

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

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

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. Public comment: Mrs Jenkins advised that following the road improvements at the pinch point in Green Road there have been several incidents of vehicles going onto the pavement outside her property. There is concern that pedestrians and in particular children walking home from school could exit Mill Lane and be faced by an oncoming vehicle on the footway. County Cllr Storey has been made aware and will contact Highways department. Meanwhile Mrs Jenkins was asked to log all incidents. Mr Foster from the Festival Society has advised there will be 4 festival events between 1st & 3rd of October: details will be published in the Diary in due course. The Festival Society is looking for someone to help with ticket sales.

Mrs Moore asked about the condition of the phone box on the corner of Rectory Lane. BT has advised this should be repaired and painted by October.

3. County & District Councillors reports.

County Councillor's report: no report received.

District Councillors' report: Election day is 6 May. As well as County Council elections there is also the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner. Due to the forthcoming elections, no MSDC Council meetings have taken place during the purdah period other than regulatory committee meetings. The legislation allowing virtual meetings for local government expires on 7 May, but the COVID regulations do not allow meetings in person until after 17 May. There is an appeal about extending the legislation for virtual meetings at the end of April, so we await further instructions about how meetings will be conducted next month. The first phase of COVID community testing ended on 31 March, and an altered programme is now in place until the end of June. Lateral flow testing kits are now available in many libraries and pharmacies and people should be able to get twice weekly tests to do at home. A significant new grant fund has just been launched by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. This is to support the recovery of local businesses reopening after lockdown but unable to access the Government's Restart Grant scheme. Despite the closure of our customer access points, our Customer Service team has continued to offer emergency face-to-face appointments for those who, for whatever reason, cannot be helped over the phone or remotely. Now that lockdown is easing, more face-to-face appointments will be available to book. Plans to construct the new car park for the Health Centre are progressing. A planning application is imminent and It is hoped that a bid for the majority of the funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy will take place in the next couple of months.

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

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 29 March and 7 April 2021.

Both sets of minutes were approved.

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

21/02050 Erection of a two bay cartlodge. Mulberry House, Borley Green – support.

21/01132 Submission of details under Reserved Matters following Outline Approval DC/18/04247 dated 21/08/2020 Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for - Erection of up to 300 dwellings, construction of a new spine road, land for a new primary school, burial ground extension, village car park and associated infrastructure. Land Off Bury Road. This is a re-consultation due to two new drawings – cyclepaths and height of buildings. Cllrs have no additional comments to those sent 23 March 2021.

21/01008 Creation of new vehicular access. Myrtle Cottage, The Green. MSDC decision – permission granted.

21/01724 Application for works to tree/s in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1 No Ash (T1) overextended limb over road by 5m to re-balance tree. Mixed Hedge (T2) lift branches overhanging road to a height of 5 meters. Fell 1No Sycamore multi-stem (T3) due to severe die-back. Fell 1No Ash (T4) which has a heavy lean with severe damage and rot. Remove stem with dead top to 1No Sycamore multi-stem (T5). Abbotswell, Rectory Lane. MSDC decision – no objection.

21/01159 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/04247- Condition 10 (Skylark Mitigation Strategy), Land Off Bury Road. MSDC decision – approved.

21/01139 Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Larger Home Extension. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 1 Class A - Erection of single storey rear extension, Lamas, The Green. MSDC decision – refused.

20/03496 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/05196- Condition 3 (Phasing of Development), Condition 5 (Agreement of Materials), Condition 6 (Glazing Bars, Window Reveals, Porch and Eaves Details) and Condition 11 (Boundary Treatment), Land South Of Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision – acceptable.

21/01928 Application for Non Material Amendment relating to 1636/16 - Vary the terms of condition 16 to enable provision of a temporary vehicular access to the car park from the Health Centre, Land South Of Old Stowmarket Road. MSDC decision – approved.

7. Clerk's Report

MUGA – MSDC has confirmed that the MUGA is permitted development even if it is sited in the Conservation Area.

Millennium Garden – Laura Driver is having a baby but hopes to continue to work up to August. She may come back after but only part time and is happy for us to look for a replacement gardener.

Zip wire notice – Our insurers have advised that any sign erected needs to reflect the manufacturer's instructions/recommendation.

Neighbourhood Plan – Modification of the NP is ongoing by MSDC officers. No date can be given yet for a referendum.

Play equipment inspection – was carried out by REJB on 6 April and detailed inspection report has been received.

Allotment fence – photos of the broken sections and defects have been sent Landmark Rabbit Control.

Casual Vacancy – 5 applications have been received. An item will be on the 4 May meeting agenda.

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

SALC ebulletin 6, 12, 19 April, free webinar – communication and engagement in a post lockdown world, information following the death of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, expiry of remote meetings regulations, period of national mourning and notice of council meetings, introduction to VAT training. **Suffolk Police** Constable County April, knife crime awareness week 26 April. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 30 March, 7, 13, 20 April, Funding Digest April. MSDC Submission of Babergh Mid Suffolk joint Local Plan, Joint Local Plan update, Tree, hedge and wildflower planting for parishes. **Keepers Daughter Theatre Company** travelling theatre passed to Woolpit Village Hall Committee. Resident copies of letter to MSDC and SCC Highways regarding Green Road.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

REJB & Co £78.00 inspection of play area. Payments by standing order or Direct Debit Mrs Fuller £893.96 March salary, Mr Balk £186.13 March salary, BT £189.00 quarterly bill telephone and broadband.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

The Clerk estimated that the balance at the end of April will £219,604.40.

11. To consider a larger litter bin for the fence in the playing field near to the car park and take any necessary action.

It was unanimously approved to purchase a larger ground based bin for one of the smaller bins on the fencing.

Action: the Clerk

12. To consider a quote from SCC for replacement of damaged/deteriorated lantern and column of street light 35 Briar Hill and take any necessary action.

It was unanimously agreed to replace both the lantern and column at a cost of £1523.60.

Action: the Clerk

13. To consider a response to the consultation Local Authority remote meetings: a call for evidence and take any necessary action.

It was agreed that there should be more flexibility of how meetings are held and that the Parish Council should be able to choose. Mr Guyler will complete the survey on behalf of WPC.

Action: Mr Guyler.

14. To consider the consultation on the amendments to the Suffolk Pension funding strategy statement and take any necessary action.

Cllrs do not wish to respond to this consultation.

15. To consider requesting a Zebra Crossing on Heath Road and take any necessary action.

After discussion it was agreed to wait until the development in Old Stowmarket Road is occupied and the new Health Centre car park has been constructed.

16. To consider requests for grants and take any necessary action.

Grants were proposed, seconded and carried as follows: Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau £1,000.00, Suffolk Headway £200.00 and Fresh Start new beginnings £100.00.

17. To consider tree, hedge and wildflower planting in the parish and take any necessary action.

The information has been passed on to the Cricket Club. Dr Geake, Mrs Moore and Mrs Ewans agreed to walk around the village and identify suitable area. This matter will be discussed again at the June meeting.

18. To receive a report on the allotments including a quote for maintenance of the grass strip beside plot 16 and take any necessary action.

The rabbit proof fence has been breached and there are other areas of damage to the fence. This is believed to be due to the poor quality of the construction of the fence. The Clerk was asked to write to the contractor and advise that the fence is not fit for purpose.

The Clerk has received a complaint regarding the grass strip next to plot 16. She has asked Parkers Pitches to cut as a one off for £30 and quote for regular maintenance. The quote is for £250.00. It was agreed to write to the allotment holders to give them the opportunity to take on the maintenance themselves or for the costs to be passed on to them via their rent.

Action: the Clerk

19. To consider revised quotes for a MUGA for the playing field and take any necessary action.

Revised quotes are to increase the side heights to 2m all round, this increases the cost by approx. £3500.00. It was agreed that the sides should all be 2m rather than 2m on some sides and 1m on others.

Mr Hardiman stated that this was the second phase of the project "Super Park", that Proludic had held prices for some time and that £4000 has been received in

donations. The next round of applications for MSDC CIL funding opens 1 May and some funding may be available from this but a decision would not be made by MSDC Cabinet until September. Mr Guyler offered to discuss with MSDC Infrastructure Team to see what funding may be available for the project.

Mr Hardiman proposed that the project go ahead with the Proludic quote of £43,530.78 with the balance being funded from Woolpit PC CIL money. This was seconded. With a vote of 4 in favour and 4 against, the Chairman voted against the proposal.

Mr Guyler will discuss funding with MSDC and a decision will be made at the meeting scheduled for 4 May 2021. *Action: Mr Guyler*

20. To review the annual inspection report of the play equipment and take any necessary action.

Mr Hardiman has taken advice from play equipment providers and REJB are not RIIIB inspectors. The report states that parts of the monkey bars have significant movement and needs fixing, various areas of matting need lifting and the surface made level, the cover to the chain to the seat of the zip wire is split and needs replacing and the timber of the swings is not in a good condition and needs monitoring. REJB has provided a quote for the work of £724.80. Mr Hardiman has contacted the supplier Proludic who has confirmed that some movement is required in the monkey bars and will send their contractor to check. He has deemed that this is the standard movement for the equipment. Proludic will provide and fit a new cover for the zip wire chain free of charge.

Further quotes will be sought for the matting and levelling of surfaces.

21. To consider a request for tree work on the playing field and take any necessary action.

The Clerk was asked to get three quotes for the work.

Action: the Clerk

22. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for 26 May 2021.

23. Date and time of the virtual Annual Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....Mrs J Ewans.....

Dated.....7 June 2021.....