

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 AUGUST 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Moore, Mr Howard, Mr Griffin, Mr Guyler, Mr Hardiman, Mr Auchincloss, Dr Geake and 1 member of the public.

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

2. **Public comment** the Luncheon Club is restarting and new customers are needed. The hedge and trees along Elmswell Road are in need of maintenance. This is land owned by SCC. The footpath from Steeles Road to The Grange is almost impassable; County Cllr Mellen will take this up with officers. Mr Baker has been contacted to cut his part of the hedge and this will be done from September when birds are no longer nesting. The vegetation along Old Stowmarket Road is causing issues for pedestrians. Mrs Ewans will contact the Diocesan land agent as they own the land. David Wilson Homes has advised that repairs will take place to the path shortly to rectify the damage from weeds growing through the tarmac.

3. **County & District Councillors reports.**

County Councillor's report. Woolpit surgery car park extension has now received both planning permission and funding, and work will start later this month, with a ground-breaking ceremony on the 20 August. The County Council is supporting the trial of Katch electric taxibus in East Suffolk. If the pilot is successful it could be rolled out to other locations in the County. The current Highways contract with Kier comes to an end in September 2023. The process for procuring a new partner to fulfil Highways works will be long and complicated, and the work has to start now. The council is looking to develop a contract that utilises a blended 'hybrid' approach, enabling the council to enter into one contract that covers the majority of Highways Service functions and two contracts with specialist providers for streetlighting and traffic signals. The council will be looking for the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment. The whole contract development process will take just over two years to complete. The prestigious Women's Cycle Tour is coming to East Anglia again for 2 stages at the beginning of October. Stage 6 (the final stage) is in Suffolk on 9 October. A request for 20 mph limit in the village will require a Road Traffic Order and will have a cost involvement. There will need to be consultation with the community to see what is required.

District Councillor' report. The last full Council meeting which was due to be held in person on 22 July was cancelled. Despite the relaxation of restrictions there is still insufficient space for the whole council to meet in the Council Chamber at Endeavour House. The next full council meeting is scheduled for 23 September. The leader of the Council has written to Government requesting the current laws are amended to enable councils to return to online meetings until the pandemic has receded. The way the council carries out their annual canvass has changed from sending out paper forms to contacting residents by email. Residents are being asked to check their details on the electoral register are up to date and ensure they do not lose their right to vote. There is to be a free event to be held at Wherstead Park on the 21/22 October 2021, for businesses, community groups and parishes who wish to learn more about the benefits of using local energy, reducing energy consumption and lowering costs. Suffolk's first new shared police and fire station is currently under construction in Stowmarket and is expected to be completed by next June. The building will be located at the junction of the A1120 and B1113 Needham Road. A taskforce to assess gaps in Babergh and Mid Suffolk public transport is to be formed to assess transport in both rural districts. It may also look at transport such as bike rental schemes and taxi provision. Waste services are still disrupted due to problems with lack of HVG drivers. Regular updates with a full explanation as to why these problems are occurring have been added to the council website due to pressure from

Councillors. MSDC has launched this year's locality grant scheme. Each district councillor has over £7k to award to community groups within their area. Although the deadline is not until 25 February 2022, early applications are appreciated.

4. To receive declarations of interest.

Mr Howard and Mrs Jenkins declared a pecuniary interest in the grant request from Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme

5. To approve the minutes of the meeting 5 July 2021.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

21/03725 Construction of drop kerb and creation of new front driveway and parking area. 6 Heath Road – no comment on drop kerb but if officers are minded to approved the car parking surface should be permeable.

21/03985 Application for Outline Planning Permission (access to be considered) for the provision of 5 self-build/custom build dwellings and individual accesses onto Old Stowmarket Road to serve each plot and associated works and infrastructure. Land south of Old Stowmarket Road – support with comment Cllrs wish the existing trees shown on the plan retained.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

21/02735 Erection of single storey orangery. Woodlands, The Heath – permission granted.

21/02788 Erection of single storey extension (following removal of conservatory and utility room). 54 Briar Hill - permission granted.

21/03041 Erection of two bay cart 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 home gym above and garage block with room above. Copperfield House, Old Stowmarket Road – permission granted.

21/01162 Discharge of conditions application 18/04247 Condition 16 (Energy & Renewable Integration). Land off Bury Road – acceptable.

21/03214 Discharge on conditions application 18/02504 Condition 4 (Construction Management) Condition 12 (Sustainable Technology). Land east of A1088 adjacent to OC Jewers and Sons , Elmswell Road – acceptable/satisfied.

21/01158 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/04247- Condition 9 (Construction Environmental Management Plan). Land Off Bury Road – acceptable.

21/03927 Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development. Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 6 - Creation of an Irrigation Reservoir. Land East Of Rattlesden Road. Cllrs agreed not to comment and subsequently MSDC has advised formal approval is not required.

20/03548 Hybrid Application - Full Application for conversion of existing building into a dwelling and Outline Application (some matters reserved, access and layout to be considered) for erection of 5 no new dwellings. Land At Lawn Farm Warren Lane has gone to appeal.

7. Clerk's Report

Audit of accounts at 31 March 2021 – confirmation of receipt has been received from PKF Littlejohn.

Bus shelter licence – this has now been received.

Heron – a heron flying about the village with an arrow through its body have been reported to the RSPCA and police as a wildlife crime by a resident.

Map of grass cutting areas - MSDC Public Realm has provided a map of areas that they are responsible for grass cutting. Cllr Geake will find out why the area between Meadowlands and Briar Hill is not shown on the map.

Woolpit Diary – with the increasing development in the village it will be necessary to recalculate the number of copies required each month in the near future.

Old Stowmarket Road footway –David Wilson Homes are hoping to repair the footway by the end of August.

Pole in Footway Heath Road – this should be removed overnight 6 August.

Sustainable Travel questionnaire - . MSDC will pass our response to SCC for its bus service improvement plan.

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

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: **SALC** ebulletin 5, 12, 19, 26 July, 2 August, information for councillors 6 July, AGM 29 July, home fire safety checks. **Rural Services Network** 6, 13, 20, 27 July, 3 August, Rural Funding Digest July. **SCC** Elmswell CP School – statutory proposal to expand the school, compost giveaway 18 September, Planning Department explanation regarding discharge of condition 16 appl 21/01162, welcome back fund information, annual canvass of electors 2021 email communication, meeting regarding car park adjacent to the surgery to discuss use and management. **Atkinsglobal** survey and signage works on A14 J42-J51 presentation. **Highways England** A14 overnight road closures and diversions 26 July-11 August. **One.network** how to set up email alert. **Elmswell PC** copy of appeals process from SCC regarding school extension in Elmswell.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr Harknett £67.65 litter picking July, Laura Driver £44.00 Millennium Garden July, Geosphere Ltd £120.00 Parish Online annual subscription, Gipping Press £320.96 August/September Diary printing, Mrs P Branham £128.83 Edit August/September Diary, Suffolk County Council £302.74 pension payment. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by standing order/Direct Debit Mr Balk £190.70 July salary, Mrs P Fuller £915.67 July salary, BT £189.00 quarterly bill,

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

Balance of the Community account is £213,767.50 of which £96,464.83 is earmarked reserves, £99,687.10 CIL payments and £17,615.57 general funds.

11. To consider a request for a grant to set up Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme and take any necessary action.

The group will have substantial costs of approx. £1,000 to set up the scheme and have asked the Parish Council to consider matching the £500.00 received from MSDC Locality Fund. It was proposed, seconded and carried to make a grant of £500.00.

Action: the Clerk

12. To receive an update on the bus shelter, consider the purchase of a bus timetable casing and take any necessary action.

The street furniture licence has been received from SCC. A revised quote has been received from Shelter solutions to show the cost of a two bay shelter not including a timetable case as £3,210 + VAT and with a timetable case £3,320.00 + VAT. It was unanimously agreed to order with the timetable case.

Action: the Clerk.

13. To consider tree, hedge and wildflower planting in the parish and take any necessary action. Deferred to the next meeting.

14. To receive a report on the meeting with SCC and Elmswell Parish Council regarding the future of school provision in Elmswell and Woolpit.

Mrs Ewans, Dr Geake and the Clerk attended the meeting and Dr Geake has circulated a report from the meeting to Cllrs. SCC finds this area the most difficult area in Suffolk to deal with as the situation has changed markedly over the last few

years. The school roll has reduced and currently both schools have spare capacity and similar numbers of pupils from Elmswell attend Woolpit school and vice versa. Both the current schools could be expanded to accommodate 420 children each but this would be expensive. A site for a new school has been offered in Woolpit and therefore SCC will keep the option of this open for the time being as they monitor the situation on a regular basis.

15. To receive a report on the allotments and take any necessary action including a report from the meeting with allotment holders on 29 July 2021.

One plot is available and the Clerk will offer to a new tenant. It was put to the current tenants at the meeting that they might like to manage the area themselves by forming an allotment association. The tenants are going to meet with allotment holders in Rattlesden who already do this before another meeting is held to make a decision.

16. To receive an update on the Heath Centre car park.

Planning permission has been granted and work should commence 23 August. There will be a turf cutting ceremony on 20 August for invited guests.

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

No meeting has taken place.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

18. To consider the revised contract from Parkers Pitches and take any necessary action.

Parkers Pitches have removed the work to the maple tree branches from the quote as they are now unable to do this. The current contract covers mowing the playing field and play area, maintenance of the boundary of the playing field and the car parks at the village hall and opposite the church (including hedges and strimming), maintenance of the tennis court surrounds, bottle bank and bank down to the cricket club for £2,010 + VAT. Ongoing re-levelling of the matted play area as required and maintenance of low hanging branches surrounding the playing field will be added for a new contract total of £2,300.00 + VAT. This was approved. Parkers Pitches will be asked to report any issues outside their contract to the Clerk for investigation and quotes.

Action: the Clerk

19. To consider quotes for tree work and take any necessary action.

The maple trees south west corner of the playing field need work. Three quotes were sought to cut back branches over neighbouring properties and crown lift for a natural shape and balance. After discussion it was agreed to accept the quote from Stuart Langston Arboricultural Specialist at a cost of £1,200.00. This included planning notices to MSDC as the trees are in the Conservation Area

Action: the Clerk.

20. To consider signs for the use of the MUGA and no barbeque signs for the field and take any necessary action.

It was approved to get 5 signs.

Action: Mr Hardiman/the Clerk

21. To consider an opening ceremony for the MUGA and take any necessary action.

After discussion it was agreed that there would be no official opening ceremony but the MUGA would be publicised in the next issue of Woolpit Diary.

22. To consider the opening in the corner of the field onto the footway near to the site of the MUGA and take any necessary action.

The gap was originally fenced but Cllrs feel it should remain a casual open space. It may become necessary to put up a high fence against the road side section of the MUGA. This will be reviewed in six months.

23. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Meeting with the Cricket and Tennis Clubs – this has been arranged for 4 August.

Children's Fair – the payment and agreement have been received.

Bank account – no response has been received regarding the bank mandate change. A letter has been received from HSBC saying they will suspend the account if there are no transactions by 29 August. The Clerk will contact the bank to see how this can be stopped.

Request for use of the field for parking – the organiser of a monthly country and western night at the village hall has asked if the field can be available for parking. He will be advised that the cost will be £50.00 for each occasion.

24. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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

Dated.....7 September 2021.....