

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
19 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Dr Geake, Mrs Cook, Mr Hardiman, Mr Wheatley, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Lomax and 3 members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Dr Geake was proposed, seconded and carried to act as Chairman of this meeting.

Public comment: A member of the public expressed concerns and objections regarding the applications for dwellings at Grassy Lane Farm. County Cllr Storey reported that Suffolk school transport consultation continues until 28 February. The council tax increase had been proposed as 3% on the National Adult Social Care Precept (NASCP) and the maximum allowed for councils, at 1.99%. However, at the Cabinet meeting on 23rd January the level of general council tax was set at 2.99% and the level of NASCP was set at 2%. Savings of £23.9m have been identified for 2018/19 – these are significant and will require careful and firm management in this year and subsequent years. There are four substantive items on the agenda for the Cabinet meeting 20 February– these are the 2017/18 Forecast Revenue and Capital Spending report from the Head of Finance which shows the latest financial position as at 31st December 2017, a report on Stutton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and the proposal to start a consultation on the possible closure of this school, a report to approve the next phase of the Raising the Bar strategy, and finally, a report on using a Social Impact Bond to reduce the need for, and costs of, adolescents coming into the care of Suffolk County Council.

District Cllr Storey reported that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been shortlisted for the prestigious Council of the Year accolade in the 2018 Public Sector Transformation Awards. The awards celebrate the best in local public services. The councils entered the Working Together category and are delighted to have been shortlisted as one of three finalists for this award too. The judges were so impressed with their submission that they entered them into the overall Council of the Year Award as well. They are up against two other organisations. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in London on 6 March. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has delayed the publication of its final recommendations for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils. The Commission is currently examining the electoral data and forecasts which underpin all the recommendations and they hope to be able to make further announcements following their meeting on 20th February. Earlier this month Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet voted to invest £2.56 million in the Regal Theatre Stowmarket Improvement Project. The investment, consisting of £1.56m in capital grant from Mid Suffolk District Council, and £1million in a loan to Stowmarket Town Council, will enable two new cinema screens to be added to the Regal. The Council meeting 22 February is the annual Budget setting meeting. The substantive items are the Joint Treasury Management Strategy, the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 2018/19 Budget. The papers include a proposal to increase council tax by 0.5%, an increase of 81p per annum for a Band D property. There is a mandatory 1% decrease in council house rents, an average of 83p per week. The proposal for Mid Suffolk to participate in the Business Rate Retention pilot for 2018/19 is recommended for acceptance. Mid Suffolk is expected to receive a one-off benefit of £1m as a result of the pilot.

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

2. **To receive declarations of interest.**

Mr Wheatley declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as a friend of the applicant.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting 15 January 2018.

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

18/00397 Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved). Grassy Lane Farm, Warren Lane – object. Outside the settlement boundary, no path to the centre of the village, narrow country lane.

18/00449 Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved). Grassy Lane Farm, Warren Lane – object. Outside the settlement boundary, no path to the centre of the village, narrow country lane, surface water issues.

18/00472 and 18/00473LB Replacement of windows and doors, repair of roof (including removal of solar panels), removal of porch extension and repair to external walls. Walls to be painted Terracotta coloured lime wash and windows to be painted grey. Mill Farm, Mill Lane – support.

18/00498 Erection of replacement office and warehouse (following demolition of existing office/workshop/store building). Quality Equipment, The Heath – support.

18/00570 Erection of 1.5 storey 2 bedroom dwelling. Land adjacent to Jumbana, Masons Lane – object. Overdevelopment of site, detrimental effect on the Conservation Area and setting of the church.

17/04953 Erection of 2 B1 commercial buildings for use by Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue. Site next to The Stag Café, A14 slip road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

17/06096 Application under Section 73 of the Town & Country Planning Act – variation of Condition 2 relating to application 1163/16. Site adjacent to The Rectory, Church Street. MSDC decision – permission granted.

18/00129 TPO 305 4 Oaks – T1 & T3 reduce crown volume by up to 30% and crown thin by up to 10% T2, T4 remove lowest branch growing towards property. Carvalho House, Borley Green. MSDC decision – consent granted.

17/06330 Erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension, two storey side extension, front porch, addition of front dormer and alterations to existing dormer window and additional cladding to front elevation. 15 Meadowlands. MSDC decision – permission granted.

2112/16 Erection of 49 dwellings (including 17 affordable dwellings) and construction of new access. Land on East side of Green Road has gone to appeal which will be determined on the basis of an inquiry.

5. Clerk's Report

Youth shelter – the Clerk has met with the Loss Adjuster and awaits contact from the insurance company.

GDPR – Waiting for the Bill to go through Parliament before receiving further advice from SALC.

CCTV covering the Play Area - the Clerk has contacted the Information Commissioner's Office for advice and is awaiting a reply.

WPC proportion of Council Tax – MSDC has advised that our precept gives Tax Band D payment of £38.31 per annum – an increase of 7.37%.

Pavement outside the Co-op store – SCC Street Lighting Supervisor has requested UKPN review the work carried out and Network Assurance is inspecting to see if this is a trip hazard. It is noted that work is taking place today.

Hedging along Heath Road – SCC has reported hedging and responded to complainant.

Bugler for 11 November 2018 – the Clerk is having difficulty in finding a bugler available to play the Last Post. She will contact Bury Boys Brigade and Stowmarket Concert Band.

Audit Briefing – the Clerk attended the presentation by PKF Littlejohn on 30 January. There will be little change to procedures in previous years.

CIL Workshop – the Clerk and Dr Geake attended today and this will be an agenda item for the March meeting.

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

A resident has asked that WPC look into reinstating the Steeles Road bus route. The Clerk was asked to contact the bus company. *Action: the Clerk.* **Headway Suffolk** thanks for donation. **County Cllr Storey** No Entry sign in Mill Lane request for this to be 1m into the Village Hall car park. This will be an agenda item for the March meeting. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty and rural transport January, rural broadband February, news digest 22, 29 January 5, 12, 19 February, Rural Housing spotlight, Rural Opportunities Bulletin. **Community Action Suffolk** news 18, 22, 24 January, 7, 14 February, stronger charities for a stronger Suffolk conference 7 February. **MSDC** Spring Clean Suffolk 2018, funding and volunteering fare February dates, further information on possible merger with Babergh DC, Stowmarket Vision for Prosperity update, CIL Workshop invitation. **St Nicholas Hospice** Carolling all the Way 2018. **SALC** weekly information bulletin 15, 27 January, 2, 12, 16 February, GDPR update – prices reduced by the DPO Centre, Suffolk Highways – Community Self Help survey, consultation: crime and poor performance in the waste sector. **SCC** rest centre training, suffolkonboard newsletter February. **SARS** grant request. **Brain Tumour Research** Brain Tumours using your local influence to help fund a cure. **Hopkins Homes** changes to proposals for development of land off Bury Road newsletter to residents. **Suffolk Police** shed and tools security advice and information. **Gipping Press** Suffolk Photography Competition – we want your images.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £18.95 litter picking January, Laura Bayly £60.00 Millennium Garden January, Gipping Press £260.88 February/March Diary, Quality Equipment £360.00 removal of damaged youth shelter, Business Services at CAS Ltd £33.01 additional premium, Information Commissioner £35.00 annual renewal Data Protection registration, Alison Farmer Associates £3,240.00 interim invoice for Landscape Appraisal for Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan, Mrs P Branham £90.00 edit February/March Diary, Viking £191.58 stationery, Suffolk County Council £240.66 pension payment, Mrs K Parker £15.00 reimbursement for bin bags for Litter Picker. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by standing order V Mayhew £151.53 January salary, P Fuller £730.36 January salary.

Mr Wheatley left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

8. To discuss an application for the casual vacancy for a councillor and take any necessary.

One of the applicants has withdrawn their application. It was unanimously agreed to Co-opt Carol Drury.

Mr Wheatley rejoined the meeting at 8.32 p.m.

9. 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.

It was agreed to open accounts with Nationwide Building Society and that Mr Guyler and Mr Lomax be the signatories. *Action: the Clerk*

10. To receive an update on the destruction by arson of the youth shelter, the replacement, request for a light in the shelter and take any necessary action.

Awaiting contact from the insurance company regarding our claim. The new shelter should be erected by the end of April. After discussion it was agreed that the youth shelter would not have a light.

11. To consider a request to support grant applications by the Playing Field Committee for Section 106 grant from MSDC and St Mary's Church for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to write letters of support for both applications.

Action: the Clerk

12. To consider bringing copy date for Woolpit Diary forward to 5th of the month prior to production and take any necessary action.

As the new editor is adhering to copy dates and copy is being forwarded to the printer in good time there is no need to change at this time.

13. To consider a request from Woolpit Community Speedwatch Group for a movable speed sign and take any necessary action.

County Cllr Storey was able to advise that these cost £2,500.00 as she has contributed towards the cost for other villages and would consider doing the same for Woolpit. Councillors agreed in principal but before committing to purchase a sign the Clerk was requested to ask CSW to advise what locations would they use and if poles are already at the sites to clamp the sign to.

Action: the Clerk

14. To consider a response to Suffolk Highways Community Self Help survey and take any necessary action.

The scheme allows for community groups to undertake minor work that Suffolk Highways does not have the budget to do and PCs are asked to advise what work they would be prepared to take on. There is no indication of funding for this work. After discussion it was agreed that WPC would not be prepared to take on any of the work.

Action: the Clerk

15. To consider a new dog bin and signage on footpath from The Green to Heath Road (Footpath 3) and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to purchase a dog bin but not to have signage.

Action: the Clerk

16. To consider organising a Village Litter pick for Spring 2018 and take any necessary action.

Dr Geake will liaise with Val Mayhew to arrange.

Action: Dr Geake

17. To consider installing CCTV cameras in the car park and play area as an extension to the Village Hall scheme and take any necessary action.

Carried forward as awaiting advice from the Information Commissioner's Office.

18. To consider a request from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association for a one-off donation of £50.00 and take any necessary action.

After discussion it was agreed not to send a donation.

19. To consider St Nicholas Hospice Care Carolling All The Way 2018 event taking place in Woolpit and take any necessary action.

The Clerk will advise that Woolpit has a similar event for another charity. WPC has no objection if someone in Woolpit wants to arrange an event but it would have to be on a different date to the current event.

Action: the Clerk

20. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

A very successful exhibition was held on 3 February with 80+ residents attending. The exhibition featured the results of the questionnaire and the consultant for the Landscape Sensitivity Study gave an illuminating presentation and took many questions. The Steering Group will complete policies on 26 February after which it remains to write up the Neighbourhood Plan. There will be at least 3 projects included in the NP: road safety/20 mph zone, footpaths and cyclepaths, play facilities for children and teenagers. The Landscape Sensitivity Study should be received before the end of February. The remaining tasks are to complete the plan, fulfil Basic Conditions, consultation, submission and referendum. Mrs Cook attended the

exhibition and reported that the Steering Group did a superb job on the displays and presentation to the village.

21. To receive a report on the allotments including making a decision on the Community Orchard area and take any necessary action.

All plots have been let with the exception of the plot being held for Woolpit Primary School. Dr Geake will liaise with the school to finalise this issue. It was decided that the orchard needs to have someone prepared to lead and manage the project, make decisions on planting and take the project forward. The Clerk will contact Mr Jackson of Woolpit Nurseries to see if he is willing to take this on. If not an advert will be included in the next Diary. *Action: the Clerk*

22. To receive a report from the Litter Picker. Nothing to report.

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

There have been issue with the heating system which hopefully have now been resolved. A fundraising quiz was successful and a wine tasting evening is being arranged. Funds are low at the moment but booking receipts are expected shortly although the loss of some regular bookings has not helped. One-off engagements are doing well. Repairs to the flooring are needed. The Committee are working hard and are very enthusiastic.

24. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 19 March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.49 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....