

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
4 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mrs Ewans (Chair), Mr Foster, Mr Hardiman, Mr Gallagher, Mrs Symons and Dr Geake. Mrs Jenkins joined the meeting at 8.29 p.m.

In attendance: District Cllrs Mansel and Overett, Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 3 members if the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Auchincloss which were accepted.

2. **Public comment** a resident concerned regarding the new Health Centre car park. The gate is only being closed when enforcement make a visit. District Cllr Mansel has spoken to MSDC Assets officer. The next step is to contact WPC for a meeting. Mrs Ewans questioned why have a meeting with WPC, it is to see how WPC would like to see the car park used. The biggest problem is that the surgery is not communicating with MSDC. The surgery does have a key to the gate but are not taking any responsibility. Although there were several meetings the management agreement has not been signed. Cllr Mansel will look into enforcement. Ownership of the land has now been transferred to MSDC and Cllr Mansel is negotiating with SCC for some signage to direct people into Old Stowmarket Road for access to the car park.

Mr Hardiman advised that the taxi bus is well liked by residents and they have asked if a service can be provided to Stowmarket. Mrs Ewans advised that there is a meeting to review the trial next week and it can be mentioned there.

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

District Councillors' report Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to install 28 new 22kW EV charging points in several carparks including most of the Council carparks in Stowmarket. Anglia Car Charging is beginning the Installation work this week. The next full Council meeting is to be held in the Blackbourne Community Centre on 18 July from 17:30. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been working on their programme for the coming year and the Cabinet are working on their priorities. The first new planning committee met on 21 June, and the main planning committee meetings will be held monthly. It is now possible for members of the public, parish councils and applicants to make their representations to committee via a Teams link. National Grid has launched its latest public consultation about plans for the new high-voltage power line across East Anglia. This Norwich to Tilbury route has been opposed by the Council, particularly about the impact on the environment. There will be a public information event at The Blackbourne on Tues 11 July 11am-4pm. The Examination hearings for the Joint Local Plan took place at the end of June. The MSDC Communities team will be out and about this week sharing information and answering questions from residents about anti-social behaviour. The Police and Crime Panel is a county wide body which scrutinises the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They usually meet quarterly, and members of the public are welcome to attend and can ask questions relevant to an agenda item. The next meeting is to be held on Friday 14 July; the agenda will be published 10 days before hand and any public questions need to be lodged by midnight on Tues 11 July. The route of the Tour of Britain has just been announced. Stage 5 is on Thursday 7 September and the cyclists will race for 190 km around Suffolk starting and finishing in Felixstowe, passing through much of Mid Suffolk and Babergh. Jen and Sarah will be holding a drop in session at the Wesley Café on Saturday 8 July from about 12:00 – 15:00. The non-material application for an additional substation at the Hopkins development has been approved with conditions on noise and landscaping. Cllr Mansel will liaise with enforcement as residents have been told by a contractor that the levels of water are incorrect. The fencing along White Elm Road perimeter falls over in the wind and has damaged the saplings that have been planted.

County Councillor's report. At Cabinet on 13 June, concerns were raised about the significant extra expenditure announced by the administration since the 2023-24 budget was set in February. Cabinet were reviewing the 2022-23 finances against the budget that was set, including an overspend of £27.7m and a significant £57.2m taken out of Council reserves – the council's 'safety net' funds to be used when needed. On 16 May 2023 the Cabinet announced that an extra unbudgeted £720k would be found to cover the £60k monthly shortfall for Suffolk Libraries for a year, and at the council AGM on 25 May the Leader of the Council announced a further unbudgeted additional £10m for road surfacing in the next 20 months. Given that neither of these items were budgeted for only a few months ago when the current budget was set, concerns were raised in the meeting whether the administration's budget setting procedures were sufficiently robust. On 13 June, Cabinet reviewed the consultation response for the extension of the North Falls wind farm. The wind farm is situated just off the Essex coast so Suffolk County Council is a consultee rather than a decision maker. A number of issues were discussed which will be included in the consultation response, for example the impact on A12 traffic, the views from Suffolk coastal Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the need to consult with communities on the Suffolk coast. The developers will also be asked to time construction so it does not clash with the tourism season. The Cabinet also reviewed and approved a response to the Planning Inspectorate on upgrading the power lines between the villages of Twinstead in Essex and Bramford in Mid Suffolk. There were concerns about the impact of the works to the local countryside, particularly the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the National Grid have agreed to lay cables underground. The government's aspiration is for 50GW of offshore wind power by 2023, and in East Anglia this means that our throughput must increase from 4.1GW currently to 24.5GW. The existing power line between Bramford and Twinstead is at full capacity and it was acknowledged that the works were necessary to facilitate the increases to wind farm development. The recent reports in the press that nearly 3000 missing child reports were received by Suffolk Constabulary between April 2022 and March 2023 deeply shocked our group. The reports involved 719 children across the county with some going missing several times during the period. The majority of the children reported missing are in care settings such as children's homes and foster care. We asked the administration at Suffolk County Council to do more to support children in care, who are among the most vulnerable in Suffolk. Locality funding available for parish councils and other community groups who need some financial assistance with specific projects. Having checked with SCC, the request for the reinstatement of the school crossing patrol has to come from the school – I have been in touch with them and they have begun the process with SCC.

4. To receive declarations of interest. There were none.

5. To approve the minutes of the meeting 6 June 2023.
The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications

22/04067 Re-Consultation: Erection of commercial building B1©, B8 and B2 with associated car parking of 55 spaces, 25 cycle spaces, yard and bike storage. Land adjacent to O C Jewers & Sons Ltd. Elmswell Road – continue to object but if the footpath submitted by the applicant on the Eastern side of Elmswell Road is the only one that can be proposed, Councillors will accept this rather than no footpath.

Mrs Ewans left the meeting at 8.13 p.m. Dr Geake took the chair.

23/02762 Change of use of part of existing paddock to residential amenity land; erection of side extension and detached carport/garage. Cider Shed, Grassy Lane – object 1. The nature of this development as a whole. Looking back over the planning history we calculate at least 14 individual dwellings have received full or outline permission in recent years. As a result, there have been no environmental, traffic or drainage assessments, and there is no provision for affordable housing. 2. This application will intensify the use of the access which will have a knock on effect to Warren Lane which itself is seeing a lot of development 3. There are too many existing and proposed dwellings for a narrow access road. 4. The fact that no further housing is needed in Woolpit. Councillors would like to see a masterplan for the Grassy Lane area to better understand the intentions of future applications.

23/02916 Erection of first floor side extension over existing garage, 58 Briar Hill – no comment.

23/03081 Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations and refit of supermarket including external refurbishment works as detailed in Heritage Statement. East Of England Co-op Foodstore The Street – no comment

23/03021 Submission of Details Application for approval of reserved matters for Outline Planning Permission DC/21/06725. Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be considered for 2no single-storey dwellings. Land South Of 1 Oak Lane – no comment

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

23/02273 Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area. Remove weakened branches of oak tree and reduce height and spread by 20%. Darwen House, Masons Lane – no objection.

23/02610 Application for a Non-Material Amendment relating to Planning Permission DC/22/00608 - Changes to external finishes: Amendments to where cladding will be installed (as shown on proposed amended elevation drawings); and Replacement of bathroom dormer with rooflight, to front elevation. Longfield, The Green – acceptable.

23/02166 Discharge Of Conditions Application for DC/18/04247 - Condition 21 (Archaeology - Written Scheme of Investigation) Land Off Bury Road – acceptable.

23/01707 Application for a Non Material Amendment relating to DC/21/01132 – Addition of Electricity Sub-Station. Location: Land Off, Bury Road. – acceptable with conditions of landscaping and noise levels.

EN/25/00255 The White House, The Street – MSDC has spoken to the owner and the listing for The Bungalow has been removed from Rightmove listing. They have been advised that if they wish to change the conditions on the property they would have to submit a planning application to the LPA.

7. Clerk's Report

Yew tree, The White House – MSDC Arboricultural Officer has no objection to trimming work to be undertaken without a planning application.

SID applications – SCC has advised that the order for the poles cannot be expedited

Artificial grass, the ARC – the contractor has let them down again. A refund of £411.00 for the materials has been requested.

New school site, Woolpit – development is not expected for 3-4 years.

Drain cover Heath Road path – SCC has been advised that there is further damage and a high trip hazard. SCC will assess and decide what action to take.

Manhole cover, The Street – SCC has advised that their operatives have been unable to wedge the cover to stop the movement and noise. A new cover has been ordered but it could take some time.

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

Resident requesting that Rags Lane is designated a Quiet Lane. These are for rural lanes not roads in a residential area and funding for the projects has already been

allocated. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** funding digest June, Rural Bulletin 13, 20, 27 June, 4 July. **CAS** Community led housing – Rural Housing week 3-7 July. **National Highways** A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme feedback request on proposal to shup slip roads at peak times + outcome not to go ahead, latest bulletin – carriageway closures, June newsletter, public information event 1 July A14 J36 & J56. **Communities Together** digital champion volunteer. **SCC** funding opportunity for registered charities, VCFSE Sector grant funding June. **SALC** news bulletin 19 June, 3 July, training bulletin 20 June, 4 July, notes of area forum 15 June, AGM 19 July, Suffolk Community Awards launch 5 July. **MSDC** Taste of Tour of Britain Stage 5, litter picking in the autumn, summer holiday activities and food programme, Town & Parish briefings July, Suffolk Waste Partnership summer newsletter. **Bradt Guides** to use photo of village sign in guide book. **PJA** producing a traffic management strategy for Woolpit. **AC Leisure** May half term report Explore Outdoor free holiday activities. **Resident** condition of the bottle bank area. **County Councillor Mellen** register your defibrillator campaign.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Payments of £113.20 for allotment water 5/3/23-4/6/23 and £50.00 refund of security deposit for hire of the Recreation Filed 17 June 2023 were unanimously ratified. Mr K Harknett £52.40 litter picking June, Mr Gardiner £506.85 Highways Ranger June, HM Revenue & Customs £265.15 tax and N/I April-June, Suffolk County Council £317.45 pension payment, Mrs Fuller £188.34 expenses April-June, Mid Suffolk DC £59.00 annual brown bin subscription, Mr Hardiman £13.98 reimbursement for hazard and demarcation tape, Mrs Ewans £179.95 reimbursement for cordless scythe for the Highways Ranger, Suffolk Association of Local Councils £36.00 contracts and procurement course for the Clerk 11 July 2023. All payments were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit Mrs Fuller £1,056.91 June salary, eon pump light 1/3/23-31/5/23.

10. Finances

a) To receive a monthly financial report.

The balance of the Community Account at the end of June was £432,269.29 of which £ CIL is £320,961.29, Recreation Ground £1041.37, earmarked reserves £48,138.74, general reserve £30,336.82, allotments £1476.59 and general funds £30,314.49.

b) To consider a report from the Clerk regarding banking arrangements and take any necessary action

This was carried forward to the next meeting.

11. To consider setting up a food bank and take any necessary action.

Mrs Symons advised that at the moment she cannot find a suitable venue. It was agreed to put an item in the next Diary to see if anyone has a suitable venue with electricity. The Farm Shop at The Grange was suggested and Mr Baker will be contacted.

Action: Mrs Symons

It was agreed to call it a Community Larder rather than food bank.

12. To receive a report on the joint taxi bus service and take any necessary action.

This is working well and the trial will continue for another month.

13. To consider a request from MSDC operative to move the dog litter bin at The Green end of Grange footpath for safety reasons when emptying and take any necessary action.

The Clerk will contact MSDC Public Realm regarding removing this bin and siting it elsewhere.

Action: the Clerk

Mr Hardiman will contact David Wilson Homes to find out if they will be erecting dog bins on the Old Stowmarket Road development.

Action: Mr Hardiman

14. To reconsider CIL application from Woolpit Primary School following receipt of additional information.

Due to importance of getting the work done prior to the new library being fitted (which has already been agreed), Councillors accepted the exception to consider only two quotes for carpeting. It was agreed to fund the project as follows: Hannah's Decorating £938.00, Paul the Chippie £500.00, Tapi carpets & floors £790.38 including VAT and Carpet fitting £746.00.

15. To discuss traffic issues in the parish

a) A14 roadworks

Further additional signage has been provided along residential areas to try and alleviate the speeding vehicles using village roads to avoid the A14 roadworks.

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

SCC Speed and Safety team has advised that commissioning a report will cost £500. It was agreed that WPC would fund £250.00 and Cllr Mellen would fund £250.00 from his Local Highways budget.

c) to receive an update on solar powered Speed Indicator signs and locations and take any necessary action

An alternative site in Green Road has been sent to SCC for approval. However the officer has concerns that the pole already in situ will not have a sufficient foundation to accommodate a Solar Powered SID and Solar Panel and as the verge is narrow there will be insufficient clearance between the SID unit and the edge of the carriageway.

d) To receive a report from the 20's Plenty Suffolk meeting.

This was carried forward to the next meeting.

16. To consider a response to the consultation Developing Local Partnerships for Onshore Wind Development in England (by 7 July).

This was delegated to the Clerk to respond if it is not a complex document.

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

Hopkins Homes have been advised that we wish to take on the Burial ground, car park on Bury Road, amenity land between the school site and cricket field and land between the new roundabout and the Cricket Club. Also that WPC would like to consider the land with trees and grass on the west of the site along White Elm Road. However it does not wish to become responsible for the drainage/attenuation basins and what the options are. Hopkins Homes will respond to each topic as soon as possible.

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

There is a half plot to be let.

Action: the Clerk

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

A special meeting was held following the resignation of the chairman. Mr Foster was elected as Chair, Mr Bailey as Vice-chair. Since the meeting the two Drama Club representatives and two members of the committee have resigned. All officers remain. The outgoing chairman advised that MSDC has approved the CIL bid for the Roger Eburne room.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity**20. To consider a request for an additional bench in the Recreation Field and take any necessary action.**

The Clerk was asked to provide various options, materials and costs for the next meeting.

21. To consider bird deterrents for the swing frames and take any necessary action

Plastic bird spikes have been provided free of charge from Jones and Sons Pest Control Ltd, Newton Abbott. A letter of thanks will be sent. Mr Hardiman will screw the spikes to the top of the wooden swing frame. *Action the Clerk/Mr Hardiman.*

22. To consider a draft lease from The Tennis Club and take any necessary action.

In the absence of Mr Auchincloss, this was deferred to the next meeting.

23. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Nothing to report.

24. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 1 August 2023.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.36 p.m.

Signed.....approved.....

Dated.....1 August 2023.....