

**MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
20 JULY 2015 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE**

**Present:** Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Wheatley, Mrs Parker, Mr Melvin, Mrs Cook, Mr Hardiman, Mr Lomax and 1 member of the public.

**Public comment:** Mr Hardiman advised a volunteer has come forward to cut footpath 4 if he can be provided with a petrol strimmer. Woods for Woolpit have tools given to them by WPC which may be available. Mr Hardiman will liaise with Angus Wainwright. *Action: Mr Hardiman*

Urgent repairs are need to Steeles Road pavement as 3 people have tripped and fallen. The Clerk will contact SCC again. *Action: the Clerk*

The gate ties at Steeles Road garden area have been cut and children are cycling on the grass. The area is being maintained but benches have still not been installed.

The Clerk will contact Orbit Housing again. *Action: the Clerk*

There are issues of dog mess in Abbots Meadow; residents will try to identify the culprit.

Rats have been seen in Steeles Road and believed to be coming from the garden of 82 & 84 Steeles Road which are due to be redeveloped. The Clerk will contact Orbit Housing and MSDC. *Action: the Clerk*

Brambles at the end of the cyclepath in Heath Road, vegetation opposite Costcutter and along Old Stowmarket Road path need cutting down. SCC will be contacted.

*Action: the Clerk*

The hedge in Mill Lane needs cutting back. The Clerk will contact the Housing Association. *Action: the Clerk*

The Clerk read the Police report. There were 3 crimes recorded between 12<sup>th</sup> June and the 19<sup>th</sup> July, Causing Harassment/Alarm & Distress, dangerous dog causing injury, both dealt with by Community Resolution and criminal damage to a window at the village hall. SNT priorities for July to October have been set as anti-social behaviour and vehicle security. Areas where persistent problems exist will be targeted. Information was received on 'Not in my Name' campaign, Trading Standards Scamnesty Special, vehicle stopping day, new proactive team launch.

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Jones and Mr Howard.

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

**3. To approve minutes of the meeting 15 June 2015.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**4. Clerk's Report**

**Lock up roof** – no further information received from Mr T Moss.

**New computer** – awaiting information from Mr Handshaw.

**Rights of Way** – Footpath 1 Old Stowmarket Road to Kiln Lane SCC has advised this matter is being addressed by Mid Suffolk District Council Planning as there are wider issues relating to the current use of the land. This path is not currently on the Suffolk County Council's grass cutting schedule as it is a low priority path.

Footpath 2 Kiln Lane to Warren Lane SCC has advised that the route has been walked and there are several issues on this path but it is a low priority path as it is in effect a dead end on each side of the A14 due to no safe way across. At present there are no funds available to undertake any improvements to this path and this is likely to remain the case until such time as a safe crossing of the A14 is implemented. The landowner of Barrack Farm will clear the fallen tree from the path. Footpath 7 Old Stowmarket Road to Kiln Lane SCC has advised that this section of path is on its cutting schedule, it will be cut again later in the summer but at the moment is easily passable.

**Co-op Sunday opening hours** – the new signs to be erected at the Co-op show the Sunday opening hours as 8.00 am to 8.00 pm when currently the shop has been

closing at 4.00 pm. This has been questioned by a resident however current Sunday trading laws allow smaller shops to trade any day and any hour.

**Verge cutting** – has been very poor this year and has been referred to SCC on many occasions and it is acknowledged there are problems with their contractor.

**Hedge in Mill Lane** – the owner has cut back further and Cllrs accept what has been done has improved matters.

**Bench in memory of Yvonne Barker** – the family has ordered the bench and Mr Hardiman has agreed to install only charging for materials.

**Highways matters** – a rolling list of outstanding issues has been sent to SCC for an update.

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

**SALC** policy proposals to Government survey completed. **Woolpit Room** invitation to the reopening of the room on 26 September where WPC Chairman will cut the ribbon. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** Clerks and Councils Direct July. SALC recent changes to Legal Topic Notes, training July-September, The Local Councillor issue 1 2015, Suffolk Village of the Year entrants, Healthy Suffolk poster, forthcoming course, Suffolk local policing review, LAIS1381 fly-grazing, Sizewell C Town & Parish follow on community engagement events, letter from NALC Chairman on The Commonwealth Flag Day, LAIS 1382 Precept Data, finance manager change, police survey. Suffolk Preservation Society Somerleyton summer event 15 July. Rural Services Network Rural Vulnerability Survey - rural transport June, broadband July, news digest 22 & 29 June, 6, 13 & 20 July, Rural Economy spotlight, Rural Opportunities bulletin, building a rural community, Rural Housing spotlight, RSN seminar – viable rural communities and economies. Community Action Suffolk newsletter 17 June, 1 & 15 July, autumn conference 25 September, Local Sustainability fund, free workshops to address new £30m Big Lottery Scheme 29 July. SCC emergency temporary traffic order Green Road 23 June, Pension Employer Liaison meeting 6 July, Suffolk Pension Fund Employer newsletter June. Suffolk Constabulary Stowmarket and Mid Suffolk South Neighbourhood Watch newsletters 17 June – 1 July, SNT priorities July-October, Theft of vehicle in Drinkstone. Wetherden PC letter to MP Jo Churchill regarding A14 concrete section between Woolpit and Haughley New Street.

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

**1445/15** Retrospective – partial removal of internal wall between kitchen and conservatory, replacement of conservatory roof, replacement of French doors in conservatory. April Cottage, The Street – support.

**2143/15** Change of use from agricultural land to garden and the erection of 1.0m boarded fence and landscaping. Clear View, Bury Road – support with the proviso that the settlement boundary will remain unchanged.

**1802 + 1803/15** Erection of single storey rear extension (following removal of existing canopy roof). Dale House, Warren Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

**1110/15** Proposed use of land to station a mobile home (annex to be used by granny). 23 Steeles Road has been referred to MSDC legal department.

The meeting adjourned at 8.10 pm to discuss SCC and MSDC issues with Cllr Storey.

County Cllr Storey advised that the Cabinet meeting 14 July had an agenda item on budget outturn, a report on the business case for Suffolk Records Office and will decide whether to put forward the name of SCC's preferred academy provider for the new upper school in Bury St Edmunds. The future of the service for garden waste across Suffolk was discussed, in Mid Suffolk we already pay for this service. A review of financing for the Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham will include looking at cheaper finance options. The Scrutiny meeting 2 July included consideration of the financial implications for Adult and Community Services after

changes to current legislation. Trading Standards and BBC Radio Suffolk launch a campaign to target fraudsters. SCC Leader Colin Noble has visited towns to listen to public views and answer questions.

District Cllr Storey advised that Orbit and Lovell are holding a joint event 13 August to promote the Unity Housing redevelopment in the village. Hoxne are the winners Of mid Suffolk Village of the Year. MSDC is organising member training on Gypsy and Traveller issues although no dates have been set yet. Budget and policy initiatives emerging from the Government will have significant implications for the MSDC Strategic Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy and business model. There are still changes to the welfare system that need to be worked through. Devolution is the "in" topic with papers going to SCC Cabinet and to MSDC Executive. It is likely that the new government will look for 5 or 6 pilots and already look favourably on Suffolk. Each council will remain sovereign but savings could be made where they share the same functions. Following the recent election work can begin on trying to find a suitable location for a joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk council building.

The meeting reconvened at 8.36 pm.

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

Payment to HMRC £74.97 for tax and N/I April-June was unanimously ratified. Mr K Harknett £63.30 litter picking June, Mid Suffolk District Council £87.50 May election costs, Eclipse Business Furniture Ltd £238.80 notice board for Elmswell Library, Mrs P Fuller £288.49 expenses April-June, Suffolk County Council £205.55 July pension payment. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by standing order Mrs P Fuller £653.80 salary June and Mrs O Johnson £186.27 salary June.

**8. To consider a request that the Parish Council covers the expenses of moving the small goal and safety netting from the recreation ground to the playing field and take any necessary action.**

The Playing Field Committee has advised that the net will sited to the rear of the hall a few feet from the building. R & P Baker has provided a quote of £800.00 + VAT which Cllrs accepted. The Playing Field Committee will organise the work with the bill being sent to WPC for settlement. The Youth Initiative reserve will be used.

*Action: the Clerk.*

**9. To discuss pension enrolment and take any action.**

Mrs Parker will liaise with the Clerk to work out likely costs to WPC for all employees.

*Action: the Clerk/Mrs Parker*

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

No information has been received from SCC on costs and this item was deferred to the September meeting.

**11. To discuss a replacement dog litter bin for the path from Steeles Road to the Grange and take any necessary action.**

Mrs Parker will see if the lid from a previously broken bin will fit. If not it was agreed to purchase a new bin up to a cost of £210.00.

*Action: Mrs Parker/the Clerk*

**12. To discuss Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts and take any necessary action.**

Information has been received regarding concerts which can be given in village locations. The information will be passed to Woolpit Festival Society as may be of interest for 2016 festival.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

Several plots are in an untidy condition. Letters will be sent out to plot holders as applicable. Recommendations from the wardens will be presented to council at the September meeting whether plots will be renewed to some current tenants.

*Action: the Clerk/Mrs Parker/Mrs Cook*

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

The Clerk will contact Orbit Housing for an update when the benches and gate locks will be installed.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

Orbit Housing and Lovell Partnership will be holding an open event at 2.00 pm on Thursday 13 August. Tranche 1 is almost completed and members of WPC have been invited to view some of the properties. Information on tranche 2 will be available to the public.

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

There are concerns that Costcutter are not fully clearing the areas they offered to clear on a daily basis. Mr Guylar and the Clerk will meet with Costcutter management to discuss this matter.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

The next meeting is tomorrow night 21 July.

**18. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 7 September 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

The meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....