

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

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Mrs Parker, Mr Wheatley, Mr Hardiman, Mr Jones and Mr Lomax.

Public comment: Mr Hardiman advised that having got a brushcutter to work, he and Mr N King have made footpath 4 passable.

A delivery lorry to tranche 2 of the redevelopment of unity housing in Steeles Road has damaged a tree on the green to such an extent it has had to be cut down. Mr Hardiman will ask Lovells if they intend to replace.

Pooling of water at the junction of Heath Road and Steeles Road remains a concern in winter. There has been flooding again in Masons Lane and it appears the drain opposite Jumbana is blocked. Mud has been left on the road. The Clerk was asked to contact SCC on both these matters. *Action: the Clerk*

Mr Melvin advised that the post box at The Green is still missing. It may be time to involve the press.

The Police are no longer producing a monthly report of crimes and information can be found on their website, however the latest crimes listed are for July.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Howard.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

Mr Wheatley and Mr Guyler declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 2584/15 and duly signed the interest book.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting 20 July and 17 August 2015.

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Report

Elmswell Library – thanks have been received from the Friends of Elmswell Library for purchasing a new noticeboard.

Register of Electors 2015/16 – will only be available by email.

Highways rolling list – a response has been received from Josh Kerridge updating some issues. The Clerk will update the list.

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

Letter from **new residents** moving into Greencroft how they are looking forward to living in Woolpit. The Clerk has sent a response welcoming them to the village. **CAB** invitation to AGM 7 October. **MSDC** regarding the keeping of the purple bin following Odelle Johnson moving. The Clerk will contact Odelle and then respond. **SALC** Newsletter of the Year competition. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** SCC emergency temporary traffic order Mill Lane 23 July repairs to leaking water main, Community Emergency Planning newsletter August, workshop for Central and West Suffolk Community Emergency Plan groups 5 October, emergency temporary traffic order Green Road 18 August burst water main repairs, bridge height clearance signing works Norton railway bridge A1088, road closures ahead of Aviva Tour of Britain, Smarter Choices newsletter September, Community Emergency Planning conference 13 November. MSDC CIL Examination – statement of modifications, new funding for local groups in Suffolk, CIL examination letters for examiner, Housing Allocation Policy Consultation advance notice, Affordable Housing newsletter August. SALC summer briefings, Heritage Lottery Fund, accounts and finance event 22 September, Mid Suffolk South area meeting 10 September. Rural Services Network Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty July rural transport August, news digest 27 August, 3, 10, 17, 24 August 1 September, spotlight on rural health, RSN conference 2015, Rural Opportunities bulletin, spotlight on young people. Suffolk Constabulary Mid Suffolk South and Stowmarket

Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 1 July – 22 July, 25 July – 25 August, Police and Crime Commissioner wants your views. Community Action Suffolk newsletter 29 July, 10, 12, 18 & 27 August, Localism conference – grow your community, Annual Review & Celebration invitation 8 October. Headway Suffolk information of services provided. Public Sector Executive newsletter 12, 13, 17, 20, 24 August 1 September. Stanton PC SALC councillor training in Stanton 23 & 30 September.

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

Mr Guyler and Mr Wheatley left the meeting at 7.55 p.m. Mr Melvin took over as Chairman.

2584/15 Erection of garage and attached storeroom. Cherry Trees, Rags Lane. As MSDC planning site was not working and plans couldn't be viewed, it was agreed that this item could not be discussed and an extension of time for comments would be requested.

Action: the Clerk

Mr Guyler and Mr Wheatley rejoined the meeting at 8.00 p.m. Mr Guyler resumed the role of Chairman.

2857/15 & 2858/15 Remove existing signage and replace with new to incorporate new company logo. Co-op, The Street – support.

1534/15 & 1711/15 Remove existing signage and replace with new to incorporate new company logo. Co-op, The Street were withdrawn by applicant.

1445/15 Partial removal of internal wall between kitchen and conservatory, replacement conservatory roof and replacement French doors in conservatory (retention of work). April Cottage, The Street. MSDC decision – Listed Building consent granted.

2143/15 Change of use of agricultural land to garden and erection of 1.0m boarded fence and landscaping. Clear View, Bury Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

4029/14 Demolition of 82-84 Steeles Road and erection of 3 2 bed dwellings including associated external works and parking. 82-84 Steeles Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

A Certificate of Lawful Use or Development has been issued for the temporary stationing of a mobile home as a granny annex at 23 Steeles Road.

The sign on Sampson House is still in situ; the Clerk will contact Planning Enforcement for an update.

Action: the Clerk

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £57.60 litter picking August, SALC £120.00 councillor training Mr Wheatley, BDO LLP £240.00 audit of accounts to 31/3/15 and Suffolk County Council £ 205.55 September pension contribution. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by standing order Mrs P Fuller £653.80 salary August and Mrs O Johnson £186.27 salary August.

8. To receive the audit opinion for accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 from BDO LLP.

There were no matters which came to the auditor's attention requiring the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report. Cllrs unanimously approved and accepted the audit opinion of the Annual Return.

9. To further discuss the replacement Parish Council computer and take any necessary action.

Information has been received from Mr Handshaw on suitable computers for WPC. The Clerk was asked to contact SALC to see if any further quotes are required.

Action: the Clerk

County & District Cllr Storey joined the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8.20 p.m.

SCC - One motion to be discussed at the council meeting 15 September is the proposal to close the local Magistrates courts and in particular the one in Bury St Edmunds.

The Cabinet meeting 15 September will discuss Suffolk's Devolution proposal which generally has universal agreement. All of Suffolk's councils have got together with the Police and health to put a proposal to central government to have devolved powers and money. An Expression of Interest was submitted to the Government 4 September and we should hear by the end of September if the government want Suffolk to be the next area to go for devolution. The Budget monitoring report will also be discussed. SCC set a net expenditure budget of £500.7m for 2015/16 and included a target for planned savings of £38.3m to reach a balanced budget. This first report covering April to July shows a forecast outturn to be £2.9m higher than the approved budget, the most significant area of overspend is £2.7m in the Children and young Peoples Directorate. Rural Transport Tenders report proposes a new model for the provision of rural transport across Suffolk which will bring together existing rural transport services currently funded by SCC and encourage community transport, bus and taxi companies to work together to improve services for customers with less reliance on SCC funding in the future. A warning of marking garden gates and fences to indicate dogs inside the property are a target to be stolen is happening locally.

Cllr Storey has sent an email to Josh Kerridge regarding issues at the junction of Mill Lane and Green Road.

Cllr Storey was asked if SCC is making plans to accommodate Syrian refugees, she advised all councils are.

MSDC – Two financial papers were agreed at the meeting 7 September – one a reflection on the budget outturn for the 1st quarter 2015/16 and the second was on the reporting approach that will be adopted by officers. There was a favourable variance of £173k on the budget which has been transferred to the Transformation Fund. The reporting approach is to be adopted is a summary showing targets and whether they are being achieved by being graded green, amber and red. Currently 2 are red and below target. The Members Locality Award scheme has been launched. This is a one off wards programme with an application period 1 October 2015 – 8 January 2016. A full council meeting will be held on 24 September.

Cllr Storey was asked for help regarding ensuring the garden area in Steeles Road is completed as MSDC was instrumental in the difficulties of phasing the land to Flagship and the Housing Allocations consultation document that has not been received and comments will be required by end of September.

The meeting reconvened at 8.52 p.m.

10. To discuss pension enrolment and take any action.

Information on the SCC scheme and NEST are available. Details of another provider will be obtained before the matter is discussed and a decision made.

Action: Mrs Parker/the Clerk

11. To consider new street light columns to replace lanterns 16 Steeles Road and 24 Green Road and take any necessary action.

Having now carried out a site visit, Cllrs are not sure new columns can be erected where they would be best placed. It was agreed that Mr Guyler would discuss issues of repairing the current units and getting rid of G39 issues with Karen Smith SCC before any decision is made.

Action: Mr Guyler

12. To decide on the position of the bench in memory of Yvonne Barker.

It was unanimously agreed to site the bench at the junction of Briar Hill with Bury Road by the path. Mr Hardiman will install.

13. To review Woolpit.org and take any necessary action.

Following recent training Mr Wheatley advised that SALC has stated that Standing Orders should be published on the website. The Clerk is unaware of any legislation to this effect and will discuss with SALC.

Action: the Clerk

Mr Wheatley volunteered to review the site in view of asking Mr Sieve to update items as necessary.

Action: Mr Wheatley

14. To consider a request from Woolpit Cricket Club that WPC supports the use of Section 106 funds held by MSDC for the extension to the pavilion project and take any necessary action.

Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest as treasurer of WCC, signed the interest book and left the meeting at 9.17 p.m.

Cllrs unanimously support the use of the current Section 106 funds of £2,800 for this project.

Action: the Clerk

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 9.23 p.m.

15. To consider the effects of the movement of the Post Office to the Co-op.

Many comments have been made to Cllrs by residents; poor service now in the Co-op, much less products stocked, loss of staff, no dedicated section for Post Office. It was agreed that a letter from WPC be sent to the East of England Co-op and Post Office Ltd of our concerns. Mr Melvin agreed to draft the letter.

Action: Mr Melvin

16. To consider MSDC consultation on the Gambling Act 2005 Local Policy 2016-2019 and Licensing Act 2003 Local Policy 2016-2021.

Deferred to October meeting.

17 To consider MSDC Housing Allocation Policy consultation.

Consultation document has not been received.

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

Some plots are a disgrace despite letters being sent to tenants. An item advertising the allotments will be published in the October/November Diary to get people on the waiting list. A report recommending any tenancies not to be renewed will be presented to Cllrs at the October meeting. A request for a shed has been received. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

Action: Mrs Parker/Mrs Cook/the Clerk

19. To receive an update of the garden area included in the original redevelopment of Steeles Road.

Orbit Housing has advised that they have tried to resolve matters but the issue is between Flagship Housing and Persimmon to install benches and sort the gate locks. The Clerk has referred to District Cllr Storey to see if she can help get these issues resolved along with street lights still to be activated and adopted by SCC.

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

Cllrs attended the recent event and looked round some of the properties in tranche 1 and keys have been handed over to tenants from 1 September. A gap has been left in the fencing so that residents can access the footpath. Work on tranche 2 has commenced.

21. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Mr Harknett has now been in the post for 10 years. He has spoken with the litter picker from Costcutter who advises he does Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Small items are not picked up by Costcutter. Mr Guyler and the Clerk are meeting with Costcutter to discuss matters 8 September.

22. To receive a report from the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee.
Nothing to report.

The Chairman advised there was a matter of urgency to be discussed. A public meeting has been arranged to put forward a development proposal for a parcel of land adjacent to Green Road and the agent has contacted the Diary editor requesting that a link to their website is published in the October/November issue of Woolpit Diary.

Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting at 9.47 p.m.

After discussion Cllrs agreed unanimously that this would not be appropriate and not to allow it. The Clerk will advise the Diary editor. *Action the Clerk*

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 9.53 p.m.

23. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 5 October 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.54 p.m.

Closed.....

Signed.....