

**DRAFT** MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.

**Present:** Mr Guyler (Chairman), Mr Wheatley, Mrs Ewans, Mr Howard, Dr Geake, Mr Aldis, Mrs Moore, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Hardiman and 7 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence.** There were none.

**2. To suspend the functions of Woolpit Parish Council from the Clerk for the period of this meeting.** This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Geake left the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7.47pm

**3. Public comment**

A resident asked regarding the latest position regarding Green Road pinch point. Mr Guyler advised that we are awaiting MSDC decision on the planning application. Mr Howard advised that he has been in contact with the Police regarding the antisocial behaviour in the car park and those involved have been spoken to. Litter bins have been overflowing in the car park which appears to be due to more teenagers around due to school lockdowns.

Mr Howard has witnessed several vehicles travelling the wrong way in the Mill Lane one way section. Registration numbers are required to report to the Police.

**County Cllr Storey report** - You can call the Home, But Not Alone phonenumber if you live in Suffolk and need urgent help during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is a free service. The Council Leaders of East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council have offered a joint response following the submission on 27 May of EDF Energy's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build a new nuclear power station at Sizewell. On Thursday 14 May, all of Suffolk's 11 recycling centre sites re-opened on an appointment only basis. Since then, 95% of all slots have been booked. This amounts to 28,500 appointments. To ensure appropriate safety measures can be put in place for communities across Suffolk, the county council is working closely with its local authority partners, town councils and the business community to develop guidance and advice on how social distancing measures can be maintained as shops and businesses begin to re-open and current lockdown restrictions are relaxed over time. Suffolk County Council, in partnership with **RETHINK Partners** and **Alcove**, has launched a new and innovative response to the COVID-19 crisis, by providing virtual care and support to vulnerable or shielded people. Suffolk residents are being asked to continue their great efforts, which are successfully reducing the spread of COVID-19. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, help is available – that's the message from the Suffolk Resilience Forum. Suffolk Archives commemorate VE Day 75 with new online exhibition.

**District Cllrs report** - Staff are continuing to work from home, making use of Skype or Teams to hold virtual meetings with colleagues and residents; non-urgent site inspections are not taking place. Many officers have been seconded to different duties to help MSDC respond to the issues arising from the pandemic. There have been very few meetings held, all of them virtual meetings via Skype or Teams. Joint MSDC and BDC Cabinet meetings have been held in May and June. A virtual full Council meeting is being planned for July. The Tree for Life scheme has been relaunched. Parents of children born or adopted during 2020 can apply for a free tree to plant in their own garden or other suitable location. A new Discretionary Grant is now open for businesses based in shared offices or other flexible workspaces, market traders, bed and breakfasts and small charity properties. The value of the grants range between £2,500 - £5,000 and can only be claimed by businesses that have been unable to access any other grants. MSDC has funds to support organisations providing help to vulnerable residents. A Covid-19 Emerging

Needs Grant was set up last month, ensuring much-needed funding could be provided to new and existing groups within communities and parish councils. As lockdown measures are eased, there is a need to change the way we visit businesses, shops and open spaces. MSDC is working with other councils across Suffolk to introduce measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading as more people are out and about. A new £300,000 funding programme for small businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed - with funds to be allocated over the next three years. It is anticipated that the draft Joint Local Plan (JLP) will be discussed by full Council in July. A cross party working group from both councils has been working through it but the allocations for development along the A14 corridor is little changed. There are further stages, including Examination by an Inspector, before the JLP can be adopted as a planning document with full weight. Locality Awards have been launched for 2020/21.

The meeting reconvened at 7.59 p.m.

**4. To discuss the opinion of Counsel regarding the possible Judicial Review of planning permission granted by MSDC for application 18/04247 for 300 houses Bury Road and take any necessary action.**

Our grateful thanks to Mrs Ewans, Mr Hughes and Mr Turner for all their work in preparing documentation for counsel to provide opinion on a judicial review. Mr Aldis spoke in favour of a judicial review to save the village from this large development. It was pointed out that even if the judicial review was successful the application could be resubmitted and granted by MSDC. Concern was expressed regarding how much the court action could cost. It was felt that all residents will need to be consulted to see if a judicial review should be pursued. Mrs Ewans was asked to get some quotes from solicitors specialising in planning matters. It was unanimously agreed to defer a decision until further information on likely costs are known. The Clerk was asked look at the insurance policy to see if we have cover for legal action.

*Action: the Clerk/Mrs Ewans*

**5. To complete and sign the Statement of Assurance and Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2020.**

The form was duly completed and will be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**6. To discharge the functions of Woolpit Parish Council to the Clerk during the period of the Corona Virus crisis.**

This was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....