



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Monday 9 May 2022 in the Village Hall at 8.20pm

AGENDA

1. Election of Chair - The meeting was opened and Councillors asked for nominations for the position of Chair for the forthcoming year. Colin Cripps was nominated and seconded – there were no other nominations. All in favour by a show of hands. Cllr Cripps accepted the position as newly elected Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. **Roll call and Apologies for Absence**
Councillor's present – Cllr Cripps (Chair), Cllr Chittock (Vice Chair), Cllr Hubner, Cllr Crouch, Cllr Grange, Cllr Duggett, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Weller. District Cllr Peter Gould.
Apologies received from County Cllr Andrew Stringer.
Annual Reports have been submitted by the District and County Councillors for the Annual Parish Meeting prior to this meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
Members were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct.
Members were reminded of the requirement to update their Register of Interests as appropriate if their details change in any way.
5. **To consider appointments to the following**
 - a. Vice Chairman – Cllr Chittock was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice Chair. There were no other nominations, Cllr Chittock accepted the position. All in favour by a show of hands.
 - b. Responsible Financial Officer – Joy Hart was appointed as the responsible financial officer.
 - c. Personnel Sub Committee – Cllr Griffiths, Cripps and Duggett were appointed to the Personnel Sub Committee
 - d. Planning Sub Committee – Cllr Weller, Hubner and Cripps were appointed to the Planning subcommittee in the event of a special meeting having to be convened.
6. **Public Forum**
 - a. No members of the public were present.
 - b. Reports of County and District officers.

County Cllr Andrew Stringer sent a written report -

Cabinet 26th April. The Cabinet met to vote to accept the report from the Ofsted Focused Visit to Suffolk County Council Children's Services on the topic of Care Leavers, for once we had a very positive inspection. The Cabinet endorsed an outline action plan to support continuous improvement of Suffolk County Council Leaving Care Services in light of the findings of the Ofsted Focused Visit, but did recognise the challenge of those leaving care that are not in education or training etc is still stubbornly high (48.5%)

Post-16 Travel Policy 2022/2023

The Cabinet agreed to maintain the 2021/2022 school year charges for Post-16 Travel and Spare Seats in the 2022/2023 school year as follows:

- a) A mainstream seat would cost £930 per year (£310 per term).
- b) A seat for a Post-16 student with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) would cost £750 per year (£250 per term).

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Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Ipswich Garden Suburb – Formal Response to Red House Farm, part of Ipswich Garden Suburb, Planning Application

The Cabinet agreed to notify Ipswich Borough Council that, owing to inadequate evidence, particularly in relation to transport and drainage, Suffolk County Council cannot support the outline planning application at this time and, therefore, the Borough Council should not determine the application until the concerns of Suffolk County Council were addressed.

District Cllr Petr Gould reported –

Ground-breaking ceremony marks start of construction at Gateway 14

Construction is officially underway at Gateway 14 – the multi-million-pound business, innovation and logistics development in Stowmarket.

The development, by Gateway 14 Ltd (wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council) and development manager, Jaynic, will provide a new base for manufacturing, logistics and R&D businesses as well as providing innovation space for smaller and start-up businesses.

£1.6m boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk neighbourhoods

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. Developers are charged Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) when building new homes in the districts – enabling local infrastructure to keep pace with housing growth, as well as supporting the councils’ vision for its communities to be attractive, successful, and connected places for people to live and work.

A proportion of this funding is automatically paid to town and parish councils, who are eligible for up to 15% of collected funds from their area, subject to a financial cap, with the potential for this to increase to 25% if they have successfully adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.

They can then decide how to spend this money to support the development of their local area – ensuring that the funding best meets the needs of the community.

The latest bid round for communities wishing to apply for future CIL funding – in addition to the money passed automatically to towns and parishes – opened this week. This bid window will close on May 31 and successful bids will receive their funding decision in Autumn 2022, subject to approval by Cabinet.

Payments of the Government’s £150 energy rebate are now well underway for eligible households across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. Payments have started with those who pay their council tax by direct debit.

If you don’t currently pay your council tax bill by Direct Debit, we will write to you over coming weeks with details of the process to be followed to receive the payment.

In the meantime, please be wary of potential scams and do not give out your personal information or bank details in response to texts, emails or phone calls.

Councils join forces with GPs to keep residents fit

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have expanded their GP referral schemes to include Hadleigh, providing tailored support for residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

In partnership with local health partners and the councils’ leisure providers – Abbeycroft Leisure and Everyone Active - both councils are continuing to grow the number of GP referral programmes at their leisure centres.

Through the programmes, doctors refer patients with common medical conditions such as obesity, hypertension, or type 2 diabetes, to the councils’ local gyms for a programme of tailored exercise over a set period.

Councils announce more accessible facilities Working with key partners to identify suitable locations, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were awarded the full allocation of their bid, meaning that each district will benefit from two Changing Places facilities. In Babergh, the first new Changing Places facility will be installed at Flatford Mill, working in partnership with the National Trust who will manage the facilities on

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OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

an ongoing basis. As one of the most popular visitor attractions in the district, its introduction will make this important site more accessible for a range of visitors.

The full report from the District and County Councillor can be found on the Village website at - <http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/district-and-county-councillor-reports-2/>

7. Minutes of the previous meeting and Clerks Report

- a. The minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2021 were approved
- b. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting.

8. Meeting Calendar the meeting calendar for 2022/23 Council year was approved for publication.

9. Governance – all reports are published to the Parish website -

<http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/>

- a. The accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ending 31 March 2022 were approved.
- b. The AGAR Part 2 Exemption Certificate was approved and signed.
- c. The Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 was approved and signed.
- d. The Accounting Statements 2021/22 were approved and signed.
- e. The statement of significant variances for year ending 31 March 2022 was noted.
- f. Standing Orders 2022 were approved and adopted.
- g. Financial Regulations 2022 were approved and adopted.
- h. The Statement of Internal Control 2022 was approved.
- i. The Asset Register 2022 was approved.
- j. Council resolved to adopt the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct.
- k. The Annual CIL Expenditure report was approved.
- l. An application for co-option to the Council by Heidi Stone was received and approved.

Action – Clerk to make contact with Heidi Stone (Unable to attend meeting on 9 May for personal reasons)

11. Suffolk Highways, Speeding and Road Related Issues

- a. **Design work estimate for signage for the lorry Watch scheme.** – Council had requested that some of the mandatory signage in place for the HGV weight restriction be cleaned or replaced so that the Lorry Watch scheme could be implemented in the Village.

Some of the signage has faded or been damaged. This was first requested in 2020 and has been a very slow process. An estimate of design cost (not including the actual signs or installation) to bring the HGV weight restriction to an enforceable standard has been received and Council asked to pay £1553.20 for the design. These signs are already in place and after discussion Councillors instructed the Clerk to write back to Highways asking them to reconsider the costs as the responsibility for repairing and replacing mandatory signage is that of the County council. The final costs would be prohibitively expensive for a small council with an annual precept of £8,800.

Action – Clerk to respond to County Council

- b. Cllr Duggett presented the **monthly SID Report**. The report for April consists of three graphs. The SID was configured to record vehicles passing in both directions, heading towards the school (in) and heading away from the school (out), to see whether there was an appreciable difference in vehicle volumes and driver behaviour. Whilst the unit would capture vehicles heading out of Occold, drivers would not have been aware of the fact and no reading would have been visible. A total of 29743 movements were captured, split 14553 heading in and 15190 heading out. The highest speed recorded was 58mph heading in

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OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

between 04:15 & 04:19 on the 1st) and 51mph heading out (between 00:50 & 00:54 on the 1st). The activity for both directions was broadly the same but it is interesting to note that over 600 more vehicles travelled out of the village away from the school than towards the school. Eighty five percent of the vehicles passing the SID did so at 30 mph (in) and 31 mph (out), the average speed was 23mph. The full report is published on the Parish website -

<http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/minutes-and-reports-for-2022/>

12. Planning - None

13. Matters for discussion

- a. Change of use of grant for purchase of lawn mower – St Michaels Church. Cllr Hubner reported that the Church has lost its commercial grass cutter and the Churchyard and cemetery is now being cut by volunteers. The Church was granted £598.00 in April to cover the cost of commercial cutting. They were now considering purchasing a lawn mower to be used by the volunteers. After discussion there were no objections.

14. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Three residents had come forward as a result of the leaflet drop. The project would need more residents before it could be started. After discussion it was agreed that Councillors and the Clerk will push the project by canvassing residents and on social media and the website to get some more support and revisit the proposal in June.

15. **CIL Projects** – no updates to report

16. Financial Matters –

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

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	246.84		246.84	Clerk salary
SALC	267.85		267.85	Annual Membership subs 22-23
HMRC	194.60		194.60	PAYE Q4 21-22
RECEIPTS				
MSDC	4400.00			Precept – First instalment

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

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
5/4/22	CJ	CIL Money from Cedars Rise – request to reconsider amount for Village hall driveway	After discussion, Cllrs agreed that the original offer of £1,000 was sufficient. No accounts have been published by ORAC and no Annual report submitted to the Parish meeting. Clerk to ask for report in respect of monies already allocated in last financial year (£7,500). ORAC has been signposted to alternative funding streams.
19/4/22	MSDC	Health of the organisation leaflet	Noted – has been circulated
3/5/22	MSDC	CIL application bid round open	Link has been sent to ORAC

18. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 6 June 2022

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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