

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1
NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

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

In attendance: District Cllr Mansell, Mrs Fuller Clerk and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Guyler and Mrs Jenkins..

2. **Public comment:** a resident spoke in support of the planning application at Lawn Farm. Mr Hardiman advised the Woolpit institute Committee has decided to delay annual rent increases until after their fixed rate fuel tariff expires at the end of June. Mr Hardiman advised that the new streetlight at Steeles Road/Lanecroft junction has still not been connected. Lovells have had to reapply to UK Power Networks. People are warned of a kleptomaniac who visits the parish and has been known to enter homes. The Police are aware. Mr Howard asked if the Parish Council were considering a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II. This may be considered within the work at the old allotments for the public green space. Mrs Wortley to consider a composting area at the old allotments for the leaves that the Highways Ranger has to clear.

3. **County & District Councillors reports.**

County Councillor's report. The County Council has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures opposition groups expect the government to seek spending cuts meaning public services could be cut and council reserves may have to be used. Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. SCC has launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East's new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies.

District Councillors' report. Last month Cabinet agreed to consult on a scheme to increase the council tax reduction for eligible household from 95% to 100%. Currently households who receive benefits have reduced council tax bills depending on the amount of benefit they receive. A Task and Finish Group of six MSDC Councillors has commenced work on planning how best to serve our residents with the two electric minibuses which are to be acquired by MSDC. Plans for a development of up to 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes on a plot of Council owned land adjacent to School Road in Elmswell are to be discussed by Cabinet in November. If the cabinet agrees to go forward with the £15M scheme the next stage would involve some public engagement prior to the submission of a planning application. The Councils' CIFCO investments continue to provide revenue for both councils – amounting to about £1.7M for MSDC in 2021/22. The financial report and 2023 business plan were discussed by MSDC on 27th October. It was cited that the diversity within the portfolio helped weather the impact of COVID. A Winter Warmth Support Grant fund was launched on 21 October for organisations to apply for grants of £250 - £5000 to help with the increased energy, rent and food costs to enable community activities and warm spaces to remain open and available during the winter without having increase fees for residents. Babergh and Mid Suffolk are investing £2M for 22 new HVO-fuelled waste tankers. This

is the biggest upgrade to the Waste fleet in about 10 years. A competition has been launched for members of the public to submit names for the new tankers. Any family living in the district who has welcomed a new baby (either by birth or adoption) this year can apply for a tree to be planted this winter. The scheme is also open to families who have lost a child during the same period. Following recommendations by an Independent Remuneration Panel, Mid Suffolk Councillors agreed the remuneration to be made to the incoming councillors next May. The basic allowance is to go up to just over £6k and there are several special responsibility allowances as well. Locality funding is available for applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

MSDC is pursuing an interim arrangement with the Health Centre regarding closing the gate and directing cars to use the new car park. Mrs Ewans asked regarding the EV points in car park. The ducting is in and Mrs Ewans has been advised that a CIL bid is awaited for the units. The planning permission consent was for the gate to be closed and no management plan has been signed. Cllr Mansel will pursue this with MSDC and the Health Centre.

4. To receive declarations of interest

Mr Hardiman declared a pecuniary interest in the grant request from Woolpit institute as he is the Caretaker and Dr Geake in the planning application for 5 Heath Road as the applicant is well known to her.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 4 October 2022.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

22/04909 Change of use of land and buildings from scaffolding business to scaffolding/mobile plant/vehicular hire business. Lawn Farm, Warren Lane –object traffic leaving the site to access the A14 will travel through the villages of Woolpit and on unsuitable roads.

22/05414.Erection of a Single Storey Rear Extension to Dwelling following Demolition of Existing. 5 Heath Road – no objection.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

22/04076 Discharge of conditions appl 18/04247 Condition 17 (construction management plan) and Condition 28 (highways and traffic). Land off Bury Road – satisfied.

22/03330 Discharge of conditions appl 18/04247 Condition 32 (on-site foul water drainage) Land off Bury Road – satisfied

22/04312 Erection of first floor extension. Hedgerows, The Heath – granted.

22/03298 Discharge of conditions appl 18/04247 Condition 24 (details of roundabouts, estate roads and footpaths) and Condition 29 (surface water drainage). Condition 24 not acceptable tapered ends to shared footpaths at roundabout not acceptable, incorrect signage, concerns over lane width east roundabout. Condition 29 acceptable.

22/04216 Erection of hot Food Takeaway with office above (revised appl following permission 22/00144). Land at Stag Café, off old A45 – granted

22/04733 Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1 No group of field maples (G1) in height by 2.5m. Reduce height of crown of 1No. Willow (T1) by 6m and reduce lateral spread by 4m. Reduce height of crown of 1No. Norway Maple (T2) by 2m and lateral spread by 2m. Green Hill, The Street – no objection

22/04892 Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Crown lift 1No. Sycamore to (T1) 5m and to cut back lower branches to allow 3m clearance from adjacent property as squirrels being a problem. Reduce line of 9No. Hornbeam (T2 – T10) to 4m. Woolpit Playing Field The Street – no objection

7. Clerk's Report

The New Suffolk Care Service Directory 2022/23 – 200 ordered, 100 of which are for the Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme

CIL payment October 2022 - £150,576.89 has been received

Woolpit traffic surveys – SCC has advised that these should be carried out 17-25 November

Concrete street light column replacement – this has now been completed

EV charging points – The Village Hall Committee is not going ahead with the EV points in the car park. MSDC has confirmed that we can have them in the car park opposite the church.

Platinum Jubilee bench – will be ready in two weeks. Mr G Baker asked if we were laying a base but previous benches have been bolted to the cobbled surface.

Jubilee beakers – funds have not been received from Woolpit Cricket Club for those sold at the Jubilee events. Mr Howard will contact WCC.

Bus service reduction – invitations have been sent to other parishes affected and 30 November date is the preferred date for the meeting.

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

Resident ongoing speeding Bury Road the resident has been advised that we are looking to install a SID. Resident of the Landex site requesting walk through both ends at Stackyard Green are closed as other village residents are walking through the site and using play equipment. The resident will be advised that the play equipment is not exclusive use of the Stackyard development and is part of the Sect 106 agreement. Resident request for new noticeboards at Heath Road and Borley Green. This will be discussed at the next meeting. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** **SALC** news bulletin 10, 17, 24, 31 October, Suffolk Climate Emergency Board short survey, Clerks workshop 10 November, area forum 15 November, training bulletin 18, 25 October, 1 November. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 11, 18, 25 October, 1 November, Funding Digest October. **MSDC** Winter Warmth Support Grant, Town and Parish update November. **SCC** New employer contribution rates for pension, thermal imaging update, Street Lighting and Highways Asset Energy & Maintenance costs 2022/23, Transport East Rural Mobility survey. **Jo Churchill MP** Silver Sunday, national day for older people. **SISK** National Highways public information event for A14 improvements 25 October. Mid Suffolk CAB GM 24 October. **County Cllr** Mellen cost of living to impact council's budget. **Resident** copy letter to SCC Rags Lane not to be diversion route when Drinkstone Road closed in November.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

A payment of £230.87 to HM Revenue & Customs tax and N/I July-September was unanimously ratified. Mr Harknett £75.25 litter picking October, Mr Gardiner £405.90 Highways ranger October salary, Suffolk County Council £307.99 pension payment, Suffolk county Council £20,040.00 concrete streetlight column replacements, Woolpit institute £416.00 office rent November-January, Suffolk.cloud £120.00 support and hosting website 1/11/22-31/10/23. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit Mrs Fuller £979.93 October salary

10. To receive a monthly financial report.

The Community Account balance at the end of October was £462,930.29 of which CIL is £337,091.90, Recreation Ground £1,520.90, earmarked reserves £92,605.55 and general funds £31,711.94.

11. To discuss traffic issues in the parish

a) To receive an update on 20 mph in the centre of the village.

These should take place 17-25 November and it is hoped that they show a speeding environment for a 20 mph zone.

b)to discuss solar powered Speed Indicator signs and locations and take any necessary action

A group of councillors have identified possible sites and a meeting will be held on Thursday with the Clerk to finalise and send out letters to nearby residents advising of the sites. Mrs Ewans has received quoted for the SID units which will be evaluated.

c)To receive a report on the proposed A14 works

Highways England held an exhibition in Woolpit Church regarding upcoming works on the A14. This is likely to take over a year and will cause some difficulties for residents.

12. To receive an update on Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan referendum.

The referendum took place on 27 October 2022 with 94% in favour of adopting Woolpit NP. Turnout was 21.52%. MSDC has to formally adopt the WNP then it will become part of MSDC planning development framework. An addendum will need to be written to bring to NP up to date.

13. To receive a report from the Good Neighbour Scheme/ Warm Spaces meeting and take any necessary action.

A meeting held on 22 October was attended by around 90 residents. Issues which are of concern are loneliness and isolation, finances and cost of living, transport issues, IT problems, getting information and advice. Warm spaces have been set up for people to go during the week at the Institute, The Room and Woolpit Cricket Club. The group have applied to SCC for a grant. More volunteers are needed.

14. To consider photo ID badges for Councillors and take any necessary action.

After discussion it was agreed not to pursue this for the time being.

15. To consider a preferred contractor for all tree work for a period of 3 years and take any necessary action.

As we have used Stuart Langston for several jobs recently and because of the difficulty of getting three quotes for each job, it was proposed, seconded and approved to appoint Stuart Langston as our preferred contractor for tree work for a period of three years.

16. To consider a request to provide the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator with Microsoft Excel to report the results of sessions to the Police and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to ask The Co-ordinator to purchase Excel on behalf of the Parish Council and he would be reimbursed.

Action: Mr Auchincloss

17. To consider a request for a litter picking trolley and take any necessary action.

MSDC encourage community litter picks but this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. In this instance WPC cannot be of assistance and the residents concerned will be asked to take note of the guidance from MSDC.

Action: the Clerk/Mrs Ewans

18. To consider additional road name signs in The Street and take any necessary action.

This was deferred to the next meeting for the required locations.

19. To consider grant request from Woolpit ARC, Woolpit Institute, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and Royal British Legion and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to defer the requests from Woolpit Institute and Woolpit ARC as these need to be considered under CIL. A meeting has been arranged for 16 November as WPC needs to set guidelines for CIL funding before approving any grants.

As a new wreath is not required this year it was proposed, seconded and carried to make a donation of £50.00 to the royal British Legion poppy Appeal.

It was proposed, seconded and carried to make a grant of £750.00 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

Action: the Clerk

20. To consider funding for Woolpit ARC for ongoing maintenance and refurbishment. This item was deferred to the CIL meeting.

21. To discuss promoting village assets in particular Lady's Well.

Mrs Wortley would like to see the area used more but currently there is no safe means to access the site. It is not possible to have a footpath on the roadside as advised by SCC Highways. This too was deferred for further discussion at the CIL meeting.

22. To discuss the pear tree in Mill Lane/Abbotts meadow and take any necessary action.

When asked to pollard the tree MSDC has now advised that the area is owned by the housing association. Mr Hardiman has contacted them and they have advised that it will take 3-4 years for the work to be carried out.

23. To receive an update on the Bury Road development.

Complaints have been received that large lorries are turning into White Elm Road instead of going to the site entrance. Hopkins Homes has been advised and have apologised. They will look into having more signage.

24. To receive a report on the allotments including a proposal to take back in hand the field adjoining the allotments and take any necessary action.

Rental renewal letters have been sent out to current tenants. Mr Howlett has been contacted and advised that WPC is minded to take back the field next year for public open space and tree planting. A meeting has been held with Suffolk Wildlife who should be sending information to help us achieve our aims for the area.

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

Bookings are good and the 10% increase in rental fees has been accepted by groups. No fundraising has been arranged at the moment. Mr Hardiman has been called out several times lately to open the field gates and sort issues at the hall. He has asked for a contact list for emergencies to be on the board in the hall. The Committee has decided not to go ahead with EV charging points. The concrete surface of the car park is breaking up and is a concern. The next meeting is 18 January 2023.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

26. To consider quotes for new goal net and take any necessary action.

Only one company will allow us to purchase only one net at a cost of £94.20 inclusive of VAT. It was unanimously agreed to purchase one net and 40 ties from sporsequip.co.uk.

Action: the Clerk

27. To receive a report from the Clerk

Trees adjacent to Larksfield – planning permission for the work to the trees has been granted and Mr Langston will carry out the work at the earliest opportunity. The squirrels in the roof at Larksfield have been eradicated.

28. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 6 December 2022.
Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.39 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....