

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
6 JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Wheatley, Mr Aldis, Mr Hardiman, Mrs Ewans, Dr Geake, Mrs Moore, Mr Howard and 10 members of the public.

Public comment: A resident praised the new play equipment but asked about seating for parents and a speed limit in the area. Mr Hardiman advised that the Playing Field Committee is purchasing two picnic type benches to install in the play area. Mr Guyler advised that when the Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed and in order, proposed projects will come forward for speed restriction throughout the parish and the matter will be looked at.

The bin men are dropping rubbish when they empty bins and leaving it and also not putting the bins back on property curtilage therefore obstructing the pavements.

District Cllr Mansell will report this to the relevant Officer.

Mr Baker has offered to arrange a visit to Woolpit Business Park for Cllrs which was enthusiastically accepted.

District Councillors report. Plans for a £600,000 visitor centre/cafe at Needham Lake have been approved. Planning permission was granted on 11th December and 127 Trading company are the preferred tenants. Works should begin in spring 2020, and this will be a welcome addition to East Anglia's most visited free attraction.

MSDC Cabinet is to discuss a new initiative to issue new fines for Council Tax fraud on 6th January. Alongside the penalties, councillors are also due to consider adoption of a new protocol produced by Citizens Advice and Local Government Association for the collection of council tax arrears. On 6th January MSDC Cabinet are to determine an application for CIL Funding for a new Sixth Form Centre at Stowupland High School outside of the normal bid cycle. A further MSDC cabinet meeting is to be held on 13th January to discuss the draft budget for 2020/21. This is looking at a proposed increase of 1.66% in Council Tax which will go before the Scrutiny Panel on 16 January.

County Councillor's report. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as "Good" for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. SCC completes its pre-Budget scrutiny on January 7th, 2020. The first draft of SCC's budget was published on Monday, 16th December, and revealed a 1.99% increase on the County Council's share of the council tax. On top of that, a 2% increase will be from the social care precept element of the council tax, making an overall increase of 3.99% from the County Council. Among the other key areas will be a £500,000 increase going forward for the fire service, and partway re-instating the Citizens Advice Bureaux grant of £120,000 a year for the next three years. It also plans to increase its unallocated reserves by £10m over five years, up to £59.9m. A Scrutiny meeting will examine the relationship between Kier and SCC Highways.

Mr Aldis advised that there have been 3 break ins at The Swan in the last 3 months, one in the main building, one in a new building and one from an outside area.

Mr Aldis advised that the Swan is up for sale and someone is looking at it as a commercial building. It is not currently being advertised in licensee trading magazines.

Mr Aldis left the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Jenkins.

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

Mr Wheatley declared a prejudicial interest in item 17 as he is a volunteer at CAB.

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 2 December 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

19/05584 Erection of 2 detached single storey dwellings, access driveway and enlargement of existing access and relocation of parking and shed. Land to the rear of 9 & 11 Steeles Road – object. Overdevelopment of the site, inability to turn round on site if all parking spaces occupied which would cause highways safety issues.

19/05297 & LB 19/05324 Erection of single storey lean to side extension (following demolition of existing), Sunnyridge, Rags Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

19/05252 Discharge of condition 19/02970 Condition 4 (Tree Protection), Carvalho House, Borley Green. MSDC decision – acceptable.

19/04886 Discharge of Condition 18/03820 Condition 3 (external lighting), Energy House, Unit 23 Windmill Avenue. MSDC decision – satisfied.

19/05267 Discharge of Conditions 1636/16 Condition 19 (Landscape & Historical Visual Impact Assessment), land South of Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision – satisfied.

19/05268 Discharge of Conditions 1636/16 Condition 5 (Archaeological works) Condition 11 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) Condition 13 (Landscape & Ecological Management Plan), Land South of Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision – satisfied.

18/05520 Erection of detached dwelling, land adjacent to Bonny Cottage, Sharpes Row. The Appeal has been dismissed as the development would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area.

19/02688 Outline permission for 5 dwellings land off Rags Lane comes before MSDC Planning Committee on 22 January. Mrs Ewans will speak on behalf of WPC objecting to the proposal.

SALC has sent a planning survey for completion. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mr Guyler should complete.

5. Clerk's Report

Green Road highways mitigation scheme – John Pateman-Gee has advised that the agent's drawing has been rejected by SCC.

Mill Lane hedge – MSDC Public Realm has taken over the maintenance of the hedge. It has had to be cut back hard so that it can be kept at a sensible height and width in the future.

Dead oak, The Heath – the issue has resolved itself as the tree came down in recent winds.

Recreation Ground Charity RCN304959 – the 200 units have been sold and realised £3,430.54.

Litter issue at the car park – the area was left over the Christmas period but has been cleared since.

No Entry pump area, The Street – issues of people going the wrong way has been reported.

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

Resident concerns regarding flooding and heavy vehicles using Broomhill Lane.

Although a new sign has been erected "not suitable for heavy traffic" the lane is still frequently used and the verges are being eroded. The Clerk will ask for an on-site meeting with SCC Highways and Cllr Jane Storey. *Action: the Clerk.*

The street cleaner has advised of laughing gas cylinders and balloons at the Tennis Club car park. This will be reported to the Police. *Action: the Clerk.*

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Clerks & Council Direct

January 2020, **Rural Services Network** Christmas Greetings, Rural Bulletin 3, 10, 17, 27 December, Rural Funding Digest December. **NALC** CEO bulletin 6, 20 December, Chairman's open letter to all councillors. **MSDC** new Christmas recycling guide, promote free swims for under 17's at Christmas. **Suffolk NHS** pharmacy Christmas opening times. **Suffolk Police** Constables County December/January.

SCC Suffolkonboard bus timetable updates. **SALC** ebulletin 6, 20 December, December NALC legal update – repairs to property relating to affairs of the church, Mid Suffolk Area Forum 3 December follow up. Resident copy email to SCC Highways regarding damage caused by trenches crossing.

7. To approve accounts for payment.

Woolpit Institute £416.00 office rent November-January and Anglian Water Business (National) £40.30 allotment water 4/9/19-4/12/19 were ratified. Mr K Harknett £62.40 litter picking December, Woolpit Institute £416.00 office rent February-April, Woolpit Institute £132.00 meeting room hire July-December, Laura Bayly £66.00 Millennium Garden November & December, Gipping Press £260.88 Woolpit Diary December/January, Woolpit Nurseries £150.00 Christmas tree, Suffolk County Council £278.14 pension payment, HM revenue & Customs £354.19 Tax and N/I October-December. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order Mrs P Fuller £835.45 December salary, Mr R Bulk £175.33 December salary.

8. To receive a monthly financial report.

The book balance at the end of December is £75,290.08 but has not yet been reconciled against the bank statement.

9. To discuss and set the precept for 2020/21.

Cllrs were presented with actual costs for 2019/20 and current reserves. It was agreed that the £3,430.54 received from the sale of units of the Recreation Ground Charity will be added to the play equipment reserve. After much discussion it was proposed and seconded to set a precept of £30,000.00 for 2020/2021. A counter proposal that the precept be set at £34,000.00 was not seconded and therefore fell. A vote on the proposal of £30,000.00 was carried with 6 votes in favour. The form was duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk. Full details of the precept are shown under folios 822 and 823.

10. To receive an update on the VE commemorations 8 May 2020.

Lisa Hicks is happy to supervise the event if it is only tea and cakes. Mr Hardiman will raise the event with the Village Hall committee at the next meeting to see if the hall can be used if the weather is inclement. The working group will arrange a meeting shortly.

11. To consider the purchase of litter bins for the new play area and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to purchase two bins to be attached to the fencing at an approx. cost of £40.00 each.

Action: the Clerk

12. To discuss the technical drawings for the double mini roundabouts at the junction of Heath Road and Old Stowmarket Road submitted by David Wilson Homes to SCC Highways for approval and take any necessary action.

There are several differences to the plans included with the original planning application. The Clerk will request a meeting with Davis Wilson Homes to discuss.

Action: the Clerk

13. To consider a response to Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 submission consultation.

Councillors do not wish to comment.

14. To discuss the possible change of use of the Swan Inn to housing and take any necessary action.

The Swan Inn is up for sale and being advertised as a restaurant that could be changed into two residential dwellings. This has caused much disquiet among residents as they do not wish to see the loss of a public house. It was agreed to nominate The Swan as an Asset of Community Value.

Action: the Clerk

15. To receive an update on the new website and take any necessary action.
There has been an issue with transferring the Neighbourhood Plan documents. Suffolk Cloud can do this for a charge of £50.00 and this was unanimously agreed. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with the website without a local business listing.
Mrs Ewans was thanked for all her hard work in getting the new website set up.

16. To receive a report on the allotments including an update on rabbit proof fencing and to consider an additional tap near to plots 14-16.
There have been several issues raised regarding the new fencing: the gates do not open fully, rubbish has not been removed, fencing to the right hand side of the track has not been removed. It was agreed that Mr Howard would contact the contractor for a meeting to sort out these issues. The 50% deposit cheque had been returned by the bank as Ltd was left off the name of the payee. It was agreed to reissue this cheque and the remainder of the invoice will be paid when all issues have been resolved.
Action: Mr Howard/the Clerk
It was agreed to put in a tap near to plots 14-16. The Clerk will contact Mr Seeley who may be willing to install this.
Action: the Clerk

Mr Wheatley left the meeting at 9.43 p.m.

17. To consider a grant request from Mid Suffolk CAB and take any necessary action.
It was proposed, seconded and carried to make a grant of £500.00. *Action: the Clerk*
Mr Wheatley rejoined the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

18. To discuss sponsorship requests in Woolpit Diary and take any necessary action.
Cllrs are happy for residents to put items regarding charity events that they are participating in and would like sponsorship in Woolpit Diary.

19. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.
Concerns had been expressed regarding the car park opposite the church over the Christmas period.

20. To receive a report from the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee.
The next meeting is 14 January 2020.

21. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 3 February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....