



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 7 March 2022 in the Village Hall at 8pm

Before the start of the meeting the Chair read out the following statement –

Before we begin this evenings meeting, as a sign of respect I would like to offer a minutes silence for the Ukrainian people and their suffering which is taking place at the hands of a madman. Irrespective of our creed, colour, race or religion let us stand in their honour, and hope that this will be brought to a swift humanitarian conclusion

AGENDA

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

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

Apologies accepted – District Councillor Peter Gould, CCLr Andrew Stringer, Cllr K Chittock, Cllr D Griffiths

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

3. **Public Forum** - Several members of the public were present in respect of planning application DC/21/06790. Objections against the application were aired and the following points made –

- The applicant had failed to meet with residents of the close to discuss their concerns in respect of construction although some points raised had been addressed in the amended plans.
- No consideration of damage that may be caused to the cul de sac during the construction process.
- There were a significant number of contradictions and discrepancies in the submitted plans.

Those present had submitted their comments to the planning authority.

After discussion, Councillors agreed that the District Councillor should be asked to call the matter into committee to allow residents to air their concerns and the Clerk submit the following comment to the planning officer –

In the light of what appears to be inaccuracies and inconsistencies contained within the applicants statement and submitted drawings Council has requested that the matter be called in to committee for full consideration.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer.

Biodiversity Recommendations Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. Our Group had a major influence in providing recommendations to SCC which are now a part of the Council's ambitions moving forward to enhance biodiversity. Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions.

Changes to Highway Code Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29th of January. According to The Department for Transport (DfT) the new regulations are about recognising and protecting the most vulnerable road users and making the highway safer for everyone.

Devolution Deal The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation. A new deal will potentially give local leaders more powers to make decisions for their communities for the first time.

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 7 March 2022

Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council Budget Meeting County Councillors met on the 17th of February to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022-23. Suffolk GLI Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis. Both ideas were rejected by the Conservatives, but our Group will continue to champion more investment into our social care and green technology.

Warmer Homes Suffolk Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm. Visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org.

Council links to Gazprom Back in 2017, Suffolk County Council, outsourced its energy procurement to "Vertas" an SCC wholly owned but independent company. The energy deal Suffolk County Council funds has included buying gas from Gazprom, This unfortunate position has been pointed out to SCC, and in the last few days we have sought to extricate SCC from this contract, to enable us to no longer indirectly fund the war currently raging in Ukraine.

Local Highways Matters We have had significant delays in dealing with rights of way reports recently, this has been mainly due to our local officer moving on to another career, we do now at last have an officer in place, his name is Ken Larcombe, and the backlog of issues are now at last being addressed, if there are any more outstanding issues please let me know.

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 7 February 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. Occold Conservation Group proposals (Cllr Crouch) – deferred.
- b. **To consider any other projects for CIL funding.** Cllr Duggett presented a report on the availability of SID devices and presented his findings. On the conclusion of his report, he proposed the purchase of a portable SID from Westcotec at a cost of £2,995.00 + VAT to be funded by CIL monies. The proposal was seconded and all in favour.

Resolved – Purchase of SID from CIL funding at a cost of £2995.00 plus VAT

6. Governance – Policy Reviews

- a. The Health and Safety Policy 2022 – no amendments required – was approved
- b. The Dispensation Policy 2022 – no amendments required – was approved.

7. Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues

- a. Flooding problems in the Village – Cllr Hubner updated Councillors on the results of his research into the historic maps obtained from the family of the late Brian Hull which showed that there should not be a flooding problem if everyone kept their own ditches clear. The drain at the bottom of the driveway to the village hall is clearly silted up and that should be reported to Suffolk County Council (Clerk to deal).

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 7 March 2022

Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

The pipework under the village green is the responsibility of the landowner which would be ORAC and therefore he suggested that the situation be monitored at the present time.

- b. **Monthly SID report** Cllr Duggett presented the monthly SID report. The SID had been located at Mill Road adjacent to the school (approximately 40m from the school exit), with traffic heading North towards the Church, between 01/02/2022 and 28/02/2022.

For the first two weeks of February, 01/02 until 13/02, the unit display was active and would show drivers their speed. For the second two weeks, 14/02 until 28/02, the display was turned off but the unit was still recording activity. The objective was to get some indication that the SID was having a tempering effect on driver behaviour. Note that the data set is small and the period short but the graphs and table below can be interpreted to show that when the display is turned off then a larger proportion of vehicles pass the SID at a higher speed.

01/02 – 13/02 The highest speed recorded was 57mph between 01:30 and 01:59 on 02/02. 85% of vehicles passed the SID at 30 mph, average speed 23mph

14/02 – 28/02 The highest speed recorded was 56mph between 01:30 and 01:59 on 26/02. 85% of vehicles passed the SID at 31mph, average speed 24mph

Action - The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries with the ANPR team as to when the village would get ANPR speed enforcement.

The full report can be found on the website at <http://occold.onesuffolk.net/assets/Parish-Council/Speed-Indicator-device-reports/SID-February-2022-1.pdf>

8. Items for Discussion

- a. Councillors were asked to reconsider a Neighbourhood Plan as Thorndon has now completed theirs and it is considered that it would help to identify any areas of the village that could be used for small scale development. Currently Occold doesn't have any allocated land for housing so it would be useful to be able to use the plan to consider areas of the village that could accommodate further future development.

After discussion it was agreed that this is a large project that cannot be done by Councillors themselves and will need significant input from residents. A previous attempt to get this off the ground in 2019 had failed but it was felt that there were now newcomers in the village that may be interested.

Action - The Clerk will put together an A5 leaflet to be distributed to all residents to see if there is any appetite for a plan and to see what response comes from the leaflet drop.

- b. Councillors considered a nomination from seventh generation resident Sheila Barrett to take part in the torch relay being organised by Suffolk County to mark the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The torch will come through Occold on Wednesday 25 May 2022 – details to be finalised. After discussion this was proposed and seconded.

Action - Clerk to submit the nomination.

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

- a. **New applications**

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 7 March 2022

Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

DC/21/06790 | Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension (following demolition of utility room), single storey front extension, rebuild of front porch canopy; replacement of windows. | 7 Old Rectory Gardens Occold Suffolk IP23 7PD

RESPONSE – As above at public forum.

b. Granted applications

Reference	Address	Date received	PC Meeting	Response	MSDC Decision	Date
None						

10. Financial Matters –

- a. **To consider Grant application from ORAC for Village Hall driveway repairs.** –An application for £3200 has been received from ORAC in respect of repairs to potholes on the Village Hall driveway. After discussion Councillors asked that the applicant get further quotes for the works and investigated other avenues of funding. They are minded to support the application but not fully fund it. To be brought back to April meeting.

Action – Clerk to contact applicant and ask for further quotes.

- b. The following payments (General Power of Competence applies) were approved for payment

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	242.36		242.36	Clerk Salary - February
Scott Regan	30.00	5.00	25.00	Bus shelter cleaning
RECEIPTS				
Locality grant – Cllr Stringer	133.20		133.20	Flooding investigations by Drain Doctor

11. Correspondence – received since the last Meeting.

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
22/2/22	Suffolk MIND	Thank you for S137 donation	Noted
22/2/22	BSEVC	Thank you for S137 donation	Noted
20/2/22	SARS	The impact of support 2021	Noted
15/2/22	EACH	Thank you for S137 donation	Noted
15/2/22	Citizens Advice	Thank you for S137 donation	Noted
16/2/22	EAAA	Thank you for S137 donation	Noted
25/2/22	Headway Suffolk	Thank you for S137 donation	Noted
1/3/22	Suffolk Police	Locality Meeting – Mon 14 March	Chair to attend on behalf of Council.

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

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 7 March 2022

Chair.....