

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
7 JUNE 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTUTUTE

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

In attendance: District Cllr Mansel, County Cllr Mellen (in Part), Mrs Fuller Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. Public comment Mr Howard and the Jubilee Committee were thanked for the amazing job over the weekend with the Jubilee Celebrations.

A resident has expressed the view that the village has outgrown the beacon site in Lady's Well and consideration should be made to moving the beacon to larger area. A resident is concerned regarding the overgrown hedge in Mill Lane and the fact that the path is not accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs at both ends of the path. The Highways Ranger will be able to cut the hedge and the issues of the path will be referred to SCC.

Action: the Clerk

Dr Geake attended the first meeting of the SCC Enhanced Bus Partnership and notes will be circulated to Cllrs. Dr Geake asked about the loss of Woolpit 8am bus service to Bury, and was told that it was because of a shortage of drivers. Essentially everyone wants a bus at 8am and there are only so many drivers.

3. County & District Councillors reports.

County Councillor's report: Full Council convened on 19 May and approved a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Council also agreed to request Network Rail to make progress with strategic works on the network, specifically improvements to the Haughley junction to improve the flow of traffic through the junction, in particular freight trains coming to and from Felixstowe - this should remove more freight traffic from the road. Alongside this, other minor improvements to the network were also mentioned, such as the improvements to Thurston station and the replacement footway at Elmswell. A petition has started requesting that SCC considers an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal in September next year. Recently we have seen astronomical price quotes for the maintenance of Suffolk's highways. An in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed. The bid would also provide a necessary benchmark for any competitive bid coming from external companies, making sure Suffolk taxpayers get value for money. National Grid is consulting on their proposal to install a new line of overhead high voltage power lines, supported by pylons, across Suffolk's countryside. The justification for this is the need to connect electricity produced by off-shore wind farms into the grid. This will have a severe impact on Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals have been widely criticised and the emerging consensus is that power should be brought down the North Sea using undersea cables as part of a strategic network, rather than over land. We are hoping to see a cross-party response from the County Council and meetings are going on this week in order to facilitate this.

Cllr Mellen has been invited to a briefing regarding improvements to the A14 Junctions 50-56.

District Councillors' Report: The Annual Council meeting was held on 26 May, the newly elected Chair is Cllr James Caston, with Cllr Ekpenyong as Vice-Chair. There were few changes to the committee positions. The new visitor centre and café at Needham Lake, The Duck and Teapot opened officially on 17 May and were rather surprised at the number of visitors over the first weekend. They have now taken steps to manage larger numbers. MSDC Cabinet is considering a 5 point action plan to try to help residents through the cost of living crisis. The aim of the plan is to

try to ensure that those in need are able to access Government help and other organisations, and to maintain good physical and mental health. Plans for a new hub in Stowmarket are to be discussed by Cabinet this week. The master plan incorporates two parcels of land at Chilton Fields and Stowmarket High School. Two all-weather pitches, a mini running track and a new sports pavilion are included in the proposal. Babergh and Mid Suffolk are carrying out their annual survey of residents. Hopefully this will enable the Councils to understand more about residents' and communities' resilience and to help improve customer service. Up to 8,000 households from districts will be randomly selected and invited to take part. Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities are currently seeing an unprecedented level of proposed large scale energy infrastructure. MSDC cabinet are discussing the Council's official response to the public consultation on the Anglia Green overhead power cables to Bramford. The next round of Locality Grants is now open. Although the deadline is not until March 2023, we welcome applications from community groups in Woolpit and Elmswell.

4. To receive declarations of interest

Mr Auchincloss declared a pecuniary interest in planning application for The Swan as owner of a neighbouring property. He duly signed the interest book.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 3, 11, and 17 May 2022.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

Mr Auchincloss left the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

22/02393 & 22/02394 Erection of 1.8m high fence and gate in rear courtyard, removal of single storey pub toilets, removal of modern pub sign and replacement of 1 rear window as per Design and Access Statement (retained). The Swan, The Street – no comment.

Mr. Auchincloss rejoined the meeting at 7.57 p.m.

22/02497 Erection of first floor extensions. Farmview Cottage, Borley Green – no comment.

22/02535 Removal of one first floor rear UPVC window and replace with a timber framed triple casement. Monks Close, Masons Lane – support.

22/02237 Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for 3373/13 for the Removal or Variation of Condition 3 (Restriction: limit on hours, number and type of aerotow operations). Rattlesden Gliding Club High Town Green Rattlesden (Part In The Parishes Of Felsham & Gedding) – no comment.

22/02660 Erection of single storey side extension (following removal of conservatory) and external alterations including replacement of roof structure. Pinelea, The Heath - no comment.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

22/01284 Erection of wooden shed. 3 Swan Yard – granted.

22/01862 Non material amendment 21/01132 – minor realignment of small section of cycle/footpath running between plots 70 and 21 and inclusion drawing W004-127A erroneously omitted from reserved matter decision notice. Land at Street Farm on East side of White Elm Road (Bury Road development) – approved.

22/01348 Erection of 2m high garden wall and gates (following removal of hedge). Replacement pool house with covered walkway connecting to existing out building. Erection of potting shed. Meadow Barn, Green Road – granted.

22/01473 Erection of first floor side extension. 2 Saffrons Close – granted.

22/002097 Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area Fell 4 Apple trees (T1, T2, T3, T4) to ground level fell 2 Hazel trees to ground level. Fingerbread House, Rectory Lane – no objection.

22/02215 Discharge of conditions appl 21/06219 Condition 4 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) Grassy Lane Farm, Grassy Lane – acceptable.

7. Clerk's Report

30 mph repeater sign Heath Road opposite the Health Centre – has been knocked by a vehicle and is facing the wrong way. SCC will look to turn back into position in due course.

Pothole junction of White Elm Road with Bury Road – will be repaired within approx. 8 weeks.

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

Resident complaint regarding our response to a matter put forward – a copy of the WPC complaints procedures will be sent. *action: the Clerk*

Residents of Rags Lane – a number of emails have been received regarding the proposed closure for Rags Lane for 10 days. This has been referred to the developer and SCC. **Naughton and Nedging PC** Has advised they have a speed gun available for £100.00. It was agreed to defer a decision on purchasing this until enough volunteers have come forward to reinstate the CSW scheme. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 4, 10, 17, 24, 31 May, 7 June, Rural Funding Digest May and June. **SALC** news bulletin 3, 9, 23 May, 6 June, training and networking bulletin 5, 10, 17, 24, 31 May, 7 June, Suffolk Community Awards, Parish Decarbonising event 24 May, Mid Suffolk Area Forum 7 July, subscription review. **SCC** Enhances Bus Partnership – passenger work group meeting 1 June, Rest Centre training 1 August, suffolkonboard bus timetable updates, update on work Heath Road 31 May. **Suffolk Police** Constable County May. **MSDC** Energy developments information session 23 May, spruce up of dog and litter bins throughout joint district. **Headway Suffolk** bike ride and walk 3 September. **Suffolk Preservation Society** East Anglia GREEN. **NHS** Parish newsletter 24 May. **Jo Churchill MP** doorstep rogues target Suffolk, best wishes for successful Jubilee events.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Mr K Harknett £67.35 litter picking May, Mr M Gardiner £445.50 Highways Ranger salary May, Suffolk County Council £307.69 pension payment, Business Services at CAS Ltd £50.28 additional premium for increased all risks insurance cover to renewal, Gipping Press £323.00 printing June/July Diary, Mrs P Branham £105.00 editing June/July Diary, Mrs S Brown £80.00 internal audit of accounts to 31/3/22, Mr M Hardiman £27.55 sealant for tiles on trampoline. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit Mrs Fuller £955.22 May salary, e-on £38.81 Pump light electricity supply 1/3/22-31/5/22.

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

At the end of May the Community Account balance was £297,483.53 of which CIL is £192,635.01, earmarked reserves are £91,685.11 and general funds £13,163.41.

11. To complete and sign the Statement of Assurance and Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2022.

The forms were duly completed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12. To consider and adopt

a) the new LGA Model Code of Conduct.

It was proposed, seconded and approved to adopt the new code.

b) a disciplinary and grievance procedure for employment contracts.

All Cllrs were in favour of adopting the procedure.

13. To receive a report on events to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022.

There was a great turn out for the church service and over 400 attended the event at the beacon which created a wonderful atmosphere. The Friday night events at the Cricket Club went very well and members of WCC did a wonderful job. Numbers attending the ceilidh were a little disappointing but those who attended thoroughly

enjoyed the event. The Sunday procession went well and attendance in the centre of the village was good with the Mariachi Band a great success. The Voice Squad concert was well attended. It was a really amazing weekend and Mr Howard and his team of volunteers were thanked for all their hard work.

14. To consider a request for an additional bench in the pump garden to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and take any necessary action.

A quote from Mr G Baker will be requested before taking this matter any further.

15. To consider dog/litter bins and take any necessary action.

a) replacing the litter bin in the millennium Garden.

The current concrete bin is being pushed over and rolled about. It was therefore agreed to purchase a Topsy Royale bin from Glasdon with a ground fixing kit for £296.45 ex VAT.

b) an additional dog bin in Mill Lane/Mill Close area

It was felt that with bins at the Village Hall, Abbots Meadow/Mill Lane and 2 in Steeles Road there were sufficient bins in the area.

c) an additional bin near the phone box

With bins in Rectory Lane and Old Stowmarket Road this is not necessary

d) repairs to other dog litter bins

Mr Howard will see if the steel section that seems to corrode on the bins can be fabricated so that a complete bin does not have to be purchase each time.

16. To receive an update on the Elmswell/Woolpit cycle path.

Representatives from Sustrans, SCC Highways, MSDC Infrastructure team, District Cllrs Mansel and Geake walked the route with representatives of Elmswell and Woolpit PCs on 4 May. Mrs Ewans represented WPC. There are still question of how to get the route over the B1088 and the bridge over the A14. It had been hoped to have a date from MSDC to take the matter further. Cllr Mansel will take this up with MSDC officers and SCC needs to provide costing figures. Sustrans and National Highways may fund the section over the bridge.

17. To receive a report from the meeting with Hopkins Homes regarding the Bury Road development.

Mrs Ewans and Dr Geake have had a further meeting with Hopkins Homes who are keen to work with the village. There is a possibility that Hopkins will remove the car park and parking within the burial ground and instead improve the parking area in front of the tennis courts. This would need MSDC to agree to alterations to the Section 106 agreement if the Parish Council was supportive. Hopkins Homes are prepared to provide pedestrian access the burial ground from the car park by the tennis courts. Vehicle access for diggers and grass cutting will be from Haybarn Meadow but no need for a car park within the burial ground. There is however concerns regarding the new legislation regarding water courses/ditches next to the area allocated for the burial ground which needs to be investigated. The initiative is with Hopkins Homes who will come to WPC with ideas for consideration in due course. There was no mention of the land by the roundabout but it is hoped that this could come into the ownership of WPC.

18. To consider how to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to advertise the vacancy in the next Diary, on the website and posters around the village with a cut-off date for response 20 August. *Action: the Clerk*

19. To consider a request from a resident for a letter of support and take any necessary action.

A resident has asked for a letter of support to enable them to access funding for a drop kerb for children with special needs. It was agreed to send this due to concerns

of road safety for the children and it will also free up on road parking for other vehicles.

Action: the Clerk

20. To consider a response to Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan consultation and take any necessary action. (Consultation open until 1 July 2022).

Cllrs do not wish to respond.

21. To consider a response to East Anglian Green consultation and take any necessary action. (Consultation open until 16 June 2022).

It was agreed to send a response that a full appraisal should be made and published for a scheme under the sea to mitigate the environmental impact of the proposed pylons.

Action: the Clerk.

Mr Guyler left the meeting at 9.23 p.m.

22. To receive a report on the allotments, and take any necessary action.

Nothing to report. Mrs Ewans and Mrs Jenkins are to sort out the skip required to clear the old area of rubbish.

Action: Mrs Ewans/Mrs Jenkins

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

A meeting was held on 18 May. Mr Hardiman was asked regarding the Village Hall's CIL request and he advised an initial meeting has been held to discuss all requests. The Village Hall is solvent at the moment but is considering some fund raising events and increases in hiring costs as these have remained unchanged for the last 6 years. The options of a container for storage were discussed, long term storage would be a possibility but not for equipment/costumes used on a regular basis.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

24. To consider a request from Woolpit Village Hall Committee for permission to have 2 electric charging posts installed in the car park and take any necessary action.

The cost and who maintains the charging posts needs to be investigated before any decision can be taken.

25. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Play equipment inspection - The price for The Play Inspection Company all-in package arranged through MSDC is £47.33 + VAT for 2022. There will be an additional charge of 10% (£4.73 per play area) to cover MSDC admin costs. They will inspect the perimeter fencing, gates, ancillary equipment (such as benches and litter bins), equipment and surfacing and site photographs will be provided. It was also approved to request a Full DDA Assessment at an additional cost £12.50.

Wedding 19-21 August 2022 – the couple have asked if a BBQ vehicle can be sited on the recreation field. As this is a wedding that has had to be postponed due to the COVID pandemic and most items had been agreed prior to WPC taking over as Trustees of the Recreation Field Charity it was agreed to allow this.

26. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 5 July 2022.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

SignedApproved.....

Dated.....5 July 2022.....