

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

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

Mr Guyler advised that Mr Aldis has resigned after almost 2 years on the Parish Council and he was thanked for his work for the parish. A Casual Vacancy has been advised and there has been no request for an election in the allocated time and can be filled by co-option. The vacancy will be advertised in the April/May issue of Woolpit Diary.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jenkins.

2. Public comment Mr Mellen, Green Candidate for SCC elections introduced himself to Cllrs.

Mr Hardiman advised that dogs are being taken into the children's play area and asked if we could put up signs to say no dogs on the recreation field or in the children's play area as a matter of urgency. This was unanimously agreed.

Mr Wheatley stated that the electricity pole near the new mini roundabouts was still in situ. UK Power Networks are to come back and complete the work shortly.

Mrs Moore asked if the verge where vehicles have been parking in Old Stowmarket Road would be made good by the developer. It is thought this will be carried out after UK Power Networks have completed work in the area.

Mr Guyler will be attended a meeting regarding the new Health Centre car park.

Mr Guyler reported that the snowdrops in Lady's Well are looking superb.

3. County & District Councillors reports.

County Councillor's report. Covid-19 rates for the county and more specifically, Mid Suffolk are still going in the right direction but the danger is complacency. Most children return to school on 8 March. There is a new Covid-19 rapid testing centre based at the Blackbourne in Elmswell. This is available for anyone living or working in the surrounding area that is unable to work from home. On 2nd March there is a meeting of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub Committee. There have been issues in several villages over the last few months and Cllr Storey has met Highways officers on site at a couple of those locations. Drainage and flooding, Rights of Way bridges and resurfacing of roads in Suffolk have been allocated extra funds for the 2021/22 financial year following Department for Transport's funding announcement. Suffolk Highways has allocated an extra £2m – double its current budget allocation whilst committing a further £3.4m to the county's surface dressing programme. The pandemic this year has significantly impacted on the council and in 2021/22, general Council Tax will rise by 1.99 per cent. There is also a two per cent rise in the Social Care Precept for the forthcoming year as the council recognises the ongoing challenges with meeting the rising costs and rising demand for adult care services. This means a Band D property will see an overall rise of £53.55 this year for Suffolk County Council's element of their Council Tax bill. In February the council's scrutiny committee considered evidence on the subject of developing local emergency plans. Several local villages have emergency plans and Cllr Storey gave information on the Woolpit Emergency Plan. On 6th May there are elections to Suffolk County Council and also for Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. Nominations must be in by 8th April. The election moratorium starts on 25th March.

Cllr Storey was asked regarding the flooding at Bury Road/Norton Road. She will follow up again with Highways England and SCC Highways.

District Councillors' Report At the February Council meeting next year's budget was agreed. There is to be a 1.66% increase in Council Tax despite budgeting for over £3M surplus each year for the next 3 years. Cross party working groups are to be set up to decide how to spend approx £4M across all parts of the organisation to

help in the recovery following the pandemic. Since the Government removed the cap of rent increases, MSDC are to increase their Council House rent by CPI+1% (this equates to approx £1.25 per week increase) and Sheltered Housing Service charges are to go up by £1 per week. The Council has a Capital programme 2021-24 to develop 254 affordable homes and 119 shared ownership homes. The Council have completed the procurement process and appointed a contractor to build the Needham Lake Visitor Centre and Café. The facility is a high quality and environmentally sustainable building. Gateway 14 has submitted a planning applicant to MSDC for a mixed use business park. This has followed an extensive community engagement exercise. Census day is March 21st. It is vital that everyone completes the survey as the responses will help to identify society's needs now and in the future. This information helps plan and fund services in the locality including transport, healthcare and education. The waste collections were disrupted by the snowy weather and they have been working on Saturdays to try to catch up, but bins may still be being collected a day late. The Brown Bin service is set to resume 8 March. Subscribers will have their payments adjusted to account for the missing collections.

4. To receive declarations of interest. There were none.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 1 February 2021.

The minutes were approved.

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

21/01008 Creation of a new vehicular access. Myrtle Cottage, The Green – support.

21/01049 Application for works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order MS305 – Oak (T1) - Reduction in length of 2 branches where they are growing downwards and towards neighbouring property. Removal of Ivy from tree trunk to allow for tree growth. Mulberry House, Borley Green – support.

21/00010 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 1 (Approval of Outstanding Reserved Matters) of Reserved Matters Approval DC/20/04887 dated 29/12/20 (Submission of Details Application (Reserved Matters) for Outline Planning Permission DC/18/00449 - Access for the erection of 2 No detached dwellings.). To allow construction of the shared access into the site before full details of dwellings are submitted and approved. Land South Of Grassy Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

21/00011 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 1 (Approval of Outstanding Reserved Matters) of Reserved Matters Approval DC/20/04887 dated 29/12/20 (Submission of Details Application (Reserved Matters) for Outline Planning Permission DC/18/00449 - Access for the erection of 2 No detached dwellings.). To allow construction of the shared access into the site before full details of dwellings are submitted and approved. Land North Of Grassy Lane. MSDC decision – permission granted.

20/05722 Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions (following demolition of existing garage and conservatory). Erection of rear balcony. Insertion of feature gable glazing to frontage. Erection of attached one and a half storey side extension to accommodate indoor swimming pool with use of house gym above and garage block with room above. Copperfield House, Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision – permission refused due to scale, bulk, massing and siting, which will result in a development incongruous with the character and appearance of the area and the rear balcony affecting the amenity of neighbouring property.

20/05871 Erection of two self-contained commercial units E(g), one retail unit E(a) and one restaurant E(b). (Alternative to scheme granted under appl 20/02823). Land at Stag Café, Old A45. MSDC decision – permission granted.

21/00104 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/05094 - Condition 5 (Details of typical windows, doors, chimney and eaves detailing). Land at Grange Farm, Green Road. MSDC decision – acceptable.

19/00647 Application Under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 2 (List of approved drawings), 14, 18, 19, 21, 22 (Prior to Occupation or other stage conditions) of permission 2112/16 allowed under appeal decision APP/W3520/W/18/3194926; to allow minor design amendments. Land Off Green Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

20/05069 Application under S73a to vary or remove a condition relating to DC/19/00550 dated 21/03/2019. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary (Condition 2 Approved Plans and documents) - to facilitate building to be split into two class E units, as no longer to be used in association with Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue as a new base. Stag Cafe Site A14 Slip Road. MSDC decision – permission granted.

7. Clerk's Report

Casual vacancy – Following the resignation of Mr Aldis the casual vacancy was advertised. MSDC has advised that there has been no request for an election and therefore the vacancy can be filled by co-option. It was agreed to place an advert in April/May Woolpit Diary.

Precept 2021/22 – MSDC has advised that the Parish Council part of council tax is a decrease of 0.40%. The parish will receive £683.00 Local Council Tax Support grant from MSDC.

Abandoned caravan – this has been reported to MSDC.

David Wilson Homes - webpage updated to feature both Woolpit and Elmswell schools equally.

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

Resident request WPC have meeting with developer regarding mud on road and parking on pavements in Steeles Road. Cllrs do not see either issue as significant and will not be pursuing. **Resident** further objecting to Green Road highway improvements. The Clerk will respond that there is nothing further that WPC can do and they need to refer matters to SCC and MSDC. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 2, 9, 16, 23 February, Rural Funding Digest February. **SCC** severe weather warning 6-8 and 8-10 February, completion of Heath Road roundabout works, grit bin refilling update. **MSDC** confirmation of receipt of precept form, how to report flooding in Suffolk, prospective election candidates attending meetings.. **SALC** ebulletin 8, 15, 22 February 1 March, new online benchmarking group, Mid Suffolk area forum 18 March, free webinar about sleep 10 March, area forum message from new Chair. **Headway Suffolk** how Headway Suffolk helps community through Covid. **Onelife Suffolk** service extension. **Resident** concerns regarding hedging Drinkstone Road. **Resident** concerns regarding occupancy of homes on the Green Road development.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Suffolk County Council £382.68 pension payment, Laura Driver £44.00 Millennium Garden February, Viking £206.28 stationery, stamps and items for litter picker, Mr Bailey £33.19 Bags for Dairy distribution and ink cartridge, Mrs P Fuller £560.01 back dated pay rise, additional hours to set up Scribe accounts, expenses October-March, Mr K Harknett £41.92 litter picking February. Payments by Standing Order Mrs Fuller £893.96 February salary, Mr Balk £186.13 February salary, Eon £28.60 pump light 14/11/20-14/2/21, Information Commissioner £35.00 annual fee. All accounts were approved for payment.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

The Community Account stands at £159,070.74. This has not yet been reconciled with the bank statement.

11. To consider whether councillors' voting decisions are recorded by name in the minutes for all future meetings and take any necessary action.

There was no proposer for the motion and therefore the motion falls.

12. To consider a request from the trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground charity for Woolpit Parish Council to become the trustee of the charity and take any necessary action.

The request from the trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground charity for Woolpit Parish Council to become the trustee of the charity has been received following the meeting of Woolpit Recreation Ground trustees on 25 February 2021. The Charity covers the playing field, children's play area and the equipment and owns the sports field which is part leased to the Cricket Club and part rented to the Tennis Club. It was proposed, seconded and carried that Woolpit Parish Council becomes the trustee of the Woolpit Recreation Ground charity. The Clerk will contact the officers for all documentation and advise the Charity Commission. *Action: the Clerk*

13. To consider quotes for tree work at Lady's Well, the allotments site and pump area and take any necessary action.

Unfortunately the quotes are not like for like as one company left out the cutting down of an elm tree. The Clerk will get quotes from all three with the elm tree being felled and without for consideration at the next meeting. *Action: the Clerk*

14. To consider requesting that Elmswell Road and Norton Road are formally named and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to contact MSDC to request these road names. *Action: the Clerk*

15. To discuss sending a letter of thanks to Woolpit Health Centre and The Co-op Store for all their work during coronavirus pandemic.

It was agreed to defer this until the April meeting so that an item can be put in the June/July Diary for when all restrictions are planned to be removed from 21 June.

16. To consider and adopt revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and take any necessary action.

With a few minor amendments the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were adopted.

17. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action.

Mr Wheatley and Mrs Jenkins have carried out an inspection of the area. Most plots are being worked with a few exceptions. However, due to the recent bad weather the tenants will be given a further month before any letters are sent out. Rabbits have been able to get into the area but Mr Wheatley will repair the fence.

Action: Mr Wheatley.

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

2020/21 accounts have been completed, the main income being Covid grants. The committee will be looking at reopening the Village Hall in line with government guidelines.

19. Date and time of the next virtual full Parish Council meeting – Monday 29 March 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.53 p.m.

Signed..... by FJ Guyler.....

Dated.....29 March 2021.....

