

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025
AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Dr Geake (Chair), Mrs Osborne-Lomax, Mr Hardiman, Mr Guyler and Miss Tomlinson.

In attendance: Mrs Fuller, Clerk and Mrs Ewans, Deputy Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Hammond.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Mr Guyler and Mr Hardiman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7a as Mr Guyler is on the Institute Committee and Mr Hardiman is the Caretaker of the Institute. They duly signed the interest book.

3. Public comment There was none.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting 18 March 2025

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

An email has been received from the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee requesting details of CIL money allocated, under discussion or not fully costed totalling £174,000.00. He will be advised that these figures change at each meeting as further information on projects and new projects become available and a copy of the CIL report for 2024/25 will be sent along with a copy of the draft minutes of this meeting.

The email also asks if it is intended to have public consultations for these and other future projects. If it is a large project and needs public consultation WPC will request this. The Parish Council will not ask for disproportionate information when it is not required.

Regular items are in Woolpit Diary reminding residents that CIL funding is available for qualifying projects and improvements, the latest being April/May 2025 issue. Figures allocated for the rewinding project will be provided. However, to date we have been very fortunate as over 900 hedging and tree plants, guards and posts have been donated.

A copy of a resident's comments to the Village Hall project silver option has been sent to WPC for information.

6. General discussion to agree moneys earmarked for future projects.

Mrs Ewans, Deputy Clerk, had provided a spreadsheet as a working document to Cllrs prior to the meeting to outline the current balance of CIL plus sums set aside for forthcoming projects. Having seen reports that two recently constructed skateparks have cost £150k - £160k, it was agreed to increase the allocated sum to £100k.

Quotes for legal fees for the amenity land acquisition are being sought and it was agreed to allocate £2,500.00 for this. It was also agreed to allocate a further £25,000.00 for work required on the amenity land such as fencing. Regrettably the free bridge for Lady's Well has not materialised and quotes are being garnered and Cllrs agreed to allocate £5000.00. There are likely to be costs involved for the new cycle/footpath link from the new housing estate to the car park by the tennis courts and it was agreed to allocate £10,000.00 to cover this.

The burial ground was discussed and as there is £35,000.00 in the separate Burial Ground reserve, no CIL allocation is required at this time. However solicitor's fees are likely to be in the region of £5-6,000.00.

The current amount of CIL being held is £480,224.83 of which £220,215.20 is in reserve for projects already agreed, projects still to be fully costed and for items under discussion. The current unallocated funds total is £260,029.63.

It is noted that the £4,000.00 which was allocated for the new beacon at the Cricket Club has been put back to unallocated funds as the beacon has been donated to the village by Quality Equipment to mark their 65th Anniversary.

7. To consider CIL grant requests (for applications received before agenda sent)

a)Woolpit Institute

The Institute have submitted a request for further £,3552.00 funding for roof repairs as, once on site, more issues were discovered. To save costs the Institute Committee gave the go ahead for the additional work as the SCC street licence was still live and the scaffolding was still in situ. Whilst Cllrs sympathised with the situation, our CIL spending policy states that applications for retrospective funding will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and Cllrs don't feel that cost saving fulfils this requirement. The Institute accounts show a sinking fund of £15,000.00 and a representative was asked what this is for. They advised that there is a lot of internal work to be carried out to make good old repairs which have not used the correct type of materials for the listed building for which the Institute Committee is getting quotes.

Whilst Woolpit PC is unable to agree the £3,552.00 request, it would be prepared to consider an application for a grant towards the cost of the internal repairs.

b)Woolpit Village Hall Committee – no additional paperwork or plans have been received.

8. To Consider a further bus shelter opposite Costcutter and take any necessary action.

The current quote is for a shelter with no sides. Mr Hardiman and Mrs Osborne-Lomax have looked at the area and if the hedge is cut back to the end of the tarmac, a shelter with sides may be able to be installed. It was agreed to defer the item and get a further quote for a shelter with sides, mark up the area to see how it would fit on site and make a decision at the September meeting.

9. To sign the Annual CIL report for 2024/5

The report which now also shows details of allocated funds not yet spent was approved and signed by the Clerk and Chair and will be sent to MSDC before the end of June.

10. To agree the date of the next CIL meeting as Tuesday 16 September 2025.

This was agreed and the meeting will commence at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.42 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....