

**OCCOLD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 In The Village Hall**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held as detailed above.

**Present:** Parish Council representatives were Mr Cripps, Mr Chittock, Mr Flack, Mrs Grange, Mr Hull, Mr Mullarkey, Mr R Owen and County Cllr Stringer (belatedly)

Also present were two members of the public.

1. Cllr Cripps, as Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies –apologies were received from Mr Owen, and belated apologies from Mr Hubner (due to transport delays) and Mr Cox on behalf of ORAC.
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 were reviewed and taken as read. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Reports from various bodies as follows: -

County Councillor Andrew Stringer - the Clerk read the report to the meeting - see attached copy

John Henman Charity – the Clerk read the report to the meeting – see attached copy

William Lee and Mary Ann Last Charity – the Clerk read the report to the meeting – see attached copy

Occold Primary School – the Clerk read the report to the meeting – see attached copy

There was no report available from the District Councillor

The report from ORAC was not available for the meeting but is attached herewith as an appendix in lieu of their being unable to attend

*Question: A member of the public helped organise a multi faith day at the local school. The funding application was rejected due to it being of a religious nature. She couldn't comprehend the thinking behind this as the event was to promote community cohesion. The event cost a substantial sum of money to put on which has eaten into their limited funds.*

5. The Chair acknowledged the hard work of the members of the public present, as well as the local groups and societies – The Knit and Natter group, the Luncheon Club, ORAC, the School and all the parishioners who put in many hours of their time for the good of everyone else in the village.

6. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave his report to the meeting – see attached copy.

6. Any other relevant matters notified to the Chair reports or business

There being no other matters, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed 8.00 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....

## County Councillor Annual Report May 2018

The County Council had an election in May 2017, out of 75 seats available the Conservatives have 52 seats with Labour having 11, Lib Dems have 5 and Greens have 3 with Independents having 4. We formed a group from the Lib Dem Green and Independents, and has 12 members.

### **Home to School Transport**

In September 2017, the LDGI Group successfully “called-in” the Cabinet’s decision to go to consultation on changes to the Home to School Transport policy. We questioned the nature of the pre-consultation period, and argued that more research needed to be done. The Scrutiny Committee agreed with us, and voted to refer the decision back to Cabinet for further consideration. The Cabinet will reconsider the proposals in June. This issue has taken up a vast amount of time this year, moving from a policy of funding free school transport from a “catchment School” to the “nearest school” sounds incredibly simple but is complicated given the fact that the special education needs transport is statutory and has gone £3,500,000.00 over budget this year.

### **Highways**

Potholes continued to be a key issue for councillors and residents alike, following the bad weather in February and March, Suffolk County Council has received £2.5m of additional funding from the Government to help with road repairs. Suffolk Highways continued to encourage residents to report potholes using the reporting tool (available at [highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk](http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk)) and have already received over 11,000 reports in 2018. However, concerns continued all year at the quality of some of the works carried out, and the time it takes for jobs to be allocated onto the system. Insurance claims against Suffolk County Council due to “carriageway surface defects”, such as potholes, have also risen this year, but of these claims 84% are not paid out, due to the way the reporting and assessing is carried out. This year also saw the completion of the 7.5 ton weight limit on station road Haughley/Old Newton

### **Broadband**

This year saw the County Council contract to roll out broadband, put in the infrastructure for the second phase of the roll out, this has been long awaited and we hope that this move will get us close to 100% coverage. All in all a busy year, thank you to all parish councillors and the clerk for their work this year.

**Andrew Stringer 01449 780339 07774 199061 [andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk)**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHARITY OF JOHN HENMAN  
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

There were no changes to the trustees. Stephen Hubner remained the Clerk/Treasurer. Mrs Lynette Bulley continued as chairperson of the trustees.

As the Annual Return to the Charity Commission is now a matter of factual record, Stephen Hubner prepared the paperwork and submitted the return form on line.

The Trust purposes require division of the income to award one quarter to each of the Church and the Parish Council and it was confirmed the individual distributions be made by way of payments to defray electricity or other fuel costs.

At the annual meeting, hosted by Lynette Bulley on 13 January 2017, and after calculating the annual income, it was noted that there would be distribution of one quarter of the income to Occold Parochial Church Council and one quarter to Occold Parish Council (£97.11 each). It was noted that beneficiaries must be resident in the parish. It was resolved that distribution be made to eight beneficiaries:

Each beneficiary would be given cash to help to defer heating costs.

The accounts of the Charity for the year are set out on the separate attached sheet.

**SJH - 21 May 2018**

**Annual Accounts of the Charity of John Henman for the year ending 31 December 2017**

**Income**

	£	£
Balance b/f		5.56
COIF dividend		
February	87.16	
May	96.24	
August	113.67	
November	<u>91.38</u>	
		388.45
<b>Total</b>		<b>394.01</b>

**Distributions**

	£
Occold PC	97.11
Occold PCC	97.11
8 beneficiaries	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>394.22</b>

**Carry forward** **(0.21)**

Note: Clerk funded shortfall to leave £0.79 in account

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHARITIES OF WILLIAM LEE AND MARY ANN LAST  
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

There were no changes to the trustees. Stephen Hubner remained the Clerk/Treasurer. Mrs Lynette Bulley continued as chairperson of the trustees.

As the Annual Return to the Charity Commission is now a matter of factual record, Stephen Hubner prepared the paperwork and submitted the return form on line. The custom of distributing money or gifts of money's worth has been continued.

At the annual meeting, hosted by Lynette Bulley on 13 January 2017, it was reported that the annual income totalled £411.39. However, it was noted that the sum of £150 set aside for donation to the school was not actually spent and so the sum was carried forward in the current bank balance. The Trustees resolved to allocate, for the benefit of all children in the parish, a sum of £100 towards the Jubilee Baptist Church Youth Club towards the cost of the annual trip. Stephen Hubner would liaise with the school headmaster to deliver the sum of £150 carried forward and with Mrs Dawn Crisp regarding the contribution to the Youth Club and the use made of these funds.

Gifts would be acquired for each of beneficiaries.

Amazon vouchers to a value of £35.00 each would be given to 5 students

Amazon vouchers to a value of £10.00 would be acquired for 5 school children in recognition of their achievements in the year 2017

The accounts of the Charity for the year are also set out on the separate attached sheet.

**SJH - 21 May 2018**

**Annual Accounts of the Charity of William Lees and Mary Ann Last for the year ending 31 December 2017**

**Income**

	£	£
Balance b/f		84.25
Add funds unspent from 2016		150.00
COIF dividend		
February	92.31	
May	101.92	
August	120.38	
November	<u>96.78</u>	
		411.39
<b>Total</b>		<b>645.64</b>

**Distributions**

	£	£
5 beneficiaries (Amazon token to value of £35)		175.00
5 beneficiaries (Amazon tokens to value of £10)		50.00
15 beneficiaries (plants/biscuits)	75.80	
Sum reserved for school	150.00	
Contribution to Youth Club		100.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>550.80</b>
<b><u>Carry forward</u></b>		<b><u>94.84</u></b>

## Occold primary school report for Annual Parish Meeting May 2018

It's been an incredibly busy Spring Term at Occold. All classes have been on school trips to support their class work which have included visits to the Sea Life Centre and Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth as well as West Stowe Anglo-Saxon Village. The school has applied for the Artsmark Award to confirm our commitment to broad and balanced curriculum at Occold which includes a strong focus on the arts. We are delighted to have made a flying start to this already. On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, our school brass band, which is made up of pupils in Years 5 and 6, performed in a spectacular musical concert in the beautiful surroundings at Snape Maltings.



Later that week, several of our pupils took part in the Speech and Drama section of the Suffolk Arts Festival. We were the only state school in attendance and despite being up against some very stiff competition; several of our pupils finished in high positions and were highly praised for their efforts. These included:

- Joseph, Harvey, Oakley, Tia, Annabel and Oscar (Years 3 and 4): Winners of small group choral poetry section
- Florence (Year 2): 2<sup>nd</sup> place solo poetry recital
- Izzy and Amber (Year 2): 2<sup>nd</sup> place duologue poetry recital
- Annabel (Year 3): 3<sup>rd</sup> place solo poetry recital
- Rafe and Adam (Year 6): 3<sup>rd</sup> place duologue poetry recital

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March the village hosted a multi-faith day and welcomed pupils from Occold, Wetheringsett, Dennington, Charsfield, Framlingham and Mellis. Pupils were able to meet people from across the broad spectrum of faiths and world views. Meetings were held in the Village Hall, Jubilee Baptist Church and St Michael's. One behalf of all the schools I would like to thank Cynthia Capey and her team for organising such a thought provoking day for us.



Sadly we were broken into in February and several of our iPads were stolen. Joseph Hull organised a fund raising effort to replace these and his efforts soon attracted the attention of local media. He appeared on BBC Suffolk Radio and the listeners of the show kindly donated iPads to replace all those stolen. We are very proud of Joseph and are grateful for the support of everyone in the local community and beyond who has rallied behind the school.

## ORAC REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2018

First, I would like to thank the committee for all the hard work and effort they have put in during our tenure. Most of the committee are standing to be re-elected. We have a new treasurer Alison who will replace Di who is standing down after several years. A big thank you to Di for the work she has done during this time.

I think this has been a difficult but successful period for ORAC. The committee looked at how we could make improvements for the village and raise sufficient funds to ensure we have an adequate budget to cover running costs, and improvements and stay within the budget.

The majority of the committee are standing for re-election, and there are two standing as associate members. I would propose a block vote to this effect.

Dave Cox, Sandra Cox, Alison Davenport Jones, Alison Goldsmith, Neil Sizer, Nigel Woodhouse. Gordon Erhorn, Jill Crouch, and Anne Stainsby.

Associate members: Neil Flack, Steve Jones and Paul Goldsmith

There were a lot of functions at the hall, Step dance, Pop-up bar nights whilst the Beaky was closed, Quiz nights etc. all very successful and enjoyable.

There are regular events at the hall, I think we have the best Yoga class around that needs support, WI, Bellycise, table tennis, Fitness club etc.

The lunch club do an outstanding job, not just raising funds, but supplying first class food at a great price for the benefit of the community.

The ORACLE has new producers and the latest issue was first class.

A big thank you to all the people who have supported us and the village throughout this financial year.

### **The future**

There are several additional tasks for the coming term

1. Car Park surface repair
2. Children's play area refurbishment
3. Refurbishment and repair to the hall
4. Storage extension. This extension will also have the effect of reducing noise loss from the hall and provide better storage facilities.
5. Upgrade of the village green

We value all the inputs from the village community and will look at each comment to see if and how they can be achieved.

**Dave Cox**

## Chairman's Annual Report for year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

1. In May 2017 Mr Cripps was again elected as Chairman at the annual meeting. Over the course of the year Councillor Noller resigned, leaving a vacancy which looks to be co-opted later this evening which will give us a full complement once again.
2. The VAS speed monitor was purchased in November and has been working on various locations in the village since. Grants received of £2000 towards the total cost of £2680. We've received a recent offer of assistance with running the VAS and downloading the data to product reports so we can further analyse that data and review the situation again in a few months' time. Thanks to Steve Jones for offering to assist with this.
3. Our clerk of 22 years, Mrs Sue Hubner, left at the end of March 2018 and I would like to express the Councils deepest thanks to her for all her hard work and support to the Council over that time.
4. A Housing Needs Survey was conducted in 2017 and the results published over the last year which supported the need for 2 and 3-bedroom houses in the village rather than 4-bedroom properties.
5. The Beaconsfield Arms Pub has reopened since the last Annual Parish Meeting. Peter and Liz are very welcome to the village and are a real asset, making a real go of running the pub and serving good pub grub.
6. A total of 16 varying planning applications were filed in 2017/18, 1 of which for a new dwelling was withdrawn, 3 related to tree works, 3 were refused, 3 are still pending consideration, and the balance were granted. We are watching the Church Street site development very carefully and are in talks with the prospective buyers of the site.
7. Expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was as follows: -

General Admin	6438.92
Training	22.00
S 137 Payments	400.00
Donations to Church & Chapel	1895.00
Streetlights	578.62
Graveyard	688.00
Water rates (cemetery)	0.00
VAT on payments	242.24
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£9576.78</b>

Balance at the Nationwide Building Society at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was £12,519.06. This includes reserves of £6120 towards new streetlights which is carried over from 2016/2017.

The Budget for 2018/2019 was agreed at £8760, a small increase on the previous year. The precept was set at £8000, an increase of £1000 to budget for increased admin due to new GDPR regulations.

**Colin Cripps, Chair – Occold Parish Council – May 2018**