

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Hardiman, Mr Aldis, Mrs Ewans, Dr Geake, Mr Wheatley, Mrs Moore, Mr Howard, Mrs Jenkins and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. Public comment: there is a lot of concern regarding breach of traffic regulations in Mill Lane with many vehicles ignoring the One Way section. Mr Hardiman has spoken with P.C. Henriksen on this matter.

Mr Hardiman has spoken to Traffic Management regarding the current roadworks in Church Street and The Street. The work is slightly behind schedule but they are working on widening the path and hope to have Church Street open again in two weeks.

Mrs Parker is looking to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme in the parish. There will be some initial set up costs including purchase of a mobile phone, insurance and DBS checks for volunteers. She hopes that the Parish Council will support this initiative.

District Cllr Mansell advised that the Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan was discussed by MSDC Cabinet which unanimously voted for the NP to go to the next stage with the suggested changes requested by the Examiner. It is assumed MSDC will inform WPC of this decision. Because of Coronavirus, the earliest WNP will go to the referendum stage is May 2021.

Mr Guyler asked if there has been any progress regarding the application with Goldstar for the extension of the container storage area. Discussions have taken place with the applicant too secure conditions of minimal lighting and restricted hours of operation on the extension.

Mr Guyler raised the matter of enforcement issues at Corern, Rattlesden Road. The Clerk has contacted MSDC to see if there is a restriction of the number of lorries at the site but no response has been received. Cllr Mansell will follow this up.

Mr Hardiman advised that Richard Webster SCC street lighting has advised he is waiting for UK Power Networks to complete the replacement of the concrete columns in Mill Close and Briar Hill along with the LED replacement to the lights at The Swan and the museum.

Mr Hardiman advised that the beech hedge by The Plough has been cut back but not sufficiently and he will contact SCC.

Mr Howard advised there has been no antisocial behaviour in the car park for 11 nights as those involved have been threatened with prosecution.

It is noted that there have been several rural burglaries in neighbouring villages.

County Councillor's report. 100 fast charging points for electric vehicles will be installed in rural parts of the county by Suffolk County Council. On 25 September, Suffolk's public sector leaders met to agree collective action as part of Suffolk's recovery from COVID-19 over the coming months. To kick start the process, the group agreed in principle to a significant investment of £3.4 million towards key priorities to support Suffolk's communities and businesses, addressing some of the challenges people currently face, including isolation, hardship, exploitation and the uncertainty of the economy. Suffolk recently celebrated a successful first year of its £4.4m Live Labs project – 'A Smarter Suffolk'.

The main aim of Suffolk's Live Lab is to use its existing street lighting infrastructure to provide a showcase of innovative technologies that bring efficiencies to Suffolk County Council now, and potentially to other local authorities in future. Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2021. Suffolk County Council supports Network Rail's proposal to unlock rail capacity at Ely for passenger and freight services. Achieving an hourly Ipswich to Peterborough passenger rail service and enabling more freight to travel by rail has moved a step closer with the announcement that Network Rail will be seeking the public's views on

a proposed scheme that will unlock rail congestion at Ely Station. New boundaries are being proposed for council divisions in Suffolk County Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 23 November 2020.

District Councillors' report. MSDC annual meeting was held virtually on 24th September. Barry Humphreys was elected as Chairman and Paul Ekpenyong as Vice Chair. Mid Suffolk response to the Government Planning for the Future White Paper will be discussed by a cross-party working group of members before being submitted. Mid Suffolk Cabinet decided to continue with an in-house Public Realm service team and Babergh Cabinet decided to be part of the same arrangement. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have been awarded a grant of £100,000 to help cover the cost of temporary accommodation for homeless people over the winter. Officers are working together with representatives from Stowmarket High School to develop the school and leisure centre site to improve leisure facilities. Stakeholders from local sports clubs will be consulted in order to fully assess what is needed. A public consultation on proposals for Gateway 14, which now includes land up to A14, was launched on Monday 14th September and continues until 31st October.

3. To receive declarations of interest. Mr Aldis declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application for The Swan.

4. To approve the minutes of the meetings 7 & 15 September 2020.

Both sets of minutes were approved.

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

20/03548 Hybrid application – full application for conversion of the existing building into a dwelling and outline application (some matters reserved, access layout to be considered) for the erection of 5 new dwellings. Land at Lawn Farm, Warren Lane – object. Harm to the character of the area and setting of the Listed Building, unsustainable development in the countryside.

20/03775 Change of use of public house (A4) to dwelling house (C3). Swan Inn, The Street. Mr Aldis explained the reasons for the application being changes to the pub trade, profitability and the number of pubs closing.

Mr Aldis left the meeting at 8.23 p.m.

After discussed it was proposed to object to the proposal as Cllrs do not wish to see the loss of the public house in the prominent central village square which is set amongst other businesses. With the population increase with 750 new homes projected in the Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan it is considered that there would be an increase in business. This was seconded and a vote taken. 6 for, 1 against, 1 abstention.

Mr Aldis rejoined the meeting at 8.35 p.m. and asked for Cllr's votes to be recorded in the minutes. Cllrs Guylor, Moore, Jenkins, Ewans, Hardiman and Geake voted for the motion to object to the application, Mr Wheatley voted against the motion and Mr Howard abstained.

Mr Aldis left the meeting at 8.36 p.m.

20/04086 Notification of tree work in a Conservation Area. 1 Hawthorn reduce height by 2m (reduce shading) 1 Field Maple reduce height by 2m (reduce shading) 1 Field Maple reduce by 4m (reduce shading). Green Hill, The Street – support.

20/04087 Notification of tree work in a Conservation Area 1 Beech reduce height by 2m (reduce shading) 1 Ash reduce by 2m (reduce shading). Sunnyside, Rags Lane – support.

19/02605 Appeal against the refusal of planning permission for 120 dwellings at the Former Poultry Processing Plant Haughley Park. Cllrs do not wish to submit any comments.

20/03406 Erection of two bay cart lodge/workshop (following demolition of existing

garage). Sunnyridge, Rags Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.
20/02823 Erect 4 self-contained B1 commercial units and a proposed A1 commercial unit. Land at Stag Café, Old A45. MSDC decision – permission granted.
 Following the Parish Council's decision not to proceed with a Judicial Review regarding planning permission for the Bury Road site an action group independent of the Parish Council has been formed in the village to pursue the matter.

6. Clerk's Report

Street Light Unit 44 – has been rectified and is going off over night.

Pykotts Way sign – invoice has been received and should be erected shortly.

Mill Lane road name sign (Green Road end) – MSDC will check the amount of damage and if necessary replace.

Oak Tree, Steeles Road – is overhanging adjacent gardens. MSDC will inspect and cut back as necessary.

New website – is now up and running.

In Touch magazine – has published an item from the Parish Council regarding the Bury Road site being granted planning permission.

Meeting with David Wilson Homes – a positive meeting has been held to keep the Parish Council informed of the schedule of work for the Old Stowmarket Road development.

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

Resident regarding hedging needing cutting back. The Clerk was asked to refer to SCC as landowners have been written to before. **Resident** copy of email sent to SCC Highways regarding the roadworks in The Street and Church Street. **Two Residents** speeding and hazards of lorries mounting the pavement along Heath Road. **SARS** letter of thanks for donation. **Healthwatch Suffolk** End of Life Project information will be put on the website. **David Wilson Homes** has confirmed that the pole in the centre of the path at Heath Road/Church Street junction will be removed during the roundabouts construction. **Woolpit Playing Field Committee** requesting WPC completes a grant application form for a MUGA. It was agreed that before going any further on this project a letter will be sent asking WPFC regarding future maintenance, inspection and insurance of the area. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 8, 15, 22, 29 September. **East Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust** Council of Governors elections. SALC area forums election of area chair and vice-chair, latest **SALC** Covid-19 bulletin 14, 21, 28 September, online councillor training, planning white paper consultation – support material, Mid Suffolk Area Forum summary notes, update for NHS Track and Trace. **MSDC** trees & hedgerows, planning system outage 1 & 8 October. **Suffolk Preservation Society** don't let the government deregulate planning. **Quiet Lanes Suffolk** 30 November deadline for registering interest in community funding for quiet lanes. **Local Government Boundary Commission for England** have your say on division boundaries for SCC. **Nexis Fostering** poster. **Suffolk Police** Constable County October.

8. To approve accounts for payment.

Anglian Water Business National £91.48 allotment water 5/6/20-4/9/20, MSDC £147.60 Pykotts Way sign, Gipping Press £277.30 October/November Diary, Mrs P Branham £87.48 edit October/November Diary, Laura Bayly £22.00 Millennium Garden September, Suffolk County Council £296.96 pension payment, HMRC £449.39 tax & N/I July-September, Mrs Fuller £106.61 expenses July-September. All accounts were approved. Payments by Standing Order Mrs Fuller £893.96 September salary, Mr Balk £186.13 September salary.

9. To receive a monthly financial report.

The balance of the Community Account at the end of September was £145,621.11.

Mrs Ewans left the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

It was agreed that the Clerk would look into an accounts package for the Parish Council and make a recommendation to WPC at the November meeting. It will be populated with the current year's information by the end of December to allow councillors to make any adjustments to the required heading before the financial year end. An additional payment for 10 hours to the Clerk will be allocated for this work which will be reviewed if necessary.

Action: the Clerk

10. To discuss operation of the new Woolpit website and take any necessary action.

Mr Guyler thanked Mrs Ewans for all her hard work in getting the new website set up and launched. The Clerk will update the Parish Council documents on the site and Mrs Ewans will update other pages.

11. To consider the purchase of a heater for the Clerk's office and take any necessary action.

As the Institute is not being used much at the moment due to Covid-19 restrictions, the building is not being heated for the same number of hours and therefore the office is quite cold. It was agreed to buy a convector heater for the Parish Council office up to a cost of £60.00 + VAT.

Action: the Clerk

12. To consider changing WPC's part night street lighting times from midnight - 5.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. - 6 a.m. in line with SCC and take any necessary action.

This was unanimously agreed.

Action: the Clerk

13. To consider the purchase of 2 dog bin lids and chutes and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to purchase these from CIL money. It was agreed that the Clerk could authorise replacement lids and chutes without bringing to full council in the future.

Action: the Clerk

14. To approve the NALC 2020/21 pay rate for the Clerk and take any necessary action.

The pay scale for 2020/21 has now been published. The Clerk salary scale is SCP 23 and the hourly rate increases from £14.03 per hour to £14.42 per hour back dated to April 2020. This was approved.

15. To consider a response to the Government's 'Planning for the Future' White Paper and take any necessary action.

Councillors do not wish to respond.

16. To discuss a request for support to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme in Woolpit and take any necessary action.

Councillors fully support the concept of a Good Neighbour Scheme and await further information for how the Parish Council can help in due course. It is noted that there is no age restriction for volunteers.

17. To consider a donation to the Royal British Legion for a new poppy wreath and take any necessary action.

It was unanimously agreed to send a donation of £50.00 for a wreath this year rather than the suggested donation of £17.50. There will be no house to house collections this year due to current restrictions so the RBL fundraising will be much lower for 2020.

Action: the Clerk

18. To consider a request from MSDC for areas of land available for tree planting and take any necessary action.

This was carried forward to the next meeting to allow Cllrs time to consider areas which might be used.

19. To receive a report on the allotments and consider increasing rents from November 2021 and take any necessary action.

All plots are now rented and we have two people on the waiting list. Renewal letters are to be sent out shortly. It was agreed to increase rents to £10 per half plot and £20 a full plot from November 2021. Tenants will be given 12 months' notice of this. The fence has been repaired and tenants will be asked not to use strimmers near to the fence.

Action: the Clerk

20. To receive a report from the Litter Picker.

Mr Harknett had not been able to litter pick during September but will resume in October.

21. To receive a report from the Footpath & Tree Warden.

All paths have been walked and all signs are visible. Some of the paths are overgrown but still walkable. Dog fouling remains a problem on some paths. FP4 is clear by Mr Baker's land but overgrown by the Landex site. The foreman has advised that this will be cut back during October. A 6ft fence has been erected the length of the development and we will need to make sure that the hedge between the fence and the path is maintained once the development has been completed. On FP7 the steps between Lower Broom Road and Broomhill Lane have been replaced.

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

The AGM cancelled in April will take place on 14 October. The secretary and treasurer have resigned and new incumbents will be appointed.

23. Date and time of the next virtual Parish Council meeting – Monday 2 November 2020 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Approved - 2 November 2020.....