

MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mr Auchincloss, Mr Howard, Mr Hardiman, Mr Griffin, Dr Geake and Mrs Jenkins. **In attendance:** Mrs Fuller (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Guyler.

2. **To consider projects that can be funded by CIL and take any necessary action.** Cllrs have been provided with a synopsis of the suggestions received following the article in the February/March issue of Woolpit Diary. There is currently £192,635.01 in CIL reserve and MSDC website shows approx. another £106,000 available in due course. This does not include the Bury Road development. CIL money has to be spent within 5 years of receipt. Up to October 2021 we WPC has received £71,704.03 and spent £69,206.87.

Mrs Ewans has looked at the forms that MSDC use for CIL application criteria - who benefits, how the project will be sustained, what it will be used for under the headings health, leisure and community, open space and green infrastructure, transport update, library facilities, school places.

Planting more trees and acquiring land for the same purpose. – green space will become available within the Bury Road development. We are already looking into the use of the old allotment area (right of the path) and some could be planted there.

Verge area next to Costcutters – this looks unsightly following the removal of the hedge and vehicles parked there. WPC will write to SCC as landowner and ask what SCC is prepared to do to or let WPC know what can be done to improve the visual impact as you enter the village. *Action: the Clerk*

Skate park – this has been looked into before and the main issue is finding a suitable piece of land. There could be a possibility of land on the Bury Road site. Deferred for the future.

Better access to Lady's Well – the resident has suggested a route via Rectory Lane and the Cricket Club and then over the road. It was agreed by all that this would not be a safe way to cross.

Additional shops, takeaways, restaurant and pub – CIL money cannot be used for commercial projects.

Improvements to the Village Hall – the wish list from the village hall totals over £250,000.00 and items have been put forward in priority order. Further ideas for the village hall have been put forward by the Festival Society, other user groups and a resident wishing for redevelopment of the site. There is a possibility of some containers from Goldstar to provide better storage for user groups.

Cllrs are willing to help with some of the items on the list but would like to see what the village hall could arrange with village volunteers with funding from WPC for materials and what the Village Hall Committee are doing to apply for funding from other sources. Items put forward are the refurbishing of the ladies toilets, installation of solar panels, new stage curtains, new sound system, new lighting set-up, improved staging, redecoration, new room, electric charging points, defibrillator. Electric charging points may be classed as a commercial project.

Extension of the Village Hall – Councillors feel that all the buildings should be looked at together. It is felt that the village is well served with a good variety of size and number of rooms available at the Institute, Village Hall and Cricket Club. An extension of the village hall is not feasible as it would encroach on recreational charity land.

Setting up a Youth Club – this has been tried on numerous occasions and the main issue is that nobody is willing to volunteer to help run a group.

Village Hall kitchen refurbishment – this is not on the Village Hall committee wish list and the current kitchen facilities are considered good.

Internet café – Cllrs feel that this is not required as most people have internet facilities at home.

Clearing the balcony area of the village hall – the balcony is already a separate bookable area.

An online calendar for all village events – Cllrs feel that something can be done but shouldn't cost £2000.00 as put forward.

Revamp of parish magazine – WPC keep the Diary under constant review.

Allowance of £5,000.00 for additional work to transfer the land by Hopkins for the burial ground. - This would allow the additional reserve to go back into WPC general funds. WPC does not have the burial ground yet and new laws regarding drainage around burial grounds could compromise the area. It is a matter of watching and waiting at the moment and the burial ground needs to remain unchanged.

Purchase of Glebe land to give access to Lady's Well. - Mrs Ewans is talking to the property manager of the Diocese to see if anything can be done using a strip of land from Old Stowmarket Road to Lady's Well.

School library – Woolpit Primary would like to build a library area within the school. As Woolpit Primary is part of an Academy rather than a village school WPC would need to check with MSDC if this is an appropriate use of CIL money.

Improvements to Woolpit ARC – including disabled toilet, new floor, kitchen improvements, fire door and indoor and outdoor redecorating. – again this will need to be discussed with MSDC as an appropriate use of CIL.

Councillors feel it is important to invest in the school and ARC where possible.

Improvements to Woolpit Cricket Club - a revamp of the social area of Woolpit Cricket Club is required so it can be used for community use.

It was agreed that site visits are required to look at all possible venues for community use at the village hall, institute and cricket club.

Safe dog walking area – this could be combined with one of the tree planting projects.

Councillors also need to consider speed reduction items from the Neighbourhood Plan. WPC could also look at public transport issues, car park by the Tennis Club area, the village hall car park, speed signs, 20 mph area and signs, Borley Green signs.

It is hoped to have a shortlist of projects to present to the public within two months..

A response will be sent to all those who have contributed ideas advising that WPC has met for initial discussions and are currently evaluating applications and ideas which will form a list of suitable projects. *Action: the Clerk*

Mrs Ewans will have discussions with Christine Thurlow on items that can put forward for CIL funding.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....Mrs J Ewans..... Dated.....7 June 2022.....