

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

**Present:** Mr Guylar (Chairman), Mrs Parker, Mr Hardiman, Mrs Cook, Mr Jones and 2 members of the public.

**Public comment:** there have been problems with parking opposite the entrance to the Health Centre. Mr Guylar advised that a public meeting has been arranged for all interested parties to discuss parking along Heath Road on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the upstairs room of Woolpit Institute.

The Clerk read the police report. There were 8 crimes recorded between 27 November 2014 and 1 January 2015: 2 common assault no injury, 1 having a blade/point in public, 1 threats to kill, 1 assault occasioning ABH, 1 theft in dwelling, 1 theft other and one burglary other building. There were 43 calls to the police during the same period for various issues including suspicious circumstances, violence and road related offenses.

County Cllr Storey advised that the cabinet meeting 27 January will discuss the Resources Budget 2015/16 and the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Cabinet will be asked to make recommendations to the full Council meeting 12 February regarding budget requirements and council tax setting for the next financial year, the capital programme and financial indicators for the year ahead. The consultation on the closure of 9 Children's Centres is being reported at Cabinet meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Lomax, Mr Melvin, Mr Howard and Mr Smith.

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

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 1 December 2014.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **Clerk's Report**

**Cycle sign Abbots Meadow** - to be replaced.

**Footway between Mill Lane and Cow Fair** - will be repaired where tree roots have damaged the surface.

**Sugarbeet lorries** – have been driving through The Street. The Clerk contacted the contractor involved and this was due to where the beet was being collected from and was completed in a day.

**Verge between Old Stowmarket road and Goldstar** – SCC will inspect the area as it has been confirmed as in SCC ownership.

**Flint wall, Meadowlands** – MSDC has inspected the wall and advised that the wall is now in reasonable repair and there is no further funding in this year's budget for any additional work. The wall will be inspected again in April 2015.

**Wood Road, Borley Green** – the police has carried out SDR checks and the data shows there is only a slight issue of speeding in this area.

**Post box listing** – MSDC has advised that the installed box at the Post Office is part of the listed building and anyone wishing to remove it would have to demonstrate that it makes no contribution to the building's special interest and significance or the special interest and significance of the Conservation Area. There is a joint policy agreed by English Heritage, DCMS and Royal Mail that letter boxes in use will be conserved and retained in their existing location and therefore requests to list them are likely to be unsuccessful.

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

**SALC** subscription 2015/16 £664.00. **SALC** the Government to publish a Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. **Woolpit Health Centre** is holding a

meeting 20 January in relationship to Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan, anyone interested can attend. **SALC** Royal Garden Party invitation. **Resident** asking for the 545

Parish Council to contact Royal Mail as they have changed collection times from 4.30 p.m. to 9.00 a.m. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** The Local Councillor issue 4 2014. MSDC Town & Parish Councils newsletter December, tax base letter 2015/16, 2015 Electoral Register, waste collection calendar 2015, CIL workshops, Christmas greetings from Chief Executive. SCC Smarter Choices newsletter December, temporary closure Mill Lane 15-18 December new electrical connection and Elmswell Road and A14 slip road 25 January-4 February overnight for roundabout and carriageway resurfacing, preparing for power outages, Suffolk Onboard newsletter autumn, Community Emergency Planning newsletter. Rural Services Network news digest 2, 8, 15, 24 December + 5 January, Rural opportunities bulletin, Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport December, spotlight on small businesses, results of Parish Rural Sounding Board survey. SALC SCC raising the Bar and Get Suffolk Moving, illegal raves information, Suffolk's Greenest County awards 2015, provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16. Community Action Suffolk newsletter 3 & 18 December, Annual Review 2013/14. Orbit Housing plans for 82 & 84 Steeles Road. Thurston College Community Voice meeting minutes 28 November. Suffolk Constabulary Mid Suffolk South and Stowmarket Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 10 & 18 December, Wood Road speed checks data, UK Power Networks how vulnerable customers would cope during a power cut? Copy letter from resident regarding Post Office move. New Anglia Growthhub information.

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

**3645/14** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement single storey dwelling. Rosebank, Rags Lane – support.

**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 – support.

**3893/14** Erection of extension to rear elevation. Lawnswood, Warren Lane – support.

**3685/14** Erection of single storey extension. Insertion of 2 windows to first floor. Titchfield, Green Road – support.

**3590/14** Application to vary Condition 17 (Boundary screen walls and fences details) if planning application 2228/13 (the demolition of 66-80 Steeles Road Woolpit and the erection of 25 affordable homes including external works and alteration to the highway) in order to change the wording of the condition from 1.2m rural fencing to 1.2 close boarded fencing topped with 600mm trellis. Land at Steeles Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**3373/13** Variation to conditions. Rattlesden Gliding Club to go before committee 7 January.

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

Mrs P Fuller £124.34 expenses October-December, Mr J Guylor £24.00 hire of upstairs room for Heath Road parking meeting, SALC £30.00 Planning Essentials course 3 December, Woolpit Nurseries Ltd £150.00 Christmas tree, Mr K Harknett £50.40 litter picking December, HM Revenue & Customs £35.00 tax and N/I October-December, Suffolk County Council £201.13 pension contribution, Gipping Press £342.72 December/January Woolpit Diary and Emergency Plan questionnaire. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by standing order Mrs P Fuller £653.80 salary December, Mrs O Johnson £186.27 salary December.

#### **8. To discuss and set the precept for 2015/16.**

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2014/15 and current reserves. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to set a precept of £25,711.00 for

2015/2016 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 folios 547 and 548.

**9. To consider requests for grants from Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau and Headway.**

After discussion it was proposed seconded and carried to make a grant of £250.00 to Mid Suffolk CAB and no grant to Headway this year.

**10. To consider a response to the consultation on Parish Polls and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs unanimously agreed to support the proposals put forward in the consultation.  
*Action: the Clerk*

**11. To consider a response to the consultation on automatic Precept Referendums and take any necessary action.**

It was proposed, seconded and carried that no action would be taken.

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

All allotments have been let for 2015/16. The waiting list stands at 7. One tenant has moved to Elmswell and has advised that as they are within a mile the parish boundary the Allotment Act 1908 allows them to keep the plot. This and other legislation will be investigated. There has been no response form SJH Landscapes regarding the work agreed to plot 24. The Clerk will write and give a cut-off date for a response otherwise we will need to find another contractor. *Action: the Clerk.*

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

SCC has looked at the damage to the road and pavements and will look at repairing once the redevelopment is complete. SCC will look for compensation from the developer. Any urgent repairs will be carried out in the meantime.

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

Various roads into the village have been covered this month.

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

Various fundraising events are being organised including a race night in February. The football goal at the sportsfield is being monitored as there are some issues.

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

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....