



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 10 January 2022 in the Village Hall at 8pm

AGENDA

1. Roll call and Apologies for Absence.

Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), T Weller, K Chittock (Vice Chair), J Crouch, A Duggett, M Grange, D Griffiths, S Hubner.

Apologies – District Councillor Peter Gould (Report sent as below)

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Members reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct. No declarations of interest or Register of Interests updates.

3. Public Forum

One member of the public was present seeking clarification from Cllr Hubner in respect of the Mid Suffolk joint local plan and five-year housing land supply which he understood was open for stakeholder comments.

Cllr Hubner said that it was his understanding that the plan had been sent back for Councils to re-assess available land as it was suggested that they (the District Council) had not properly identified sites for future development.

One small pot of that consultation is villages such as Occold and this may provide an opportunity for the Parish Council to revisit the village building envelope.

After further discussion it was agreed that the matter would be brought back to the February meeting for further deliberation.

Action – Clerk to circulate a copy of the current village envelope to all Councillors for consideration.

8 members of the public were present to discuss planning application DC/21/06790

The Chair proposed that Agenda item 10a be brought forward for discussion. There were no objections.

The following representations were made by members of the public –

- The application should be rejected as it is overdevelopment, there would be a loss of light and privacy and clarification was needed as to who would pay for any damage caused to the private road in the cul de sac by heavy vehicles delivering building supplies.
- Property plans are too big, not in keeping with adjacent properties in the cul de sac and there are a number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the plans.

The applicant was also present and sought to clarify some of the concerns. He agreed that there were some inaccuracies within the plans submitted.

After further discussions Councillors agreed on the following response –

Council met on 10 January to discuss this application. The applicant and several residents were in attendance. During discussions it was clear that the application has several inconsistencies and there is no planning statement which could mitigate the objections and concerns of nearby residents. Council therefore felt that they had insufficient detailed information on which to make a recommendation at this stage.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer.

Cabinet Meeting. The Cabinet met on the 7th December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways.

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Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk.

Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report. Our Group brought up issues of a lack of opportunity to represent our ideas, we have asked for a wider pool of representatives.

Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – cementing the service's commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county. This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination. For a list of the taxi companies who have signed up to the scheme, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated - or for further information, go to <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/>

'Support Social Care' Campaign A new campaign was released in December aimed to help the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate the care professionals, and asks the public for a little patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter. Every day, Suffolk receives on average 550 calls from people on adult social care, and on Christmas there will be around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes have a good Christmas.

You can support for Social Care on social media by using the hashtag #SupportSocialCare, or by offering to collect a neighbour-in-need's prescription, or simply paying them a visit.

Cllr Chittock asked if there was any update on the school safety visit or the flooding issues. Cllr Stringer advised that he had located some maps of the water pipes in the area which have been sent to the Clerk but they are very old and may not be of much use. No updates in respect of the school visit.

Cllr Hubner advised that the school will shortly be using the village hall as a classroom and that would mean that children would have to cross and recross several times a day. Cllr Stringer asked that he be sent an email to this effect.

Action – Cllr Hubner to send email to Cllr Stringer in respect of the school

Report from District Councillor Peter Gould. – Previously circulated

Covid-19 in Suffolk Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the Covid-19 response this month, which has seen the Government revert to Plan B and our NHS colleagues ramping up the vaccination rollout in a race against time to combat the spread of the Omicron variant.

We continue to use our social media channels to keep everyone informed and to share messages from our NHS and public sector partners – including information on vaccinations and boosters, FAQs and eligibility and advice

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OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

for residents on protecting themselves and others. We await further information from the Government regarding the further financial support for businesses announced this week, so we can distribute funds to those eligible across our districts as soon as possible.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk leaders offer thanks and urge residents to get boosted now.

Free bus and taxi services People in Suffolk can today take advantage of free bus and taxi rides to get to their vaccination appointment or to a vaccine drop-in clinic.

Help is at hand this Christmas Suffolk residents can still seek support over the festive period, with help available for anyone who is self-isolating, facing financial difficulties or struggling with their health and wellbeing. This includes Home, But Not Alone, which provides assistance with obtaining groceries and medication to those unwell with Covid, or self-isolating, who cannot arrange delivery of these items themselves or don't have friends or family to help out.

Anyone in genuine need of help can call the service – staffed on weekdays between 9am and 5pm – on freephone 0800 876 6926. It will remain open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and over the festive bank holidays for emergency calls only.

Blueprint for districts' future development to progress Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed a decision by Planning Inspectors to allow work on their Joint Local Plan to continue – meaning the councils can ensure the right developments happen in the right places at the right time.

Works have begun on installing solar carports which will help power and slash the carbon emissions of two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change.

School's Out schemes support families through the Christmas holidays. Hey Presto! Magic, circus skills, football, swimming, and outdoor cooking, are amongst the fun activities on offer from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners during the Christmas school holidays.

A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have submitted a joint response to a consultation by National Highways on **proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange** – urging the creation of a new link road to keep business traffic flowing freely.

The full report from the County and District Councillors can be found at

<http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/district-and-county-councillor-reports-2/>

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Clerks report

- a. The minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2021 were approved and signed.
- b. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered elsewhere on this agenda and not covered in the Clerks report.

5. Governance – No issues

6. Coronavirus Updates

- a. Updates or action required in relation to Coronavirus – not required.

7. Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues

- a. Flooding problems in the Village -The Clerk reported having received the flood maps from Cllr Stringer but these did not show ownership. The late Cllr Hull's relatives had indicated that they may have some papers which would help in respect of drainage around the area of the Village Hall. Cllr Griffiths and Cllr

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OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Duggett agreed to look through any relevant paperwork to see if it was of interest. The Clerk will email the family to offer assistance with the papers

Action – Clerk to email Hull family re papers

- b. Cllr Duggett presented the Monthly SID report. There appears to be a problem with one of the batteries which he will look in to. The ANPR team has been contacted by the Clerk and reported that the scheme to introduce ANPR cameras has not yet started. Cllr Stringer has been advised of this response. The Clerk confirmed that Occold is on the list for 20mph enforcement once the scheme is up and running.

8. CIL Funding

- a. Cllr Crouch updated Council that the planting proposal by resident Chris Hook has been given the go ahead by the school. Costs of the plants and the hire of a cable locator are not yet confirmed. After discussion Councillor Crouch proposed that up to £625 from CIL monies be allocated to the project. This was seconded with no objections.

RESOLVED – Up to £625 of CIL monies to be used for the school planting project

9. Items for Discussion – No further items

- 10. **Planning** - can be viewed at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/development-management/application-search-and-comment/>

a. New applications

DC/21/06790 | Householder Application - Erection two storey side extension, and single storey front extension create a porch, both extensions to be rendered. | 7 Old Rectory Gardens Occold Suffolk IP23 7PD

RESPONSE - Council met on 10 January to discuss this application. The applicant and several residents were in attendance. During discussions it was clear that the application has several inconsistencies and there is no planning statement which could mitigate the objections and concerns of nearby residents. Council therefore felt that they had insufficient detailed information on which to make a recommendation at this stage.

b. Granted applications

Reference	Address	Date received	PC Meeting	Response	MSDC Decision	Date
None						

11. Financial Matters –

- a. The Section 137 Grants for financial year 2021/22 were discussed and resolved as follows –

- i. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk £100.00
- ii. East Anglian Children’s Hospice £100.00
- iii. MIND Suffolk £100.00
- iv. East Anglian Air Ambulance £100.00
- v. Headway £100.00
- vi. Aspire together £100.00

- b. The budget for 2022/23 was discussed. At the end of Q3 the balance on accounts was £22940.35. The Budget was resolved at £9,885.00 made up from a precept request for £8,800 (No change from the previous year) with £1085.00 taken from reserves. This precept gives the Parish a Council Tax Band D amount of £42.22. This is a decrease of 4.10% on 2021/22.

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OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

c. The following payments were approved - (General Power of Competence applies)

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Clerk expenses	22.50		22.50	Office Costs Q3
Staff salary	237.82		237.82	Clerk Salary Dec
HMRC	178.20		178.20	PAYE Q3
JC	11.50		11.50	CIL project expenses
WAVE	38.39		38.39	Water charges 010621-301121 Cemetery
Realise Futures	810.02	135.00	675.02	Memorial Bench – Tom Rivett
RECEIPTS				
NIL				

12. **Correspondence** – received since the last Meeting.

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
Dec 21	Aspire together	Annual update for consideration of donation	Granted as above
Dec 21	Citizens Advice	Annual update for consideration of donation	Granted as above
Dec 21	Headway Suffolk	Annual update for consideration of donation	Granted as above

13. **Date of next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 7 February 2022

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

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