

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mr Guyler, Mr Griffin, Mr Hardiman and Dr Geake.

In attendance: District Cllr Mansell, County Cllr Mellen (in part), Mrs Fuller Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Howard (on holiday), Mrs Jenkins (illness) and Mr Auchincloss (away)..

2. To consider a recommendation from the working group to fill the casual vacancy and take any necessary action.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendation to co-opt Mrs Wortley. Mrs Wortley signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office form and joined the meeting.

3. Public comment (maximum of 3 minutes per person)

Mr Hardiman advised that the back net behind the goal has been installed. However the net for the goal post which we have been given is not useable. Some people want anew net some prefer the goal without. Mr Hardiman was asked to get quotes for a new net for the next meeting and then a decision can be made.

Action: Mr Hardiman

Mr Guyler asked if any organisations were having warm places for winter. There is one prozed in Ipswich and Stowmarket Library will be open. Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme is considering options. District Cllr Mansell advised MSDC can provide one off grants but have difficulty getting the message to people other than council tenants.

4. County & District Councillors reports.

County Councillor's report: The news of Queen Elizabeth II's passing meant the Council, like other public bodies went into a period of mourning. Some meetings, including Cabinet were postponed, however council services have continued. Cllr Mellen attended the proclamation of King Charles III in Ipswich on Sunday 11 September and also attended three memorial services during the period of mourning. Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has started discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the new PM's growth and investment strategy. Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The service offers expert advice on reducing energy bills and usage, as well as benefits you may be entitled to during this crisis. A number of taxi companies are cancelling SCC contracts to provide school transport due to the rise in fuel prices and cost of living. Taxi companies need to be properly supported to transition to cleaner forms of transport. The first delivery of 16 Renault Zoe electric vehicles (EVs) will be arriving in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars. This is part of the council's work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration and protect Suffolk's environment. Ten more EVs will arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024. SCC has been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned carparks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

Cllr Mellen will look into when the signs demolished at the junction of Bury Road and Norton Road will be reinstated.

District Councillors' report: MSDC undertook many of the required duties during the period of mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, including the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to residents in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket. Books of condolence were available in the Town Council offices as well as an online book of condolence. The Council meeting which was scheduled for 22 September had to be cancelled due to the mourning period

and items from that agenda will now be discussed at the Council meeting on 20 October. Full details on the tree canopy survey, including maps showing details by ward, can be found on MSDC website. This information is the first step in developing a tree planting strategy for the district, which will allow us to best focus new planting in locations that deliver the greatest environmental benefits. The planning application for the petrol station and drive-thru restaurants was discussed at planning committee on 28 September. The Committee were minded to refuse the application and asked for more independent advice regarding both highway and heritage issues. There will be a technical consultation on the draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Housing Land Supply Statements in the next few days. Indicatively, the draft housing land supply figures are 7 years for Babergh and 10.5 years for Mid Suffolk. Babergh and Mid Suffolk have agreed a parking strategy for the next 20 years, hoping to support the needs of local trade and residents, Over £420,000 in developer contributions is to be ploughed back into communities. There is some funding for a feasibility study into improvements at Thurston railway station. Mrs Ewans thanked Cllrs Mansell and Geake for their thorough report opposing the application for the petrol station. Mrs Ewans advised that she has asked MSDC for permission to install EV charging points in the car park leased to MSDC but has not received any response. Cllr Mansell will look into this. Cllr Mansell will investigate where the negotiations for the management of the new Health Centre car park have reached. She was reminded that WPC should be involved in all discussions.

5. To receive declarations of interest. There were none

6. To approve the minutes of the meetings 6 and 14 September 2022.

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed.

7. Planning

a) to consider current applications

22/04479 Erection of 1No Class E(g) commercial building (revised application following planning permission granted under reference DC/22/00638) Revised position and size (Permission DC/22/00638 will not be constructed) Land at Stag Café, Old A45 - continue to object, traffic issues on local roads, piecemeal development of the site, loss of parking. Request solar panels if MSDC minded to approved application.

22/04560 Listed Building application - Construction of pitched ceiling to kitchen extension, replacing existing flat ceiling, and insertion of 2no. Velux windows. 5 The Street – leave the decision to MSDC Heritage Officer.

22/04733 Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1 No group of field maples (G1) in height by 2.5m. Reduce height of crown of 1No. Willow (T1) by 6m and reduce lateral spread by 4m. Reduce height of crown of 1No. Norway Maple (T2) by 2m and lateral spread by 2m. Green Hill, The Street – no Comment

22/04892 Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Crown lift 1No. Sycamore to (T1) 5m and to cut back lower branches to allow 3m clearance from adjacent property as squirrels being a problem. Reduce line of 9No. Hornbeam (T2 – T10) to 4m. Woolpit Playing Field The Street – no comment.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

22/03928 Discharge of conditions application 19/02688 Condition 6 (wildlife sensitive lighting design scheme) and Condition 15 (sustainable development). Land South of Rags Lane – satisfied.

22/04116 Discharge of conditions application 22/02993 Condition 3 (hours of illumination). Land at Stag Café Old A45 – satisfied.

22/03227 Discharge of conditions application 21/01132 Condition 5 (Hard standing areas for private drives). Land off Bury Road – acceptable.

8. Clerk's Report

Bury Road hedge – Hopkins Homes will trim the remaining hedge back

Pump light – Eon next are to fit a new smart meter on 13 October

Woolpit Primary School – Ofsted inspected the school in July and the report shows all areas are rated good with the exception of leadership and management which is rated outstanding. All are to be congratulated.

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

Norton PC asking how the bus reduction timetable is affecting our residents and Councils views. The bus to Bury now goes at 9.30 a.m. and doesn't return until 2.30 p.m.. Mr Hardiman has spoken to an owner of a local bus company to see if he is prepared to run a service once a week and he will come back with proposals. Cllrs agreed that Woolpit are prepared to take the lead on this and the Clerk will email parishes on the bus route and organise a meeting. *Action: the Clerk.*

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network Rural Funding August & September, Rural bulletin 13, 21, 27 September. **SALC** training bulletin 7 September, operation London Bridge guidance, information for parishes on the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, update 14 September, tribute in your local community to HM Elizabeth II, weekly news bulletin 20, 29 September, 3 October, Suffolk Community Awards results 2022. **MSDC** Food Waste Reduction campaign, Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan update, empty homes information, Be A Councillor event 29 September, notice of Neighbourhood Plan referendum, independent living grants available, Town and Parish updates October, Town and Parish Council elections 2023 cost estimate, CIL funding bid window October 2022. **SCC** Rest Centre training, Solar Together Suffolk, Suffolk Pension Fund annual employers meeting 7 October, Thermal Imaging survey. **SARS** grant request. **Sudbury CAB** AGM 12 October and presentation on experiences of cost of living crisis. **Resident** copy of letter to Bacton Transport regarding lorries Borley Green. **Resident** copy of objection to petrol station application. **Elmswell resident** for garage and drive through MSDC planning committee attendance. **Short Mat Bowls Club** item for CIL consideration.

10. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £67.35 litter picking September, Mr M Gardiner £405.90 Highways Ranger salary September, Suffolk County Council £307.99 pension payment, Mr R Raisey £105.00 editing October/November Diary, Gipping Press £311.00 printing October/November Diary, Starboard Systems Limited £345.60 accounts package annual subscription, Mr P Raven £50,00 noticeboard and war memorial maintenance, Business Services at CAS Ltd £1096.61 annual insurance premium, Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd £149.13 allotment water 6/6/22-30/8/22, Mrs Fuller £194.80 expenses July-September + N/I adjustment. From CIL funding HL Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Plumbing £5712.00 air conditioning for ARC. All payments were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit Mrs Fuller £979.93 September salary, BT £176.97 quarterly bill, eon next £38.70 pump light 1/6/22-31/8/22.

11. To receive a monthly financial report.

The Community Account balance at the end of September was £292,613.18 of which CIL is £191,275.01, Recreation Ground £1520.90, earmarked reserves £92,605.55 and general funds £7,211.72.

12. To discuss traffic issues in the parish

a) To receive an update on 20 mph in the centre of the village

The invoice has been paid and we are awaiting the survey results.

b) to discuss solar powered Speed Indicator signs and locations and take any necessary action.

Mrs Ewans attended a speed seminar arranged by SALC and Suffolk Police. Councillors need to identify sites to be put to SCC for approval. The area between Shelland and Borley Green, the straight stretch at The Heath, Bury Road and Grange Farm area of Green Road were suggestions. A working group of Mrs Ewans, Mrs Worley and Mr Hardiman will meet and visit areas to finalise acceptable sites. Mrs Ewans has requested quotes from Elan, Westcotes and Pandora and solar signs + data collection units cost approx. £3,000 each.

13. To receive an update on Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan.

The referendum will take place on 27 October. Notices will be put up around the village.

14. To receive an update on the Bury Road development.

Work has commenced on the roundabout and some drainage has been dug.

15. To receive a report on the allotments including a proposal to take back in hand the field adjoining the allotments and take any necessary action.

Rubbish from the old allotments has been removed. Cathy Smith from Suffolk Wildlife Trust will visit the site on 14 October to discuss what is possible for the area. Allotment renewal letters will be sent out shortly. Mrs Ewans proposed that Mr Howlett be advised that this will be the last year to rent to him as we would like to make this a public area. All Cllrs were in favour of this .Pedestrians currently cannot get onto Heath Road from the field and Cllr Geake will contact MSDC Rights of Way Officer to see if Grassy Lane and Oak Lane are public rights of way.

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

There will be a meeting 12 October. The Committee need to have an emergency contact for hirers so that Mr Hardiman doesn't have to be called out. WPC needs to go back to the Village Hall Committee to advise that we need a list in order of priority with full quotes before considering CIL funding as the funds received to date will not be able to fund all items they would like.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

17. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Overhanging trees adjacent to Larksfield – the Clerk is trying to speed up the application for work on trees in a Conservation Area with MSDC.

18. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 1 November 2022. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....