarding their concerns regarding the burger van. **Barclays** changes to business customer agreement. **CCLA** has changed bankers. **Resident** asking WPC to persuade Royal Mail to change collection times back to 4.30 p.m. The Clerk will send an email to Royal Mail. *Action: the Clerk.* **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** SALC Transparency Code, forthcoming courses, successor award to Quality Council Scheme launched, Public Right to Report information, Mid Suffolk South area meetings 2015, BDO external audit briefing 2 March, Section 137 limit for 2015/16 £7.36, SCC message from Cllr Newman: flooding information, SCC Suffolk Engagement Grant, SALC/NALC response to Local Government Financial Settlement consultation. Community Action Suffolk Defra funding withdrawn, newsletter 14 & 28 January. Rural Services Network newsletters 12, 19 & 26 January + 1 February, rural opportunities bulletin, ACRE funding threat, RSN seminar – the lottery and local authorities, rural vulnerability service – rural broadband January and fuel poverty January, rural housing spotlight on health, rural affordable housing conference 24 February. SCC temporary road closure & temporary suspension of weight restrictions Woolpit/Elmswell junction with A14 slip road for resurfacing 25 January -14 February, temporary closure of Woolpit Road Rattlesden 20-22 January repair burst water main. Suffolk Constabulary Stowmarket and Mid Suffolk South Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 8 January, Community Safety unit newsletter 14 January, Mid Suffolk South SNT priorities for next 3 months, Police Survey would you be willing to pay 6p a week more for policing in Suffolk. UK Power Networks preparation for possible severe weather event 10/11 and 14 January, MSDC forthcoming consultation for new joint Local Plan for Mid Suffolk and Babergh Districts, Unity Homes programme newsletter January, CIL revised draft charging schedule consultation, pre-consultation on the new joint Local Plan events, shrubs outside Woolpit Church boundary to be pruned. Healthwatch Suffolk Thurston listening event 5 February.

Planning – to consider current applications and receive MSDC decisions.

3839/14 & 3840/14 Erection of single storey rear extension. Remove 2 windows and replace with French doors. Installation of 2 rooflights. Internal alterations. Abbey Cottage, The Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

3645/14 Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement single storey dwelling. Rosebank, Rags Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

SALC £24.00 Clerks election briefing 12 January, Eastern Facilities Management Solutions £1894.05 grass cutting sports field and playing field 2014/15, Mr M Hardiman £26.30 reimbursement for bulbs for pump light, Mrs K Parker £12.00 reimbursement for room hire Emergency Plan meeting 17 January, Mr K Harknett £58.80 litter picking January, Suffolk County Council £201.13 pension payment. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by standing order Mrs P Fuller £653.80 salary January and Mrs O Johnson £186.27 salary January.

8. To consider quotes and a change to quarterly invoices for grass cutting of the playing field and sports field and take any necessary action.

Only the quote for the playing field has been received and this is not broken down into individual types of cut and frequency although it is based on the 2014/15. The overall figure looks like an increase of 14.5%. The Clerk has queried this with Eastern Facilities Management Solutions who have advised that they have

rationalised their rates as they have not been cost effective. Until the quote for the sports field and a breakdown of the total for the playing field have been received, no decision can be made. This matter will be discussed again at the March meeting.

9. To consider quotes for work to the Old Jail and take any necessary action.

Two out of three quotes have been received. After consideration Cllrs unanimously accepted the quote of £617.00 from Richard T & Tim Moss.

10. To consider quotes for tree work at Lady's Well and take any necessary action.

The quote from Urban Forestry has been broken down into 4 sections; veteran lapsed Beech pollard £700.00, eastern boundary hedge line £495.00, coppice area in north western corner £495.00 and Gold Star Transport boundary £397.50. It was proposed, seconded and carried to accept the quote in full. *Action: the Clerk*

12. To consider requests for grants from Home-Start and Mid Suffolk Axis.

Having considered the funds in each charity's accounts Cllrs decided not to make a grant to either group.

13. To receive a report from the meeting to discuss issues of parking in Heath Road and take any necessary action.

Cllrs were provided with notes from the meeting and agreed that WPC would find out who owns the land at the bottom of the school field, look into yellow lines with restrictions, look into the cost of an illuminated sign to emphasis the 20mph zone, liaise with the school and keep the school and others informed. *Action: the Clerk*

14. To receive a report of the meeting of the Housing Needs Survey group and discuss and approve any necessary action.

Cllrs were provided with notes from the meeting and noted the information. The draft survey is awaited and the matter will be discussed again at the March meeting. The time schedule was agreed to publicise the HNS survey in April/May Diary and distribute with the June/July Diary.

15. To consider procedure of any filming of meetings and take any necessary action.

Information had been received from SALC and Standing Orders will be amended accordingly and adopted at the March meeting. *Action: the Clerk*

16. To consider a response to the Community Infrastructure Levy – Revised Draft Charging Schedule and take any necessary action.

As there has not been any significant change since our response to the previous consultation, no comment is required.

17. To consider a response to the East Anglian Rail Passenger Franchise consultation regarding the Ipswich to Peterborough passenger service and take any necessary action.

It was agreed that Mr Guyler and the Clerk will formulate a response to the effect that the service must be kept hourly and as a through train. *Action: Mr Guyler/the Clerk*

18. To consider information received regarding election 7 May 2015 and take any necessary action.

Notices will be put up to encourage residents to put themselves forward for as candidates. Clerks will be sent nomination papers to hand out where requested. The deadline for nominations to be received by hand at MSDC is 4pm 9 April 2015.

Mr Howard left the meeting at 9.24 p.m.

19 To consider the amount of the contribution towards Woolpit Twinning Association 20th anniversary celebrations.

WTA has asked WPC to provide an official welcome at the welcome reception in Woolpit Institute and make a financial contribution to the costs of refreshments and possibly a gift which has to be decided upon. After discussion £250.00 was proposed and seconded. A counter proposal of £500.00 was seconded. After a vote it was 2 votes for each proposal and therefore the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal of £250.00.

Mr Howard rejoined the meeting at 9.35 p.m.

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

All allotments have been rented. The Clerk has received advise from SALC that we can terminate the tenancy in writing to the tenant that has now moved out of the parish under section 30 (1) of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908. It was agreed that as the rent has been paid and crops have been sown, we will not renew the tenancy from 1 November 2015. The Clerk has not received a response from SJH Landscapes regarding the agreed work within the allotted time and therefore has withdrawn our acceptance of the quote agreed 2 September 2014. The Clerk will contact Chris Wiley for ideas for the area prior to the next meeting before going out for further quotes. *Action: the Clerk.*

21. To receive an update on the redevelopment of unity housing in Steeles Road.

The fence of a property in Heath Road has been damaged but by contacting Orbit Housing the site foreman has met the homeowner and is sorting repairs. The path from the junction with Heath Road to 3 Steeles Road is badly damaged by trucks mounting the pavement. SCC will be contacted to repair and Orbit housing will be advised of the damage. *Action: the Clerk*

22. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Mr Harknett continues to pick rubbish along the entrance roads to the village on an irregular basis along with his regular areas.

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

In the absence of Mr Hardiman, no report was received.

24. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 2 March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....