

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

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

In attendance: District Cllr Mansel, Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Wortley, Mr Howard, Mr Auchincloss, Mr Griffin, Dr Geake and Mr Guyler.

2. **Public comment.** There were none.

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

County Councillor's report At full council a motion for SCC to recommit to its climate emergency declaration and the intention to achieve Net Zero by 2030 was proposed. There was agreement across the chamber and the motion was passed almost unanimously. Women's History Month was celebrated throughout March, with International Women's Day being on 8 March. Last year SCC purchased a suffragette flag and Cllr Mellon confirms this was flown throughout the month. News in March shows Suffolk County Council's mean and median gender pay gaps have reduced in the last year, by 0.5% and 1.0%, respectively. The Cabinet agreed an additional £32m investment to increase school provision in the county. With the new funding, 11 new schools will be built, (including in Woolpit) as well as maintenance and expansion of current schools. In addition, £10.8m was agreed to help deliver new walking and cycling bridges in Ipswich, as well as providing financial support to the recommendations outlined by the Ipswich Policy Development Panel. Projects include boosting employment opportunities for young people and sustainable travel. Whilst Cllrs welcome additional investment, it was highlighted that there are infrastructure projects throughout the county that need investment urgently and that the administration needs a more coherent delivery plan to address shortages outside of Ipswich. The Government's assessment of the SEND services progress in Suffolk has been described as 'reassuring' after SCC adopted all the recommendations given in the Council's report back in 2021. In November 2021, a report into SCC's SEND services found failings and inadequacies linked to a lack of engagement with parents/guardians, a failure to meet targets, and a lack of effective training in staff. This comes as recent news from SCC said they Cllrs will ensure via the Education Scrutiny Committee that this process is rigorously tested. Suffolk County Council has announced additional financial support for households homing Ukrainian refugees. Those who have homed a Ukrainian refugee for a minimum of 6 months will receive an additional £150 per month (in addition to the £350 monthly payment, which will rise to £500 after guests have stayed 12 months). However, once the £500 monthly payment has been received, the council will stop its additional funding.

District Councillors' report We are now in the pre-election period. Nominations for candidates close on 4 April and the elections for both district and parish councils will be held on 4 May. There is still time to register to vote (until 17 April). Following the Planning Inspectorate feedback, the Councils are inviting responses to the proposed modifications to the part 1 of the new joint local plan. The consultation period runs from 16 March to 3 May. This is a technical consultation about the validity of the plan. There is no scope for any major amendments at this stage. A full planning application for the proposed SHELF development of Chilton Fields and Stowmarket High School has now been submitted. The site is designed to be flexible so it can accommodate a range of sports including football, basketball, badminton, cricket, rugby and volleyball. There will also be an all-weather running track and a new multi-sports pavilion. Following the proposals of a working group, the new Joint Local Planning Enforcement plan was agreed by Council last week. The new plan aims to make the process of enforcement clearer and to keep all interested parties better informed about the process and outcomes of any enforcement case. The working group undertook the 5th review of the CIL expenditure framework and the proposals

were agreed by both Councils last week. The main changes included the use of ring-fenced funds from catchment areas for major projects, enabling CIL funds to be used for some highway works provided they were related to active travel and were included in the LCWIP. Also the limit for parish projects was increased to £100,000 and up to 75% of the total costs, and there will be more flexibility due to quotes becoming out of date sooner. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have put together a programme of free Easter Holiday activities for eligible families.

Cllrs are disappointed to learn that SCC has taken up the option on the land at Bury Road for a new school. At previous meetings SCC has advised that it would keep us involved but clearly this has not happened.

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

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings 7 March 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Planning

a) to consider current applications.

There were none.

b) to receive MSDC decisions.

23/00367 Erection of garden room extension. The Drey, Borley Green – permission granted.

23/00311 Outline (access to be considered all other matters reserved) Erection of 2 detached dwellings. Land North West of Warren Lane – permission refused.

Unsustainable location, insufficient information regarding access, harmful impact upon the character of the countryside.

22/06268 Erection of two storey rear extension. 1 Mill Lane – permission refused. Significant loss of amenity to adjoining neighbour by reason of loss of outlook and daylight.

7. Clerk's Report

MSDC Locality Budget – we have been awarded £1,747.66 towards SIDs.

Warm Space 20 March – this has been funded by Hopkins Homes.

Overhanging tree, Drinkstone Road – this has been reported to SCC and they have advised that they will not be undertaking work at this time. They will monitor on a regular basis as part of the statutory safety inspections undertaken on the highway.

Litter Picker – is suffering post COVID fatigue so not doing as much at the moment.

New School – SCC has approved funding for a new school in Woolpit.

Tree, The Heath – a great job was done by residents when a tree was blown down in recent high winds both on the day with traffic management and clearing debris. SCC has been informed of remaining debris but is not going to do anything about it.

Legacies – we have been advised of 2 legacies of £1,000.00 each. One from Mr Roy Baker for Lady's Well and one from Mr John Lobb for the Recreation Ground Charity.

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

Resident concerned regarding road safety in Rags Lane where the cycle/footpath joins directly onto the road. The Clerk was asked to write and raise the matter again with the developer and copy to MSDC Planning. *Action: the Clerk.* **Resident**

regarding a willow tree being cut down in the Conservation Area without planning permission. This has been reported to MSDC and an enforcement case raised. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** **SCC** Community Network

Facebook page, Suffolk LGPS Pension Matters 2023. **SISK** A14 J47A to J49 reconstruction scheme. **MSDC** Sustainable travel event Needham Lakes 15 April, Easter Holiday activities fund programme, Houses for Homes, Babergh Mid Suffolk JPL modifications consultation meeting 30 March presentation, Coronation information regarding licensing. **SALC** news bulletin 13, 20, 21, 27 March, 3 April,

training bulletin 14, 21, 28 March, 4 April, changes to VAT rules on sports facilities, Mid Suffolk Local Council network news March, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Clerks election briefing recording and presentation, The Local Councillor March 2023, Elections 2023 – an important reminder for existing Cllrs. **Rural Services Network** Rural bulletin 14, 21, 28 March, 4 April. **National Highways** latest e-bulletin for A14 Haughley to Tot Hill reconstruction scheme – narrow lanes. **Jo Churchill MP** alternative fuel payment information. **Electric Car Guide** information for MSDC residents to switch to electric cars.

9. To approve accounts for payment.

Payments of £2941.00 under CIL reimbursement to Woolpit Institute for new boiler and £21.68 to Anglian Water (National) Ltd allotment water were unanimously ratified. Mr K Harknett £63.20 litter picking March, Mr M Gardiner £415.80 Highways Ranger March, Mrs P Fuller £957.13 overtime 2022/23 + expenses January-March, Suffolk County Council £328.99 pension payment, Suffolk County Council £2876.29 streetlighting maintenance and energy costs 2022/23, Glasdon UK £888.89 50 litre and 35 Litre dog bins and poles, Gipping Press £341.00 printing Woolpit Diary April/May, Mr R Raisey £105.00 editing Woolpit Diary April/May, Suffolk County Council £539.60 Column 46 Rectory Lane lantern replacement, Woolpit Institute £65.00 hire of Institute 20 March Warm Space, Woolpit Good Neighbour Scheme £35.00 refreshments for Warm Space 20 March. All accounts were approved and cheques issued. Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit Mrs P Fuller £1056.91 March salary, Information Commissioner £35.00 annual fee.

10. Finances

a) To receive a monthly financial report.

The Community Account balance at the end of February was £406,537.93 of which CIL is £325,344.29, Recreation Ground £725.80, earmarked reserves £68,920.46 and general funds £11,547.38. This has to be reconciled with the bank statement when received.

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

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

12. To agree the purchase of a grit bin for the village hall car park and take any necessary action.

This item is deferred until the car park resurfacing at the Village Hall is completed.

13. To consider to write to the dentist to ask staff to park in the car park.

It was agreed that the Clerk will send a letter requesting that staff park in the car park to allow for free flow of traffic in the congested area. *Action: the Clerk*

14. To discuss traffic issues in the parish

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

Nothing to report.

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

SCC has requested additional information regarding the foundations of the poles and is discussing this with the manufacturer.

15. To receive an update on celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III and take any necessary action.

Events have been arranged – concert in the church evening 5 May, ARC are holding a fundraising disco in the evening 6 May, the school is running a crown making competition and the children will wear these at the afternoon tea 7 May for which the Luncheon Club are sorting food, plates and napkins. There will be a large screening

of the live TV broadcast of the concert from Windsor. Decorations are going up in the centre of the village 30 April and will be taken down a week after events.

16. To review grass cutting contract and take any necessary action.

Three quotes have been received of differing amounts. Mr Hardiman proposed that we continue with Parkers Pitches for a further three years. This was seconded and carried.

17. To consider a response to the Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Local Plan Modifications consultation 2023 and take any necessary Action. (consultation ends 3 May)

Cllrs do not wish to respond.

18. To consider a response to the Consultation under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 – The Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2037 and take any necessary action. (consultation ends 26 April)

There are no allocations within the plan as Elmswell were advised to take them out. The Clerk was asked to write to wish them luck but no formal response.

Action: the Clerk

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

There has been no formal planning application for the additional substation but it is understood that MSDC will not allow this as a non-material amendment. It is acknowledged that Hopkins Homes paid for the Warm Space 20 March as it the new development that caused the power to be off that day.

a) new car park

As there are only 3 Cllrs in attendance, it was agreed to defer discussions on the car park to the next meeting.

20. To receive a report on the allotments including a report from Suffolk Wildlife for possible use of the old allotments and adjoining field and take any necessary action.

All allotments are now let for this year. Suffolk Wildlife report has suggested that the field and old allotment area is split in two, one area for dog walking and one more as a nature reserve. It was agreed to get quotes for fencing to protect the wildlife. The rest of the project will be decided by the new council.

21. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee

Insurers expect risk assessments for all hirings. It has been decided not to have a defibrillator at the moment due to costs. There are already 2 in the village. The Village Hall needs to be more self-funding in the future. Mr Howard made it clear that for CIL requests three quotes are required for all items. The AGM will be held 17 April.

Woolpit PC as Trustees of Woolpit Recreation Ground Charity

22. To consider the annual play equipment report alongside the Proludic maintenance contract and take any necessary action.

The annual inspection report has highlighted small issues that need to be attended to. It will be difficult for us to find someone to do the work and then they will need to get the relevant parts. Mr Hardiman proposed that we accept the quote of £1655.00 for Proludic Protect Gold maintenance schedule which includes the zip wire.

Although the swings are not Proludic equipment they will look at them regularly and advise of any maintenance issues. The proposal was seconded and carried.

23. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Play equipment annual inspection – MSDC has advised that some DDA inspections are still to be carried out therefore the invoice has not been paid.

Mr Hardiman advised he received a call for the Drama Club to use the field for their production at the weekend. They were not charged which was an error by the Village Hall booking clerk.

**24. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday
2 May 2023.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....approved

Dated.....2 May 2023.....