

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7,30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mr Howard (Vice-Chair), Mr Griffin, Mr Hardiman, Mrs Jenkins and Dr Geake.

**In attendance:** County Cllr Mellen (in part), District Cllr Mansel and 3 members of the public.

In the absence of Mrs Fuller (Clerk), Mr Howard took the Chair and Mrs Ewans took the minutes and read out the Clerk's reports.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Mr Guyler (on holiday), Mr Auchincloss (tested positive for Covid) and Clerk Mrs Fuller (on compassionate leave).

2. **Public comment:** a resident who lives near to the Lawn Farm development spoke on behalf of themselves and neighbours being against further development on the site which will be close to the rear boundaries of two Grade II listed dwellings. Noise, traffic, light pollution and loss of habitat were also cited. Objections have been submitted to MSDC but residents would like the Parish Council's support. Graffiti at Stackyard has been reported to the site manager. Mr Hardiman reported that the children's fun fair was not as successful this year probably due to the heat. Mr Harris is likely to return next year. There are concerns regarding the increase in fly tipping incidents at Norton Road lay-by and rear access to The Room and other properties on White Elm Road. Fly tipping will be reported and the property owners are considering fencing off their land. The hedge at the bottom of Bury Road is overgrown again. Mrs Ewans will contact Hopkins Homes.

### 3. County & District Councillors reports.

**County Councillor's report:** Suffolk County Council has provided an update with how many Ukrainian refugees are currently in Suffolk and awaiting to be granted entry to our county. As at 23 August 204 arrivals have sponsors in Mid Suffolk Solar Together is a project endorsed by SCC for residents and small/medium businesses to group-buy solar panels and battery storage – this provides buyers with the security of an approved installer, at a discount on normal rates. Registration has just opened, and applicants can apply up until the 26 September. 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. Community leaders recognise the stellar work done by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service during the heatwave and very dry weather. Crews have been called to more than 1,300 incidents since the start of July, making it one of the busiest years on record for the service. The Great British Beach Clean will be 1-25 September. No extra funding is coming forward for the Stephenson's bus routes 384/385, so the new timetable from 6 September will continue.

Cllr Mellen has been approached by Norton about parishes getting together to discuss a joint bus service. Woolpit PC agreed to learn more and join in the discussion.

**District Councillors' report:** As part of the biodiversity action plan, MSDC has been working with specialists to identify and map existing tree cover and habitat networks across the district. BMSDC were the first rural councils to commission such a survey. Mid Suffolk's coverage sits at just over 8% ranging from 6% in the Stow Thorney ward to 12.8% in the Claydon and Barham ward. It is hoped that this survey will enable the council to apply for funding to increase a new tree planting strategy, and the report and findings should be published in due course. Support packages to combat the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, with residents urged to check they are receiving the support they are entitled to. Support packages to combat the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Babergh and Mid Suffolk

District Councils, with residents urged to check they are receiving the support they are entitled to. There will be a 'pop-up' exhibition to showcase a range of projects and proposals for Stowmarket on 22–24 September at the John Peel Centre. Included will be the Gateway 14 project, the Health and Wellbeing Hub proposal for Chilton area, and the Stowmarket Culture Group. Suffolk Waste partnership is backing a national campaign about the safe disposal of batteries. If batteries are put into general waste, they can start fires within the waste freighter or in landfill. West Suffolk and Babergh Mid Suffolk have received £60k of funding from chewing gum manufacturers to help clean the streets and pavements of used gum. District Cllr Mansel confirmed that the petrol station and drive through fast food application will go before the planning committee on 28 September. Mrs Ewans will attend but not be able to speak.

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

**5. To approve the minutes of the meeting 2 August 2022.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

## **6. Planning**

a) to consider current applications

**22/04002** Hybrid Application. Full planning Application for B8 and E(g) storage and office uses for Land Parcels 4 and 5. Outline Planning Application for B2, B8 and E(g) uses for Land Parcel 6. Land At Lawn Park Business Centre Warren Lane – Object immediately adjacent to Grade II Listed Buildings and detrimental effect to their surroundings, traffic issues Warren Lane, Wood Road, Borley Green and Heath Road, no public transport or safe cycle or pedestrian access to the site, much more light pollution from the existing development than was expected and we can only expect more which is detrimental to both human and animal life, loss of habitat for birds of prey and the animals they rely on.

**22/04067** Erection of commercial building B1(c), B8 and B2 with associated car parking of 55 spaces, 25 cycle spaces, yard and bike storage. Land Adj To O C Jewers & Sons Ltd Elmswell Road – object Much of the information in the application is incorrect and/or misleading, SCC Highways want to delay comment and Councillors must see what Highways says before making our final comments, bus timetable quoted is now much reduced and only on school days, the predicted vehicle movements do not add up and warrant close scrutiny, many cycle storage places are shown but who will cycle along such a dangerous road which is a designated lorry route?, previous planning permission included a new footpath to provide a pedestrian route to Woolpit village centre, there is a hint of this on the drawing but is it part of the application?, the applicant should provide a combined footpath/cycle track into Woolpit village centre.

**22/04130** Application for prior approval for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwelling houses (Use Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q – Conversion of 4No barns into 4No dwellings. Barns 3 4 5 And 6 Grassy Lane Farm, Grassy Lane – object. WPC concerned that applications on this site are being submitted piecemeal to avoid requirements for larger sites. The application is misleading as it does not reflect other permissions, barns do not appear to have any architectural or historic merit for conversion, does site as a whole have capacity for foul and surface water drainage.

**22/04216** Erection of Hot Food Takeaway with Office above (revised application following permission DC/22/00144) Land At Stag Cafe Old A45 – object. piecemeal development of site, parking area being lost to buildings, traffic leaving the site to access the A14 will travel through the villages of Woolpit and Elmswell which have unsuitable roads for this additional traffic, strain on highways infrastructure..

**22/04312** Erection of first floor rear extension. Hedgerows, The Heath - no comment.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

**22/02819** Erection of one and a half storey rear extension and front porch extension.

3 Steeles Road - granted

**22/02993** Application for advertising consent – erection of illuminated fascia sign and 1 illuminated pylon display signage. Land at Stag café, Old A45 - granted

**22/03635** Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area – reduce crown of one Eucalyptus by 5m and reduce lateral spread by 5m. Torridon, Masons Lane – no objection

**22/03293** Erection of front porch extension and conversion of attached store to provide additional living accommodation. 26 Steeles Road – granted

**22/03297** Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/04247 - Condition 21 (Archaeology) Land Off Bury Road – acceptable for areas A & B but development must not proceed to East of the site until archaeological works completed.

**22/04075** Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/04247 - Condition 13 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme) (Part G- Construction Surface Water Management Plan) Land Off Bury Road – acceptable.

**22/03927** Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/04290- Condition 4 (PV Solar Panels and Use) and Condition 7 (Fire Hydrants) Location: Land On The South Side Of, Rags Lane - satisfied

## 7. Clerk's Report

**Brown bin for Highways Ranger** – a large bin is not available due to weight problems when full, we can have multiple small bins for £54.50 each. Mr Gardiner will do a tip run monthly to see how this goes.

**Community Speedwatch** – the gun and signs are to be replaced by the Police. The originals have been taken for recycling.

**Construction lorries** – Hopkins Homes are meeting with SCC for more signage toon SCC land so that construction lorries coming through the village centre does not reoccur.

**20 mph speed zone** – the tubular surveys will be ordered once we have paid the invoice.

**Noise complaints** – a few have been received regarding an event at the Cricket Club 28 August. The Cricket Club has been advised.

**Accounts 2021/22** – the external audit has been completed. In the auditor's opinion the information is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The report, certificate and notice of conclusion of audit have been published.

**Brown bin renewal** – Barclays Bank declined the Direct Debit authorisation and this has now been paid by cheque.

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

**Dellwood Homes** have taken on board comments for a barrier at the end of the cycle/footpath into Rags Lane. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:**  
**Rural Services Network** Funding Digest August, Rural Bulletin 9, 16, 23, 31 August 6 September. **SALC** news bulletin 8, 15, 22, 24, August, 1 & 5 September, training & networking ebulletin 9,16,23 August, HM & Personnel matters, energy cost impact on communities, Area Forums September, invitation to Cycling UK networking lunch 1 September, SALC Mid Suffolk Area Forum 8 September. **SCC** Parish of Assington (C733 The Street & Rose Green) (20 mph & 30 mph speed limits) Order 2022, Parish of Stowlangtoft (Bridge no 34/10 A1088)(Bridge Farm Bridge) (7.5 tonnes weight restriction). **MSDC** Town & parish update September. **Suffolk Police** Public meeting 6 October in Stowmarket. **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** Consideration of Natural Environment and Biodiversity in Neighbourhood Plans. **Resident** copy of objections sent to MSDC for appl 21/06333 land adj A14 Elmswell petrol station.

**9. To approve accounts for payment.**

A refund of £300.00 for the security deposit to Mr F Harris for hire of the recreation field 8-15 August was unanimously ratified. Mr M Hardiman £67.32 reimbursement for sealant and adhesive for play equipment, Mr K Harknett £67.35 litter picking August, Mr M Gardiner £430.65 Highways Ranger salary August, Suffolk County Council £307.99 pension payment, Geosphere Ltd £120.00 Parish online annual subscription, PKF Littlejohn LLP £480.00 external audit of accounts 2021/22, Suffolk County Council £1,632.00 tube surveys for 20 mph, Chagos Consulting Ltd £60.00 Parish Online training Mrs Ewans, Mrs Ewans £184.98 reimbursement for garden trolley for Highways Ranger, Viking £98.42 stamps and stationery, M & E Services £3673.00 (£148.00 repairs & soft board for notice board Lower Broom Road, £3,525.00 back netting and posts for goal area. Payment by Standing Order Mrs Fuller £979.93 Clerk's salary August. All accounts were approved and cheques issued.

**10. To receive a monthly financial report.**

The Community Account balance at the end of August was £299,420.86 of which CIL is £192,635.01, Recreation Ground £5,045.90, earmarked reserves £92,605.55 and general funds £9,134.40.

**11. To consider internet banking for Woolpit PC payments and take any necessary action.**

It was unanimously agreed for the Clerk to make arrangements with Barclays Bank for internet banking.

*Action: the Clerk*

**12. To consider the purchase of two additional plant pots for the centre of the village and take any necessary action.**

The owners of Addisons would like to be part of the scheme in the centre of the village. It was agreed to purchase two additional pots to match existing pots

*Action: Mrs Jenkins.*

**13. To consider an additional litter bin for the Pump area and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to use the bin ordered for the Millennium Garden and reconsider a bin at the Millennium Garden as several fires have been started in the old bin. Further consideration to the problems at the Millennium Garden are needed.

**14. To consider quotes for insurance renewal 1 October 2022 and take any necessary action.**

This was deferred until all quotes are received and the Clerk is in attendance.

**15. To consider the option to opt out of the Small Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) central external auditor appointment arrangements and take any necessary action.**

This was deferred until the Clerk is in attendance.

**16. To consider a panel to meet applicants to fill the casual vacancy and take any necessary action.**

Two candidates have come forward. It was agreed that Mrs Ewans, Mr Howard and Mr Hardiman would meet each candidate and make a recommendation to full council at the October meeting.

**17. To consider councillor training for Parish Online and take any necessary action.**

This was agreed and will be set up in October.

**18. To consider the energy/heating crisis and take any necessary action.**

The Good Neighbour Group is meeting 8 September. WPC is ready to give financial assistance.

**19. To reconsider the additional bus shelter following the recent announcement of service cuts and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to hold off ordering the additional bus shelter until we know more about availability of the bus service.

**20. To consider complaints regarding a pear tree in Mill Lane and take any necessary action.**

This is a Perry pear tree on MSDC land. It drops small hard pears which are being used as missiles. Mr Hardiman advised to MSDC are regularly asked to clear up and will now pollard the tree.

**21. To discuss changing the Health and Safety Officer from the Clerk to the Chair and take any necessary action.**

This was agreed subject to an annual review.

**22. To receive an update on Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan.**

Mrs Ewans reported that MSDC Planning had now completed the amendments to the maps, therefore text and documents are completed. We now await publication and setting of the referendum date which we believe requires 25 days notice.

**23. To receive an update on 20 mph in the centre of the village.**

The surveys have to be paid for and once payment has been received ACC will arrange.

**24. To receive an update on the Bury Road development.**

Hopkins Homes Community Contact details to be added to website and published in Woolpit Diary.

**25. To receive a report on the allotments, including set date for a skip to clear area to the right of the path and take any necessary action.**

Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Ewans inspected the area 5 September and found the allotments in good order and tidy condition. The allotment holders are to be commended for their hard work especially in view of the hot weather and drought. The pile of rubbish collected for the old site does not appear to have grown and it was agreed that the rubbish can be taken away in cars rather than hire a skip. Mr Howard, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Ewans and Mr Griffin will deal with this 9 September. It was also agreed for grass and weeds to be cut back in places to open up the site. Trees are not to be touched save for pruning. The public are to be invited to take apples and pears.

**26. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.**

No report, the committee will meet in October

**Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity**

**27. To consider quotes for tree work around the recreation ground and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to accept the quote from Stuart Langston Arboricultural Specialist for £1,960.00.

*Action: the Clerk*

**28. To receive a report from the Clerk.**

**Tennis Club lease** – an initial meeting has been held with the Tennis Club to discuss a lease.

**29. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting**

There will be a meeting to discuss CIL and deferred items from today's meeting. The next full council meeting will be Tuesday 4 October 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. Signed..... Dated.....