

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Mr Guyler, Mrs Ewans, Mrs Moore, Mr Hardiman, Mr Wheatley, Mrs Jenkins, Dr Geake and 2 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman.

Mrs Ewans was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman.

Mr Howard was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

3. Apologies for absence. There were none.

4. Public comment

A resident stated that with the growth of the village the number of parish councillors should increase and there should be a democratic election; also that a full set of accounts should be published on the website. Mrs Ewans advised that the statutory accounts required are already published on woolpit.org but with the new accounts package further details may be available in the future. MSDC would make the decision on numbers of Councillors in due course.

District Cllr Mansel advised that the outline planning application for the additional section of land south of Old Stowmarket Road is to go to MSDC planning committee on 12 May. The Clerk advised that Pigeon Investment has asked if a member of WPC would attend the meeting and speak in support of the application. As Cllrs are unable to attend it was agreed to send a statement of support and request it is read out at the meeting.

Mr Guyler advised there has been a further online meeting regarding the Health Centre car park. The project is progressing well and the design is complete. MSDC is now looking into funding and there will be a planning application in July.

5. To suspend Section 5J of Woolpit PC Standing Orders and to agree revision dates of appropriate standing orders, procedures, policies and regulations.

The Clerk advised that there are more pertinent times for some of these items to be reviewed. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to suspend Section 5J and produce a schedule of dates which will be approved at the July meeting.

Action: the Clerk

6. To appoint Parish Council Representatives to other bodies.

Institute Committee – Mr Guyler.

Woolpit Village Hall Committee – Mr Hardiman.

SALC – Mrs Ewans.

Tree/footpath Warden – Mrs Hardiman.

Pump Garden – Mrs Jenkins.

Public Transport Liaison Officer – Mrs Fuller.

School Liaison – Dr Geake.

Woolpit Charity Lands – Mr Parker and Mrs Moss.

St Mary's Church Building Trust – Mr Guyler.

Millennium Garden – Mrs Jenkins.

Allotment Wardens – Mrs Jenkins and Mr Wheatley.

Good Neighbour Scheme – Mr Howard

The Clerk was asked to contact the Woolpit Charity Lands to see if the constitution requires a Parish Council member.

Action: the Clerk

7. To receive declarations of interest

Dr Geake and Mrs Hardiman declared an interest in application 21/02429 Vine Cottage as friends of the applicant.

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

21/02429 Erection of a one and a half storey side extension. Vine Cottage, Green Road. It was agreed to make no comment on this application.

21/00731 Approval of reserved matter following granting of Outline Permission 1155/17. Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage. Green Farm, Green Road. MSDC decision – approved.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr Harknett £73.80 litter picking April and new gloves, Laura Driver £44.00 Millennium Garden April, Suffolk County Council £284.94 pension payment. Payments by standing order Mrs Fuller £893.96 April salary, Mr Balk £186.13 April salary. All accounts were approved.

10. To consider the process for co-option of a councillor to fill the current casual vacancy and take any necessary action.

We have 5 candidates. Mr Wheatley has advised that he will willingly stand down earlier than when he moves from the village if we have two good candidates. Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Moore and Mr Hardiman will carry out the interviews and put forward their recommendation to Cllrs at the next full Parish Council meeting.

11. To consider delegating functions to the Clerk and take any necessary action.

Cllrs feel confident to reinstate in person meetings from 17 May following government guidelines therefore delegation functions to the Clerk will not be necessary.

12. To consider revised quotes for a MUGA for the playing field and take any necessary action following discussions with MSDC regarding available grants.

Mr Guyler has completed a preliminary CIL form to MSDC requesting a contribution of £20,000.00. He has also spoken with Christine Thurlow MSDC Infrastructure team to see if WPC having received the parish proportion of CIL this would be detrimental to the funding application. Christine advised the parish gets CIL money as it has received a lot of development which will need additional infrastructure and therefore MSDC were likely to be supportive of grant funding. Mr Guyler had not been able to contact the officer regarding the £5200.00 left over from the previous community grant. Mr Guyler proposed that the provision of the MUGA be deferred until a CIL funding application has been considered by MSDC in September. This was seconded by Mrs Ewans. A vote was taken and with 2 votes for and 6 against the proposal fell. Mr Hardiman proposed that the MUGA be purchased without delay from Proludic for £43, 530.78 + VAT using our own CIL funding. This was seconded by Mr Howard. A vote was taken and with 6 votes for and 2 against the proposal was carried. The Clerk was asked to place the order with Proludic. *Action: the Clerk*

13. To consider letting arrangements and fees for the playing field and take any necessary action.

The Village Hall Committee accepts bookings for the Village Hall which also require the use of the field. Co-ordinating books for the field and the village hall is essential. Mr Guyler has spoken with the Village Hall bookings officer who has implied he is willing to take bookings for the field for a fee. A damage retention deposit would need to be held and the field inspected before the deposit is returned. Cllrs feel that this co-ordinated approach is preferable and Mr Guyler and Mr Hardiman will discuss further with the booking officer. *Action: Mr Guyler/ Mr Hardiman*

14. To discuss a request for a children's fun fair on the playing field 9-16 August 2021 and take any necessary action.

Cllrs agreed in principal but the fair would need to be co-ordinated with the construction of the MUGA and usage . The fair has been to Thurston in the past and the Parish Council will be contacted to see if everything had been satisfactory. Mrs Ewans, Mr Guyler and Mr Hardiman were given authority to make the decision following online checks and discussions with the Village Hall booking officer.

Hopkins Homes is to carry out a topographical survey for the link to the tennis club car park on 19 May and have been given permission to access the Recreation Field Charity land as necessary.

15. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Monday 7 June 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

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

Dated.....7 June 2021