

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

Present: Mr Guylar (Chairman), Mr Wheatley, Mr Hardiman, Dr Geake and 1 member of the public.

Public comment: Mrs Parker Woolpit Cricket Club was delighted to advise that WCC are winners of Suffolk Sports Awards Club of the Year 2017 and thanked WPC and everybody in the village for their support for the extension to the club house. Mr Hardiman advised that the bollard outside the school still has not been replaced. Mr Wheatley advised that he has had several complaints regarding the state of the pavement following the erection of the street light outside the Co-op. County Cllr Storey's report advised that the Cabinet meeting 7 November will receive a report from the Suffolk Local Access Forum, a report on the sale of West Meadows gypsy site, the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Education and Learning Infrastructure Plan. This latter item is of particular interest to many people locally as it sets out the education needs of the county based on both existing population growth and proposed housing development. Winter gritting started on the evening of 5th November and will continue, as required, all the way through the winter and officially to the end of April. When temperatures fall to 1 degree C the gritter drivers are mobilised. Suffolk Highways has undergone a reorganisation over the last couple of months and a new system came into operation on 4th September. There is an initial faults/repairs/reporting tool online or over the telephone. Papers for the Scrutiny Committee meeting 23 November will soon be released and will include savings proposals for the budget year 2018/19. It may be that an increase in the SCC proportion of the council tax bill will be proposed. District Cllr Storey's report advised that following MSDC approving 800 dwellings in Thurston Cllr Storey asked the area planning manager if this would mean Woolpit would not get more applications but his response was not hopefully as the 5 year supply is not closed and 450 dwellings are added each year. Council meetings are now held at Endeavour House and the Needham Market headquarters in now closed. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinets have voted to merge the two councils. Telephone polls are being conducted in both areas and we await the results.

1 Apologies for absence.

These were received from Mr Howard, Mrs Cook, Mrs Jenkins and Mr Lomax.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Mr Wheatley declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 17/04607 Cambridge House, Rags Lane as a near neighbour.

3. To approve minutes of the meetings 2 & 31 October 2017.

The minutes of the meeting 2 October were approved. The minutes 31 October are not yet complete and will be presented at the December meeting for approval.

Mr Wheatley left the meeting at 7.41 p.m.

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

17/04607 Erection of first floor extension over existing single storey ground floor bedroom; erection of rear single storey lean-to and sun room extensions. Cambridge House, Rags Lane – support.

Mr Wheatley rejoined the meeting at 7.48 p.m.

17/04673 Erection of one dwelling and construction of new vehicular access. Land South of The Firs, Broomhill Lane – support with the comment of concerns regarding the proximity of the vehicular access to the outbuildings of Broomhill House and that provision should be made for cycle storage.

17/03901 Conversion of existing outbuilding to single dwelling. Grassy Lane Bungalow. Warren Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

17/04343 Conversion of barn to form a dwelling house, Grassy Lane Farm, Warren Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

17/03608 installation of temporary office building, with associated parking for BBUK use, Woolpit Business Park. MSDC decision – permission granted.

1717/17 application for outline planning permission for the conversion of brick outbuildings to form a dwelling and erection of 3 new dwellings following demolition of storage buildings. Lawn Farm, Warren Lane. MSDC decision – permission refused. Loss of employment site, unsustainable residential development in the countryside, detract and harmful to setting of Listed Building.

0195/17 The appeal has been dismissed for the erection of a single storey dwelling and new vehicular access (following part severance of side garden) The Firs, Borley Green. Outside the settlement boundary and not suitable for further residential development.

5. Clerk's Report

MSDC Parish Liaison meeting - 9 November evening session cancelled

SCC response to corroded repeater sign outside Hedgehogs, Heath Road – assessed severity and will take no action at this time but will monitor.

Woolpit Diary Editor – Philippa Branham has been appointed.

Green Road post box – Jo Churchill MP continues to pursue the replacement.

Phone box by Rectory Lane – The Clerk will contact BT to see if they can take remedial action to improve its condition.

Action: the Clerk

SALC courses – new finance, contracts and procurement courses for Cllrs 28 & 29 November. Nobody wishes to attend.

Millennium Garden - the bottom branches have been cut for public safety as has the hypericum in the Pump Garden.

School Transport Changes – our letter to Gordon Jones has led WPC to be invited to a workshop 9 November. Dr Geake may be able to attend or will arrange for a representative to attend on our behalf.

Action: Dr Geake

Woolpit Primary School – wishes to put an entry in each Woolpit Diary. This was unanimously supported.

HGV's through the village centre – the Clerk will write to Goldstar reminding them of the restrictions.

Action: the Clerk

MSDC website – MSDC are making a Clerks Only area on their website.

Youth shelter arson – the Police have advised that there is not enough evidence to prove beyond all reasonable doubt who started the fire.

Cyclepath to Elmswell – Dr Geake attended a meeting. Sustrans and Elmswell PC would like a feasibility study to investigate suitable routes and costs and requested a letter of support from WPC. It was agreed that a letter would be sent supporting the principal of a cyclepath and the preparation of a feasibility study.

Action: the Clerk

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

IWJS requesting overgrown vegetation at Ladyswell is cut back. The Clerk has informed them it is SCC's responsibility. Copy of email sent by resident to County Cllr Storey regarding the state of the pavement outside the Co-op following the erection of the streetlight and District Cllr Storey a request to extend the car park opposite the church. Gipping Press would like to enclose a Christmas card in each copy of December/January Woolpit Diary. Cllrs gave permission for this. A resident has asked that the noticeboard outside the Old Post Office be available for residents to use for advertisements. Cllrs assume that the board is part of the Listed Building and in the first instance a letter will be sent to the owner to see if they will allow this.

Action: the Clerk. The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: MSDC

November parish liaison meetings, notice that no election is required to fill casual vacancy, The Local Boundary Commission Have your say on draft recommendations

for Ward Boundaries in Mid Suffolk, joint cabinet session to consider potential merger of Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs, Town & Parish Councils newsletter October, BMSDC Joint Local Plan presentation from Town & Parish briefings, delivering a vision of prosperity in Stowmarket and Sudbury exhibition details on line. **SCC** SCC Neighbourhood Plan Guidance from NP Liaison meeting September, funding and volunteer fair 25 October, letter from Gordon Jones responding to our concerns to school transport changes. **SALC** Prettys Employment Law webinar – General Data Protection Regulation 11 October, new finances courses 28 & 29 November, BSEVC connection communities need volunteer minibuses drivers, LAIS1403 Data Protection Bill, LAIS1404 Right Homes consultation, LAIS1405 Councillor Disqualification, weekly news bulletin 16 & 31 October, SALC responses to Precept consultation, Right Homes consultation and Councillor Disqualification, AGM agenda, motions and request for information on Neighbourhood Plans. **Rural Services Network** Rural Opportunities Bulletin, news digest 9, 16, 23, 30 October 6 November, Rural Vulnerability Service – rural transport and rural broadband October, free seminar – rural places, rural challenges, Rural Housing Spotlight. **Mid Suffolk CAB** update. **Community Action Suffolk** news 4, 18 October 1 November, Village Halls and Buildings conference 2 November. **Bruno Peeks** early update and new guide to taking part in 'Battles Over – a Nations Tribute' 11 November 2018. **UK Power Networks** be winter ready. **Suffolk NHS** information to help residents keep well over winter. **Suffolk Police** update on arson investigations regarding youth shelter. **Thurston PC** copy letters regarding approved development of 800 dwellings. 1 copy of comments to MSDC Local Plan.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Payment of £348.51 HM Revenue & Customs tax and N/I July-September was unanimously ratified. Mr K Harknett £56.65 litter picking October, Laura Bayly £120.00 Millennium Garden September & October + hypericum pump garden, Gipping Press £242.88 October/November Woolpit Diary, Anglian Water Business £64.68 revised bill allotments 8/6/17-7/9/17, REJB & Co £2492.63 urgent repairs play equipment, SCC £240.66 pension payment. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payment made by standing order Ms V Mayhew £151.53 October salary, Mrs P Fuller £730.36 October salary.

8. 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.

Carried forward. The balance from the Treasurer's Account has now been paid into the current account following the Bank of Ireland closing the account.

9. To receive an update on the recent destruction by arson of the youth shelter, consider a replacement and take any necessary action.

The quote from Quality Equipment for a bespoke replacement is awaited. Mr Hardiman will follow up and ask when QE will demolish the damaged frame. Further brochure and price lists for shelters have been obtained. *Action: Mr Hardiman*

10. To discuss the response from SCC regarding replacement of damaged bollard, The Street and take any necessary action.

SCC has advised that it will not replace the broken bollards outside Bridges and Granmore, The Street. A letter will be sent advising that where the bollards were removed the stubs are above pavement level and a trip hazard. Also that the bollards were for protecting pedestrians from cars mounting the pavement and need to be reinstated. *Action: the Clerk*

11. To receive an update and new guide to taking part on “Battle’s Over – A Nations tribute” 11 November 2018 and take any necessary action.

The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Rev Farrell to liaise regarding ringing of the bells. The condition of the beacon will be checked during a working party at Ladyswell.

Action: the Clerk/Mr Hardiman

12. To consider the purchase of a replacement dog litter bin Old Stowmarket Road junction and take any necessary action.

Due to the design of the bin the lid has corroded away from the body of the bin. It was agreed to purchase a replacement.

Action: the Clerk

13. To consider a response to Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options and take any necessary action.

As there are no sites in Woolpit it was agreed not to respond.

14. To discuss cleaning of the bricks in the Millennium Garden and take any necessary action.

A quote is awaited from Suffolk Stone Cleaning Company.

15. To consider increasing the insurance values for items covered under our policy and take any necessary action.

A copy of the current amounts will be sent to Cllrs for discussion at the next meeting.

16. To consider a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Mid Suffolk and take any necessary action.

The draft recommendation is that Woolpit joins Elmswell as Elmswell and Woolpit Ward with 2 members. Cllrs disagree with what is proposed and the comment will be sent that we request to be Woolpit with Drinkstone.

Action: the Clerk

17. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

A grant has been received for a Landscape Sensitivity Study which will be carried out by a professional company who will provide a full report. Policies have started to be formulated.

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

Renewal letters have been sent out. Some plots continue to cause concern. The Clerk was asked to contact Jos Roper to get the fence moved to beside plot 22 and repair/replace posts and gates as necessary. It was agreed to relook at a community orchard for the left over land.

Action: the Clerk

19. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

It is believed that Costcutter are carrying out litter picking themselves and all seems reasonable at this time.

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

There is a meeting 8 November.

21. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 4 December 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....