

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
2 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mrs Cook, Mr Hardiman, Mr Wheatley, Mr Howard, Dr Geake and 9 members of the public.

**Public comment:** Parents of children in Woolpit have been advised of a proposed change to school transport where they will only get free transport to the nearest suitable school. This will mean that children from Borley Green will go to Stowmarket High and those from the centre of the village to Thurston Community College. This will split the village and effect community cohesion. It was debated at the recent scrutiny committee and sent back to cabinet to look at again. The Parents asked WPC send a letter requesting that free transport to TCC is maintained for all Woolpit children.

A request for something for teens on the playingfield was requested.

Mr Hardiman advised that further heating oil thefts have been attempted and the police informed, the lamp standard at the junction of Rags Lane with Mitre close is at an angle and SCC will investigate its safety, the solution purchased to clean the bricks in the Millennium Garden only covered a tenth of the area and we may need to look at having them professionally cleaned. IWJS will be asked for advice and the matter discussed at the next meeting.

County Cllr Storey advised there is a council meeting scheduled for 19 October. The call-in for the Home to School transport paper would normally have been heard first at the Cabinet on 10 October however proposals for the next stage of the review of this important policy are currently being refined and will be taken to Cabinet once all the issues that have been raised so far have been carefully considered. Other items on the agenda include the disposal of the West Meadows gypsy and traveller site at West Meadows on the edge of Ipswich, the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Plan and the County Councils position on Local Plans in Suffolk. On this latter topic Mid Suffolk is currently promoting its local plan – all the districts and boroughs will be feeding information into the overall strategic requirements to support growth over the short to long term. Construction of the £15million Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road, funded by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council, began in March 2016 and it was officially opened on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September. As part of these works, junction 45 of the A14 has been upgraded to be able to cope with the expected additional traffic and 600 metres of Sow Lane has been reconstructed. Suffolk Highways has undergone a reorganisation over the last couple of months and a new system came into operation on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Under the new system SCC will have the ability to record and then track requests which will avoid stuff falling between the cracks and provide resilience from a group of people rather than over-reliance on a few. This should ultimately make the system more efficient.

District Cllr Storey advised that the proposed petrol station by A14 has received numerous objections including MSDC Heritage Officer and SCC Highways. Cllr Storey is awaiting information on the Mill Lane one-way system. She was aware of the arrest of 2 youths for the arson of the youth shelter and advised that she has a locality budget for both SCC and MSDC which could be accessed to help with the cost of a replacement.

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Lomax.

**2. To co-opt a councillor to fill a casual vacancy and take any necessary action.** Mrs Jenkins was unanimously co-opted and invited to join the meeting having signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

**3. To elect a Vice-Chairman.**

Mr Howard was proposed, seconded and duly elected.

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

5. **To approve minutes of the meeting 4 September 2017.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

**17/04751** Erection of a 1.5 storey 3 bedroom dwelling and attached garage. Land adjacent to Jumbana, Masons Lane – object. Overdevelopment of site, detrimental effect on the Conservation Area and setting of the church.

**17/04769** Erection of a two bay cartlodge. White House, The Street – support. MSDC planning committee 6 September determined 3 developments, land East side of Green Road was refused, Old Stowmarket South approved and Old Stowmarket North deferred due to incorrect documentation, density of housing and inadequacy of a noise report.

7. **Clerk's Report**

**Data Protection** – under new rules a Data Protection Officer needs to be appointed. This is usually the Clerk who will attend a training and information session on 9 November.

**Breaking road surface Bury Road** – SCC has advised that they will not take any action at present but will monitor the situation.

**Millennium Garden trees** – MSDC has confirmed planning permission is not required as the work is of a minor nature and for public safety.

**Insurance schedule** - the value of the items covered needs to be reviewed. This will be an agenda item for the November meeting.

**Poppy wreath** – it was agreed to purchase a new wreath at a cost of £17.00.

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

**The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Clerks and Councils Direct** September. **SALC** The Local Councillor issue 2 2017, AGM invitation 7 November, It's time to appoint your Data Protection Officer, LAIS1402 Precept consultation.

**Community Action Suffolk** news 5, 6, 20 September, new date for Village Hall and Community Building conference 2 November. **Rural Services Network** call for information – stations and other Community Heritage Buildings, Rural Opportunities Bulletin, news digest 11, 18, 25 September 2 October, Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty September, Rural Economy spotlight, Rural Spotlight on Heart of the Village. **Groundwork** Community news from groundwork east. **MSDC** invitation to Stowmarket Delivering a Vision for Prosperity 4 October, funding fair 25 October.

**Suffolk NHS** update 5 September. **Mid Suffolk CAB** invitation to AGM 18 October.

**Hopkins Homes** request for a further meeting with Cllrs. Copy letter regarding Green Road development.

9. **To approve accounts for payment.**

Mr K Harknett £59.78 litter picking September, Woolpit Institute £416.00 office rent November-January, Suffolk County Council £240.66 pension payment, Anglian Water Business £20.19 allotment water 8/6/17-7/9/17, Business Services at CAS Ltd £992.32 annual insurance premium, BDO LLP £360.00 audit of accounts to 31/3/17, Parkers Pitches £850.00 grass cutting playing field/bottlebank 6 months, Mr Hardiman £7.79 reimbursement for brick cleaner for Millennium Garden, RBL Poppy Appeal £17.00 poppy wreath. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments made by standing order V Mayhew £151.53 September salary, P Fuller £730.36 September salary.

10. **To receive the Audit Opinion for accounts to 31 March 2017 and approve the Annual Return following the conclusion of the audit.**

On the basis of its review, BDO LLP has advised the information in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to its

attention that might give cause for concern that legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Cllrs unanimously approved and accepted the Annual Return.

**11. To consider new bank account/s following notification that the Bank of Ireland is to close our Treasurer's account and take any necessary action.**

This was carried forward to next month.

**12. To discuss the recent destruction by arson of the youth shelter and take any necessary action.**

The police have advised that two youths have been arrested and questioned regarding the arson on 23 September when the youth shelter was totally destroyed. Quality Equipment is willing to take the structure down and quote for a replacement. Our insurance company will be informed of the incident for a claim. Mr Hardiman has been looking into CCTV camera at the village hall which can cover the play area and carpark. 2 cameras with varifocal and night vision will cost approx. £994.00. There is clearly an issue in this area and MSDC will be advised that fencing has been damaged in this event, bargeboards need mending/replacing vegetation and branches need cutting back particularly around the light. A letter will be sent to Costcutter reminding of their alcohol license obligations that litter picking takes place daily.

*Action: the Clerk*

**13. To discuss changes to free school transport to Thurston Community College and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed Dr Geake would draft a letter to Gordon James, SCC Cabinet Member for schools of our concerns regarding the proposed changes.

*Action: Dr Geake*

**14. To discuss the appointment of a new Diary Editor.**

Philippa Branham has volunteered her services and it was agreed that Mr Guyler and the Clerk would meet with her.

*Action: Mr Guyler/the Clerk*

**15. To discuss the current casual vacancy and take any necessary action.**

Mrs Parker has stepped down as a member of the council. Mr Guyler expressed his gratitude for all she has done over the years. A letter of thanks will be sent from WPC. The vacancy has been advertised with a cut off for a request for an election of 28 September. No request was received by MSDC and therefore the vacancy can be filled by co-option. It was agreed to advertise in the next Diary and on the noticeboard.

*Action: the Clerk*

**16. To discuss a request from Suffolk County Councils for contact of three persons for the Suffolk Emergency Alerting Directory and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk is checking with Mrs Parker that she is still willing to be one of the contacts.

**17. To consider a response to Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Consultation Document and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to hold a special meeting to deal with this item. The room will be booked and Cllrs informed of the date.

*Action: the Clerk*

**18. To make arrangements for 'Battles Over' lighting of beacon 11 November 2017 and take any necessary action.**

This takes place in 2018 not 2017 therefore deferred to next year.

**19. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

The results of the questionnaire are being analysed and a précis will be published in Woolpit Diary in due course. A good response was received. A sub-committee is producing policies for the plan and a grant has been applied for to carry out a Landscape Sensitivity Study.

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

Most plots are being worked but there are a lot of weeds and concerns with plots 21 & 22. It was discussed not to renew tenancies for these and the Clerk will contact the tenants. The fence could then be moved to around plot 20 and Mr Howlett contacted to see if he would farm that section. There are also concerns regarding plot 10. The Clerk will contact the tenant. Mrs Jenkins was appointed as an allotment warden with Mrs Cook.

*Action: the Clerk*

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

Mr Harknett has been working on the playing field and car park as requested and both have been in a terrible state with lots of broken glass on the field. The Clerk is to send a letter to Costcutter regarding their license obligations.

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

Several regular hirers have been lost and the committee are trying to attract more rentals. Representatives are meeting with Hopkins Homes regarding Woolpit North area for potential recreational benefits.

**23. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 6 November 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....