



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 6 June 2022 in the Village Hall at 8pm

AGENDA

1. **Roll call and Apologies for Absence.**

Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), D Griffiths, M Grange, T Weller, H Stone.

Apologies accepted – Cllr K Chittock (Vice Chair), A Duggett, S Hubner.

DCLlr Peter Gould (Report received)

CCLlr Andrew Stringer joined the meeting later.

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** - Members reminded of their obligations under the National model Code of Conduct. No Register of Interests updates.

3. **Public Forum** – One member of the public was present to observe the meeting.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer.

Commitment to Suffolk Rivers. Full Council convened on the 19th May. Our Group proposed a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Currently, all Suffolk rivers have been reported by the Environment Agency to have failed government standards. Increased pollution comes from a rise in sewage discharges, as well as chemicals used in agriculture that run off into waterways. Our motion committed SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and increase engagement and support with farmers and environmental groups in any future strategies. Our motion was passed unanimously.

Petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract Our Group has started a petition, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year.

Since Kier’s arrival, our Group has seen astronomical prices for the maintenance of Suffolk’s highways. Some of these prices include £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs, £7,500 to cut down a single tree, and £10,000 to design (not build) four humps in a road.

Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed to get things done. The bid would also provide a necessary benchmark for any competitive bid coming from external companies, making sure Suffolk taxpayers money is not exploited.

We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make you name public, or it won’t count!): https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance

National Grid consultation National Grid have released proposals to increase pylon networks across Suffolk’s countryside, in light of the Government’s strategy to grow the East of England’s offshore electricity generation. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk’s rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartledge.

Our Group will put pressure on this Council to respond to the consultation, in collaboration with Essex and Norfolk, stressing the significant need for sea-level cables that reduce the community impacts of National Grid’s proposals. Our Group will respond ourselves if the Conservative fail to address our concerns.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, click here (Deadline is the 16th June): <https://eastangliagreen.participatr.io/index.php?contentid=13>

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 6 June 2022

Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Report from District Councillor Peter Gould

Cabinet members at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are to consider a five-point action plan during meetings next month, to **support residents and staff through the cost-of-living crisis.**

The doors of the **Duck & Teapot**, the new café and visitor centre at Needham Lake officially opened in May.

Stowmarket could soon benefit from a **new leisure and wellbeing hub** if Mid Suffolk District Council agree funding for next steps.

Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have received £1.6 million in the latest round of **neighbourhood CIL payments** – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects.

Former Chairman Cllr Paul Ekpenyong **presented a cheque of £1,565 to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH)** as his chosen charity during his term as chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council. **Cllr James Caston was elected Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council** at its Full Council meeting on Thursday 26 May.

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 9 May 2022 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. CIL Funding

- a. The work to the Village Hall driveway has been completed. £1,000 of CIL funding allocated as a contribution to the total cost.

6. Governance – The Chair welcomed new Councillor Heidi Stone to the Council. Mid Suffolk was advised last month of the resignation of Cllr Jill Crouch due to moving out of the area and the Clerk has received notice today that no election has been requested so there remains a vacancy for which the Council can co-opt. The vacancy has been advertised on the website and social media.

Councillors were advised of an update to the model code of Conduct in respect of declarations of interest.

7. Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues

- a. The monthly SID report was circulated and is available on the website at <http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/minutes-and-reports-for-2022/>
- b. The Quiet Lanes signs are now back in stock and ready for collection. Cllr Duggett will arrange collection.
- c. Lorry Watch – Suffolk CC has now agreed to replace the faded HGV restriction signs within the next 14 weeks. Once complete then the Lorry Watch scheme will be trialled.

8. Items for Discussion

- a. The proposal for a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. 3 members of the public had expressed an interest in becoming involved. After discussion, Councillors agreed that a preliminary meeting be held with Thorndon who have just completed theirs to discuss the amount of work involved and the costs etc. Cllr David Griffiths and Cllr Heidi Stone agreed to lead on the matter and will arrange an informal meeting in the first instance with Thorndon and report back to the July meeting.

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

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 6 June 2022

Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

a. New applications

DC/22/02720 | Full Planning Application - Change of Use of land for a temporary period of 3 years for the stationing of a container to store equipment used in conjunction with the land management (retention of). | Land On the South East Side Of Bulls Hall Cottage Bulls Hall Road Occold Eye Suffolk IP23 7PH

RESPONSE - The placement of this container is completely undesirable in this rural location and is not in keeping with the environment around it. Councillors are also concerned that this will increase the opportunity of rural crime as the container is isolated down a dead-end road.

b. Decided applications -

Reference	Address	Date received	PC Meeting	Response	MSDC Decision	Date
DC/21/06625	Castle Hill Farm, Thorndon	13/1/22	7/2/22	No objections	Refused	27/5/22

10. Financial Matters –

- a. The report of external auditor Trevor Brown for audit of accounts 2021-22 was received with no queries. This will be published to the website.
- b. The following payments (General Power of Competence applies) were approved for payment. A payment of £1,000 to ORAC as agreed on minute 8b 4 April 2022 was approved as the work has been completed.

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Trevor Brown	188.00		188.00	Internal audit and travel expenses
MSDC	253.31	42.22	211.09	Litter and dog bin emptying
Staff salary	308.44		308.44	Clerk Salary - May
RECEIPTS				
Nil				

11. Correspondence – received since the last Meeting.

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
25/5/22	MSDC	Spruce up of dog and litter bins	Noted
30/5/22	MSDC	New Code of Conduct – registrable interests	Discussed at Agenda item 6

12. Date of next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 4 July 2022

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 6 June 2022

Chair.....