

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

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mrs Cook, Mr Melvin, Mrs Parker, Mr Wheatley, Mr Hardiman, Mr Lomax and 10 members of the public.

Public comment. Councillors were asked to request MSDC Planning Committee make a site visit before deciding application 2112/16 development at Green Road and also if the application is approved that a condition should be that alterations to the road at Mill Lane must be completed before any development.

The owner of Weaver House, The Street asked for help to stop damage to the property from lorries and car doors.

The owner of The Firs asked councillors to support the planning application for severance of part of the garden and for a new bungalow to be built.

County Cllr Storey advised that there is an amendment to the budget figures to be debated this month. The Cabinet will be meeting to discuss the Quarterly Budget monitoring report and a report on civil parking enforcement which will allow parking to be enforced by local authorities rather than the police. GCSE results continue to improve and progress has risen for the first time above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities for progress at GCSE level at 55 out of 151. Suffolk's Director of Public Health released his annual report setting an ambition to improve mental health services in Suffolk over the next 10 years.

District Councillor Storey reported that following the removal of the option of Devolution, talks continue to try and get extra money into Suffolk. Central Government could be promoting a unitary solution. The Green Road development comes before the Planning Committee on Wednesday and Cllr Storey will request a site meeting. MSDC will meet to set the annual budget and is looking to increase of council tax by 1.64%. Also to be agreed are a mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, 10% increase in garage rents, 20% increase of Sheltered Housing services charges with a cap set at £4 and the proposal from the Local Government Boundary Commission that the number of councillors be reduced from 40 to 34. This will involve the Boundary Commission looking at the ward sizes and will have repercussions for the Woolpit Ward as this is the smallest in Mid Suffolk.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Howard.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

Mrs Parker declared a prejudicial interest in application 2112/16 Green Road development and item 13 a request for a grant from Woolpit Cricket Club. She duly signed the interest book.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting 16 January 2017.

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

4782/16 Erection of a three storey extension to existing office block, additional parking and landscaping. Additional information has been received. Cllrs made no further comment.

4983/16 & 4941/16 Replacement of the existing large plate glass shop windows with wood framed fenestrated windows. Replacement verbatim of the existing casement and leaded windows to first floor. Replacement of former shop front door. The Old Post Office, The Street – support. It is noted that it is the former accommodation side door to be replaced and not the former shop front door.

5069/16 Construction of roof over courtyard and conversion of space to form a treatment room and administration space. Erection of single storey extension to house WC facilities (following demolition of existing generator building). Woolpit Health Centre, Heath Road – support.

0318/17 Erection of single storey extension to provide staff room and internal alterations to provide training room and kitchen. Woolpit Health Centre, Heath Road – support.

0195/17 Erection of a single storey dwelling and new vehicular access (following part severance of garden). The Firs, Borley Green – support.

0095/17 Erection of two B1 units and extension to Unit 11 (D1 & B1) with associated car parking. Brickfield Business Park, Old Stowmarket Road – support.

0249/17 Continuation of operations in accordance with permission granted under 3373/13 without compliance with Condition 2 of that permission (2year time limit from 1.5.15). Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green, Rattlesden – no comment.

Mrs Parker left the meeting at 7.58 p.m.

2112/16 Erection of 49 dwellings (including 17 affordable dwellings) and construction of new access. Land on east side of Green Road. Additional information and revised plan. No change to previous comments. Cllr Melvin will speak on behalf of WPC at the planning committee 22 February and it was agreed to make a formal request for a site visit.

Action: the Clerk

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 8.16 pm

4750/16 Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling House (Class C3) and for Associated Operational Development. Conversion of two barns to two dwellings. Barns at Grassy Lane Farm, Warren Lane. MSDC decision – prior approval given.

5040/16 T1 & T2 conifer – both trees approx. stand 5m tall. Fell both trees to the ground to enable space for replanting. Jumbana, Masons Lane. MSDC decision – no objection.

3391/16 outline planning permission sought for the erection of 1 detached dwelling. (Amended site location plan). Melbury, Green Road will go to planning committee 22 February.

5. Clerk's Report

Mill Lane hedge – although this has been lighted trimmed it remains a problem and further complaints have been received. A strong letter will be sent to Suffolk Housing Society.

Action: the Clerk

Street lights and garden Steeles Road redevelopment – this continues to be a problem as SCC has advised that the street lights have not been adopted by SCC and remain the responsibility of Flagship. Richard Webster, SCC will pursue the matter. Mr Hardiman has had a conversation with Andy Thompson, Flagship on the outstanding matters.

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

Anglia Water has advised that the water supply to the allotments will be dealt with by Anglia Water Business (National) Ltd from 1 April 2017. **Vertas** grounds maintenance costs 2017/18 have increased by 3%. The Clerk was asked to find out what benefits there would be to extend the contract for longer than 12 months and also to obtain other quotes for grass cutting at the sports field and recreation field.

Action: the Clerk. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** MSDC notice of change of Governance for MSDC, confirmation of receipt of precept 2017/18 request, this is a 3.5% decrease on the parish proportion of council tax, Town & Parish newsletter January, Assets of Community value – pub is the hub event, the Great British springclean, Raising the Bar awards 2017, a call for volunteers stories. **SCC** CEP AGM and workshops 17 February, Minerals & Waste Local Plan – issues and options consultation reminder, Employers pension liaison meeting 13 February and cancellation of the same, Rest Centre practical session 14 February, Suffolk

Pension Fund employers newsletter January, road resurfacing Heath Road and Steeles Road 13-17 February, report flooding and drainage issues in Suffolk. **Rural Services Network** Rural Housing spotlight, Rural Health conference 2017, news digest 23 & 30 January, 6,13,20 February, Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty January rural transport February, Rural Opportunities bulletin, Rural Spotlight on the heart of the village, free RSN seminar – rural programmes. **Community Action Suffolk** training courses 2017, news 25 January and 8 February, Public Liability cover for community groups, next volunteer Development Forum 15 March. **SALC** Species Recovery Conference invitation, Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute and WWI Beacons of Light 11/11/18, planning conference 2 March Mildenhall, free composting training, MSDC/Babergh Local Access for Local People as councils agree community based locations for future services, Area meeting dates 2017, Planning for All conference, PCC-CC public meeting programme 2017, avian flu update. **Jane Storey** Join the Fight Trading Standards weekly bulletin 27 January & 17 February. **Ricochet** new BBC series looking for sentimental items for repair show. **Thurston PC** responses to planning applications facing Thurston. **Elmswell PC** planning response Wetherden Road 240 dwellings. 5 copy responses to Green Road reconsultation.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £52.00 litter picking January, Community Action Suffolk £60.00 community profiles for WNPSG, Mr J Blomfield £114.20 reimbursement for speed gun annual recalibration, Information Commissioner £35.00 data protection registration renewal, Glasdon UK £277.04 new dog bin and litter bin, Suffolk County Council £232.02 pension payment. Payments made by Standing Order Ms V Mayhew £192.00 January salary, Mrs P Fuller £683.94 January salary

8. To receive a report from the Health & Safety for Parish Councils course and take any necessary action.

The Clerk reported on the course and the items that affect WPC. The Clerk was asked to present a list of suggestion to Cllrs for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: the Clerk

9. To reconsider quotes for tree work at the Millennium Garden and take any necessary action.

The Clerk had noticed that the quote from Wayne Jarvis only includes one cherry tree and has requested clarification which has not yet been received. Carried forward to next meeting.

10. To consider a safety survey of trees on Parish Council owned land and take any necessary action.

The Clerk was asked to obtain 3 quotes for trees at Lady's Well, the Pump area and the allotment site.

Action: the Clerk

11. To consider a request that the Parish Council funds the balance for repair work to the War Memorial and take any necessary action.

This request has come from a resident. The request should come from the Institute Committee and then Cllrs will consider this request.

12. To consider a request that the street light at the junction of Mill Lane with Heath Road is replaced with a LED unit and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to replace this unit and also the unit at the junction of Heath Road and Steeles Road. The Clerk will contact SCC for a quote.

Action: the Clerk

Mrs Parker left the meeting at 8.50 p.m.

13. To consider a grant request from Woolpit Cricket Club to assist with the pavilion extension and take any necessary action.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried to purchase a gas burner range at a maximum cost of £1260.00 including VAT. *Action: the Clerk*

Mrs Parker rejoined the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

14. To consider recent damage by lorries to buildings in The Street and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with SCC, The Co-op, WPC and the home owner to try and find a way forward. *Action: the Clerk*

15. To consider HGV use of Broomhill Lane and take any necessary action.

A site meeting will be requested with SCC Highways to see if additional signage can be erected. *Action: the Clerk*

16. To discuss the Casual Vacancy and take any necessary action.

Due to Mr Jones moving from the county, a Casual Vacancy has occurred. This has been reported to MSDC and a Casual Vacancy notice has been put up on the notice board.

17. To discuss a Debit Card for the Clerk to be able to view Community Account on line and take any necessary action.

This is the only option for the Clerk to be able to view the account outside of receiving the bank statements. She can however telephone Barclays and request information as an authorised person. It was agreed not to have a debit card.

18. To discuss taking part in Battles Over – a Nation's Tribute and WWI Beacons of Light 11 November 2018 and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to light the beacon for this event. The Clerk will advise the event co-ordinator. *Action: the Clerk*

19. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

This is progressing satisfactorily and the group are looking at the preparation of the questionnaire to be sent to all households, identifying gaps in evidence base and drafting objectives and policies for the plan. Some work can be done by the group but it is likely that help will be sought from a consultant. The Feasibility Study for a Community Energy project will commence next week.

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

There are some muck heaps outside the fence which need to be moved onto plots as soon as possible. There are 3 plots that need to be worked on. 3 half plots remain available to rent.

21. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Nothing to report. It is noted that there is some fly tipping in two areas that has been reported to MSDC.

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

A successful Quiz night has taken place. One off bookings are picking up and 100 Club is being set up. The Play equipment is being looked at for repair/replacement.

23. To receive a report from the Footpath/Tree Warden.

Several of the paths have a high level of dog fouling. An item will be published in Woolpit Diary. *Action: the Clerk*

24. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 20 March 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.36 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....