

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 16 MAY 2023 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE

Present: Mrs Ewans, Mr Hardiman, Mr Auchincloss, Mrs Symons, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Foster and Dr Geake. Mr Gallagher joined the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

In attendance: District Cllrs Mansel and Overett, County Cllr Mellen (in part), Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 5 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair.

Mrs Ewans was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

2. Election of Vice-Chair.

Dr Geake was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were completed and signed.

3. Apologies for absence. There were none.

4. Public comment. There was none.

5. County & District Councillors reports.

District Councillors' report: In Mid Suffolk, 34 councillors were elected, with 24 seats for the Green Party, 6 seats for Local Conservatives, and 4 for the Liberal Democrats. The first meeting of the newly elected council will be held on Monday 22 May. Councillors will elect their leader and chair and the cabinet will then be appointed by the council leader. These were the first set of elections in England where voters had to show a specific form of photographic identification before being issued with a ballot paper in the polling station. We acknowledge there were a number of voters across Mid Suffolk who were unable to vote due to not having one of the specific forms of identification. MSDC will submit all necessary data regarding the impact of the new legislation to the Electoral Commission. MSDC is continuing to provide support for those who are struggling with the ongoing rise in the cost of living. Mid Suffolk supported International Compost Awareness week (6 -14 May), by offering free compost at Needham Lake and Eye Community Centre. Each household in Suffolk could compost 150kg of organic material a year, turning this waste into free soil improver. The Suffolk Waste partnership is continuing its successful compost bin promotion. An enforcement case was raised in relation to a tree being cut down within the Woolpit conservation area. The planning enforcement officer referred this to MSDC Arboriculture Officer who decided that the tree was not worthy of having special protection, and the enforcement case has been closed.

Residents within the conservation area need to be made more aware that they do need to apply to cut down trees, and we need to be doing more to protect trees and if this is not possible, to ensure we replace any trees that are cut down with suitable indigenous species. A further non-material application has been submitted for the additional substation on the Bury Road development which MSDC is considering.

County Councillor's report: Suffolk County Council has announced a one-off £2,000 Independent Living Payment for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own privately rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county. Cassius, Suffolk County Council's digital care programme, has released figures for its first 18 months in action. Since its launch in July '21 Cassius has reached 3,000 people with the installation of over 4,000 devices; saved residents of Suffolk a collective 67,825 days in care homes; avoided 400 ambulance call outs; prevented hospital admissions and saved £8.8 million of social care funding and £480,000 for the local NHS. Cassius

has also been recognised with a hat-trick of awards from leading health technology publications. Meanwhile, Cassius+, is being trialled in West Suffolk and introduces additional health monitoring and assessment tools alongside the established care technology offered by Cassius.

6. To receive declarations of interest.

Mrs Ewans declared a pecuniary interest in the application for Darwin House, Masons lane as her property is adjacent to Darwin House.

7. To appoint Parish Council Representatives

- a) Institute Committee – Mrs Jenkins.
- b) Woolpit Village Hall Committee – Mr Foster
- c) SALC – Mrs Ewans
- d) Tree/footpath Warden – Mrs K Hardiman
- e) Pump Garden – Mrs Jenkins
- f) Public Transport Liaison Officer – Mrs Fuller, Clerk
- g) School Liaison – Mrs Symons and Mr Gallagher
- h) Woolpit Charity Lands – Mr Parker, Mrs Moss and Ms Hicks
- i) St Mary's Church Building Trust – Mr Auchincloss
- j) Millennium Garden – Mr Hardiman
- k) Allotment Wardens – Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Ewans
- l) Good Neighbour Scheme – Mrs Jenkins
- m) Responsible Financial Officer – Mrs Fuller (Clerk)

8. To review the effectiveness of council's internal audit and systems of financial control including insurance and risk assessment.

Cllrs reviewed the current internal audit and control procedures and are satisfied that they comply with regulations and are suitable for the PC's financial levels.

9. To approve the minutes of the meetings 2 May 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed.

10. Planning

Mrs Ewans left the meeting at 8.00 p.m. and Dr Geake took the chair.

a) to consider current applications

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

Mrs Ewans rejoined the meeting and resumed as chair at 8.02 p.m.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

23/00467 Erection of single storey side extension including conversion of garage, and erection of 2 bay detached cart lodge. Tamarack, 5 The Oaks – granted with conditions : the use and occupation of the accommodation for purposes incidental and ancillary to the principal dwelling known as Tamarack and does not permit the use of the accommodation for a separate household. This permission shall only authorise the use of the hereby approved cart lodge and store for the purposes ancillary to the principal dwelling known as Tamarack.

EN23/00196 Felling of Willow tree in the Conservation Area. Clarys Cottage, The Street. The Arboricultural Officer was consulted and he has advised that the tree is not a type for a TPO therefore no further action is required. The owner of the property has been advised to seek permission should any further tree work is needed.

11. Clerk's Report

Acknowledgment letter from MSDC Planning Enforcement – the alleged unauthorised use of guest accommodation and home office for residential purposes at The White House is to be investigated.

Speed limit review old A45 – SCC has advised that there is no justification to change the speed limit. Slow marking could be installed.

Damage at Village Hall – a cistern in the gent's toilets was broken during the Coronation weekend events and WPC will be billed for repairs.

A14 roadworks – traffic management has been asked to put out further signage to alleviate traffic using the village roads, particularly Heath Road as a rat run. We may get the camera van for a period of time.

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

Resident grass area in Steeles Road not been cut, this has been reported to MSDC, **Resident** advising that the address for a vehicle operator's licence in Old Stowmarket Road is incorrect and he has contacted the applicant. **Woolpit Primary School** asking if any Cllr would consider becoming a Community Governor.

Resident thanking Cllrs who are stepping down for their work and to those prepared to be Cllrs for the village, **Resident** asking for permission to take some greenery from the back of the car park for flower arranging. Cllrs approved this. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 3, 10, 16 May, Funding Digest May. **SCC** updated parish maps for public rights of way, make a difference: social enterprise, Greenest County network newsletter May, webinar net zero: transaction your community street by street 18 May. **MSDC** BMSDC JLP main modifications notice of commencement of further examination hearing sessions 26-29 June, half term holiday activities. **SALC** Suffolk celebrates the coronation of King Charles III, training bulletin 8, 9, 16 May, news bulletin 8, 15 May. **A C Leisure** Easter 2023 HAF report for free holiday activities. **Cinnamon Trust** looking for dog walking volunteers. **20s plenty Suffolk** campaign for 20 mph in Suffolk. Mrs Ewans has signed up to this. **XMA Ltd** laptops less than cost price; part of connect the UK digital poverty and social value mission. **Resident** concerns regarding Heath Road rat run due to A14 roadworks – advised that WPC has been in contact with SISK for additional signage and possibly the camera van. **Bacton Transport** copy reply from SCC Highways to request speed limit review old A45. **County Cllr Mellon** copy email response to resident regarding lorries in the centre of the village. **Resident** regarding grass cutting at the allotments. Mr Baker volunteered to cut this.

13. To approve accounts for payment.

Mid Suffolk District Council £1,577.16 emptying litter and dog bins 2023/4, Mrs Ewans £70.35 reimbursement for Coronation mugs £46.50 and bark for recreation field £70.35, Mrs K Hardiman £19.74 reimbursement for no dog signs, The PCC of St Mary's Woolpit £60.00 use of church for the concert 5 May. Payment by Direct Debit BT £179.43 quarterly bill.

14. To approve the CIL Annual Report and take any necessary action.

The report was approved and signed.

15. To consider the purchase of a commemorative plaque for a bench in the play area and take any necessary action.

The family have decided they don't think Mr Chidington would want a plaque therefore no further action.

16. To receive a report on celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III and take any necessary action.

This was a fabulous weekend enjoyed by many residents. All events were very successful with over 200 attending the afternoon tea. We are proud of our community and congratulate and thank all those who worked so hard to make the events successful.

17. To receive an update on the Bury Road development.**a) new car park**

Hopkins Homes has asked if WPC would like to take over the car park on completion. It will have an asphalt surface, be landscaped and have cabling for EV points. A decision was deferred to the June meeting to allow new Cllrs to consider.

b) complaints from residents

Alleged breach of working hours have reported. Residents need to have evidence and photos of work taking place before permitted hours to send to MSDC. Deliveries are contracted out and the developer does not have control of this.

18. To discuss traffic issues in the parish**a) A14 roadworks**

WPC has been in contact with SISK for more signage to try and alleviate village roads being used as a rat run. SISK is being very helpful with guidance of resurfacing the village hall car park. It has been recommended to use concrete again and we only need to do the centre part. Some guidance has also been given for the car park by the Tennis Club.

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

SCC will not have a meeting with WPC but the next stage is to get a speed and safety report done. County Cllr Mellen supports our aim for a 20mph zone.

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

Approval has been received for 4 sites submitted. A further site at The Heath has been submitted for consideration. The Clerk is still trying to find out why the sign in Green Road has been rejected and Mrs Ewans and the Clerk will establish where any drainage pipes to the ditches are and then resubmit a suitable location.

Action: Mrs Ewans/the Clerk.

19. To consider a response to Community benefits for electricity network infrastructure consultation (deadline 25 May).

After discussion Cllrs agreed not to respond.

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

The AGM was held on 17 April. David Mallion is now the Chair with Malcolm Bailey as Vice-Chair. The committee feel that it is time for a comprehensive renovation of the hall.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity**21. To consider the DDA report on the children's play area and take any necessary action.**

Mr Hardiman will go through the report with Proludic's contractor, however most items are for information only.

22. To receive a report from the Clerk.

The nettles around the play area are very high. Parkers Pitches are having difficulty maintaining now we have asked them not to use weed killer. The Highways Ranger will be asked to trim the nettles on a regular basis. The Clerk will negotiate with Parkers to reduce the cost of the contract accordingly.

Action: the Clerk.

23. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 6 June 2023. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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

Dated.....6 June 2023