

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

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

In attendance: County Cllr Mellen (in part), District Cllr Mansel, Mrs Fuller Parish Clerk and 14 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Moore and Mr Auchincloss.

2. **Public comment** Mr Hardiman stated that it was a joy to see the children's play area being so well used now with the additional equipment installed. Mrs Ewans stated that there were residents prepared to host Ukrainian families and people would need a lot of help once they were here.

Members of the public wishing to discuss traffic issues at Wood Rd and Borley Green were invited to wait and speak before Item 6

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

4. **To approve the minutes of the meetings 1 March 2022.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Planning

a) to consider current applications

21/06333 (Reconsultation) Development of a petrol filling station, a drive-thru restaurant and coffee shop, together with various infrastructure and landscaping works. Land off A14, Elmswell – object The exit from the site is extremely hazardous. The slip from the A14 eastbound and the roundabout are not of a sufficient standard to accommodate the increase in traffic. There will be the potential for queueing traffic to tail back onto the A14 eastbound and also blocking the roundabout access for vehicles coming from Ixworth and Elmswell trying to cross the A14 to go westbound. There are no changes to the plans for this application which mitigate the highway safety issues for which the previous application 17/02349 was refused.

With the substantial amount of development both in Elmswell and Woolpit and surrounding villages the volume of local traffic will be double, exacerbating current concerns regarding road safety.

Considerable litter will ensue from this type of development which will be detrimental to the environment.

The proposals will create unacceptable and unnecessary light pollution.

This development will contaminate a further site which with phasing out of the use of petrol and diesel will only be used for 20-30 years.

The road between Woolpit and Elmswell will be made more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

This route is taken by Woolpit residents using Elmswell station.

The harm to the land and surrounding area far outweighs any gains from this development.

If the Officer is minded to approve the application we request that it goes to committee for a decision.

Contrary to Policies E9, E10, T6, T10, NPPF 108 & 109.

Councillors find it incredible that National Highways state "A Transport Assessment (TA) has been prepared for the development by Dynamic Transport Planning, and this includes a **road safety audit (RSA) of the site egress (the audit scope was limited to the egress). The RSA raised concerns with regards to the safety of the egress arrangements, and it is not clear how these concerns have been addressed. The main concern is in regards to the short distance between the egress and the A1088/Church Road roundabout, where at present there is only around 60m separation. In this distance there will be a large number of lane**

changes required which is likely to cause conflict between drivers. The egress proposals shorten this distance slightly, and provide additional signage and road markings to attempt to further slow drivers to minimise the risk of collisions. This weaving section is on the Local Road Network, although it is located immediately downstream of, and forms a continuation of the A14 eastbound off-slip” **and yet do not object to the application**. This conclusion is both contradictory and perverse. Councillors fully endorse the concerns of Suffolk Police which objects to the proposal.

22/01197 Application for Out Line planning permission (access points to be considered, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be reserved) Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Erection of 1 dwelling. Land to East of Titchfield, Green Road – object The site is located within the ancient Woolpit Green which provided common rights. The green space continues to make an important contribution to the open rural character which is otherwise lost by ribbon development in the hamlet. The site is the last surviving remnant of Woolpit Green visible from the road through the Green. Woolpit Green is an important contribution to the setting and significance of the listed buildings of Abbey Cottage and Abbey Farm, which are common edged buildings and the common or green, to which they form the edge should not be built over. The public benefit of a single dwelling does not outweigh the harm to the setting and significance of heritage assets. Contrary to Policy HB1.

22/01348 Erection of 2m high garden wall and gates (following removal of hedge) replacement pool house with covered walkway connecting to existing outbuilding; Erection of potting shed. Meadow Barn, Green Road - considered, no comment to make.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

These will be reported at the next meeting

Public comment. A number of residents spoke to report that there have been two incidents of lorries hitting the telegraph pole at the triangle at Borley Green on 20 & 21 March bringing down the attached wires. The Police attended and it is likely that residents will not have internet access for at least a week. County Cllr Mellen has spoken with Network Assurance and they don't understand why lorries are in this area. SCC is talking to National Highways to find out what has gone wrong with the diversion signing for the A14 overnight road closures which are for survey work between 19 March and 9 May. The main work will not be taking place until the autumn. Cllr Mellen also advised that he had begun arrangements for a traffic survey of Wood Rd and the bridge with a view to obtaining a limit to traffic use. The speakers also spoke against the application in Item 6

6. To consider a response to a Premises Licence application for Wood Road Site, Haughley Park and take any necessary action.

After much discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the license application. The entrance to the site is via country lanes already unable to manage the existing volume of traffic let alone the massive increase that events at this site would cause. This will impact on public safety due to the volume of traffic on unsuitable roads with no verge or footways for pedestrians.

All visitors to the site will need to come by their own vehicles as there is a lack of public transport in the area.

There will also be a need for large vehicles to access the site to bring in the required equipment for events and this will cause harm to the environment and the highways system as the roads are unsuitable for large vehicles.

The applicant states that traffic leaving the site will turn right to join the A14 at Tot Hill. We know this will not be the case as current traffic issues have proved from the recently built business park at Lawn Farm. Anyone wishing to join the A14 to travel west will drive through Borley Green then turn right into Heath Road passing through Woolpit to join the A14 at junction 47.

Any access to the site should be via the main entrance to Haughley Park which has better road links and the field off Wood Road can be accessed via tracks on the Haughley Park Estate.

The trees around the field already amplify any noise on the site towards the houses on Wood Road. The licence application states that music will be amplified. This will not only cause a public nuisance to the nearby houses but to the residents of surrounding villages including Shelland, Harleston and Onehouse.

The noise, light and environmental pollution caused by events allowed under this licence constitute a public nuisance

Action: the Clerk

7. To consider a grant request from Woolpit Village Hall for an additional outside light and take any necessary action.

The total cost is £380.00 It was proposed, seconded and carried to give a grant of £190.00.

Action: the Clerk

8. To consider a further request from MSDC to provide road names for the Rags Lane development and take any necessary action.

The developer has put forward further suggestions of The Blackthorns, Blackthorn Close and Plough Close. Since the site is off Drinkstone Road previously known as Plough Road Cllrs would support Plough Close.

Action: the Clerk

9. To consider flowers for the centre of the village and take any necessary action.

Mrs Jenkins has discussed the village centre flowers with Woolpit Nurseries and this year they will be red, white and blue for the Queen's platinum jubilee. The shrubs in the Pump garden are in need of replacement and a quote will be available for the next meeting.

10. To consider the next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan.

District Cllrs Mansel and Geake proposed a motion at MSDC to actively promote Neighbourhood Plans and allocate reserves to help Core Villages to complete their plans. This was duly passed. Once further information on this is available WPC will hold a meeting with Woolpit NP Steering Group.

11. To adopt a Subject Access Request Policy, Procedures for dealing with data breaches and Data Retention and Disposal Policies.

All three policies were adopted.

12. To nominate a torch bearer for the Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay.

It was unanimously agreed to nominate Michael Hardiman and his dog Berkeley as they are the "eyes, ears and nose of the village".

13. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 5 April 2022.
Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....