

Minutes of the additional meeting of Woolpit Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 September 2022 at 7.30 pm in Woolpit Institute

Present: Mrs Ewans (chair), Mrs Jenkins, Mr Hardiman and Mr Griffin.

In attendance: Mrs Fuller, Parish Clerk.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Guyler (holiday), Dr Geake (on business) and Mr Auchincloss (holiday).

2. To consider projects that can be funded by CIL and take any necessary action.

A further £40,000.00 (approx.) will be received in October. Cllrs have met with representatives **Woolpit Primary School**. They are looking for support to create a library. They already have books but no way of displaying them in a way attractive to children. They would like comfy seating and also want to encourage parents to come in and read with their children. They are looking into costs and will come back to the Parish Council in due course.

A meeting has also been held with **Woolpit ARC** who need to spend money on the fabric of the building both interior and exterior. Running costs are stable but there are no additional funds for this work. Flooring needs to be replaced throughout, repair works to toilet facilities and sink, renovation of the kitchen area, broken blinds need to be replaced, entrance mat needs to be replaced and a child friendly surface for outdoor play area. They would like to install air conditioning as they have found the heat this summer unbearable and children were sent home. Internal and external paint work and varnish to be redone (it is hoped by ARC that if materials are bought, volunteers will undertake the work).

The quotes obtained for this rescue plan provided totals £21,129.00.

Councillors agree that Woolpit ARC is very well run and will need to improve facilities as more families move into additional housing in the village. It was proposed, seconded and carried that funding for the rescue plan would be provided by Woolpit Parish Council. However, the Clerk was asked to confirm that if the Parish Council orders and pays for the items and gifts them to Woolpit ARC then Woolpit PC would be able to reclaim the VAT.

Action: the Clerk

An email has been received from Woolpit Short Mat Bowls regarding the issues with storage at the **Village Hall**. Mrs Ewans said that spending on the Village Hall is a vast issue and needs to be one project not piecemeal. Various approaches and figures have been received regarding items at the Village Hall but not a co-ordinated approach. Councillors would like to see a precise application for CIL funding from the Village Hall Committee.

Mr Hardiman attended the last Village Hall meeting advised that the Village Hall Treasurer was concerned that no fundraising is taking place although grants have been received to help run the village hall during Covid.

Councillors would like the Village Hall Committee to make a presentation to WPC with items in a prioritised order.

Mrs Ewans has written to the Diocese to see if WPC can purchase a piece of land to **access Ladyswell** but this has been declined. Although it is felt that the footpath should be reinstated within the Jewers planning application this will not necessarily provide a safe access to Ladyswell. The glebe land used to provide a stipend for the vicar but now just seems to be in the Diocesan investment pot with no consideration for the parish.

Cllrs had agreed at a recent meeting to fund an **additional bus shelter** but the service has been vastly reduced since the new school term and it was agreed to put this on hold for the time being.

The possibility of a **Jubilee/commemorative wood** could be planted on the old allotment area and adjoining field was discussed. Part of the area could also be fenced off to provide a safe area where dogs can run off lead. It was agreed to ask

Cathy Smith from Suffolk Wildlife Trust to come and look at the area and give us some suggestions of what we can achieve.

Currently we have a reserve set aside for the burial ground. The land is now to be given by Hopkins Homes development but will need to be surveyed for drainage and the area cut and maintained. The Government has set new regulations particularly relating to water courses adjacent to burial grounds. There are two ditches capable to carry water on two sides of the site. In addition there are fees and costs involved in obtaining a licence to use land for burials and ongoing fees, Mrs Ewans proposed that the burial ground doesn't not currently need to CIL provision provided we keep the current reserve. This was seconded by Mr Howard and carried.

Ideas for **shops and takeaways** cannot be supported as CIL cannot be spent on commercial premises.

Skate park would take up considerable land which is only likely to be available on amenity land of the new development and this will not be available for some time.

Highspeed broadband is being installed to the Bury Road development whilst complaints are being received of poor broadband in other areas of the village. This will need to be looked into but may not be for CIL consideration.

With the reduction in the **bus service** other villages are looking to have discussions on a joint bus service between us.

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

Because of the pending claim at the village hall car park, Zurich Insurance is unable to provide a quote. Quotes have been received from BHIB and Ansvar via Community Action Suffolk. It was proposed, seconded and carried to go with Ansvar through Community Action Suffolk at a cost of £1096.61.

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

After discussion it was unanimously agreed not to opt out.

Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan is due to be launched on 16 September 2022. The Cathy Prior Room will be used for the referendum on 27 October. An item will be published in Woolpit Diary. It will also be on Woolpit.org website and MSDC website. And hard copies will be available.

The meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....