



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 5 September 2022 in the Village Hall at 8pm

AGENDA

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

Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), K Chittock (Vice Chair), M Grange, A Duggett, H Stone, A Hall. CCllr Andrew Stringer and District Cllr Peter Gould.

Apologies accepted – Cllr S Hubner, D Griffiths and T Weller.

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

3. **Cllr Duggett declared an interest in the Accounts.** Cllr Hall declared an interest in planning application DC/22/03796

4. **Public Forum** – One member of the public was present to voice their concerns in respect of the clearance of the ditch at the front of the development at Cedars Rise. The swale is very overgrown and there is concern that run off from heavy rain would cause flooding to properties further down. There is also a blocked drain at the end of Church Street. An enquiry was made with Suffolk County Council who have responded that the ditch is the responsibility of the landowners in Cedars Rise.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will write to the householders pointing out the issue and asking them to make contact with their management company to cut back the vegetation before the winter. It was suggested that the letter include a link to the information about Riparian ownership available on the Suffolk cc website.

The Clerk will also report the blocked drain to Suffolk Highways.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer.

Suffolk County Council has provided an update with how many Ukrainian refugees are currently in Suffolk and awaiting to be granted status to our county. Details can be found on the full report.

Solar Together is a project endorsed by SCC for residents and small/medium businesses to group-buy solar panels and battery storage. Registration has just opened, and applicants can apply up until the 26th September. For more information, please visit: <https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned carparks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

Community leaders across the board, recognise the stellar work from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service during the heatwave and increased demand. Crews have been called to more than 1,300 incidents since the start of July, making it one of the busiest years on record for the service. With such heavy demand, our Group wish to extend our thanks to all involved.

Cllr Chittock asked for an update on the school safety project. CCllr Stringer said that there has been a change of engineers within the Council but he hopeful that the new engineer would be able to design the crossing at a lower cost. He will progress the matter.

Report from District Councillor Peter Gould

Support packages to combat the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, with residents urged to check they are receiving the support they are entitled to.

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Chair.....



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Tree coverage across Babergh and Mid Suffolk is set to increase to help tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, after a pioneering council-commissioned tree canopy survey identified key planting locations and significant benefits.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is open once again for 2022 applications.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have started the Annual Canvass of Electors and are asking residents to check the electoral registration details for everyone eligible to vote at their address.

A new pop-up exhibition coming to Stowmarket from Thursday 22 September to Saturday 24 September at the town's John Peel Centre will showcase a range of projects and proposals that will shape the future of the town. Residents, community groups and sports clubs are being invited to have their say on the development of plans for new leisure, health and wellbeing facilities in Stowmarket.

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can take advantage of free workshops to help boost their confidence online by accessing the Councils' Digital Skills Programme.

West Suffolk Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are among the first of 40 council areas to receive cash from chewing gum manufacturers to help remove gum from the street.

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/>

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Clerks report

- a. The minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2022 were approved and signed.
- b. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

6. CIL Funding

- a. No new projects at the current time. The CIL money available stands at £5156.59 (not including £2,000 set aside for the school safety project).

7. Neighbourhood Plan

- a. After discussion, Cllr Stone agreed to contact Ian Poole a private sector consultant who specialises in Neighbourhood Plans to arrange a date for a meeting to outline the process and costs (financial and time) involved.

After that meeting at which all available Councillors would be invited to attend the Council will decide whether to progress the plan.

8. Governance – no issues.

9. Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues

- a. Cllr Duggett has circulated the report for July and August.

The headline figures are the maximum speeds recorded. On Saturday 9th between 23:35 and 23:39 one driver went through the village at 61 mph and the following morning between 00:29 and 00:29 perhaps the same driver left the village at 56 mph.

Eighty five percent of vehicles passed the SID at 30mph, the average speed was circa 22mph. An average of 882 vehicles passed the unit each day. August is almost a repeat of July. The maximum speeds of 59 mph heading into the village and 57 mph out are depressingly familiar with the biggest difference being the time of day. Sunday 7th between 19:25 and 19:30 inbound and Friday 26th between 20:15 and 20:19 outbound.

For each month close to 30,000 vehicles travelled through the village.

The full report can be viewed on the website at <http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/minutes-and-reports-for-2022/>

Action – Clerk to contact ANPR team with new data

10. Items for Discussion

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- a. Attendance at ORAC meeting –Cllr Chittock and Cllr Cripps will attend the next meeting on 14/9/22)
- b. Occold Circular walk leaflets – Cllr Chittock has looked into the cost of re printing the Occold circular walks brochure which has been requested by residents. After discussion Cllr Hall and Cllr Stone agreed to walk the routes first to ensure that the information in the brochure was still valid before reprinting it. To be brought back to October meeting.

11. Planning - (At this point Cllrs were asked to consider whether Cllr Hall should leave the room. After discussion it was resolved that Cllr Hall remain in the room but take no part in the debate about the application.)

DC/22/03796 | Full Planning Application - Change of Use of land for a temporary period of 3 years for the stationing of a shipping container to store equipment used in conjunction with the land management (re-submission of DC/22/02720). | Land South East Of Bulls Hall Cottage Bulls Hall Road Occold Suffolk
RESPONSE – The presence of a shipping container at this location would be unacceptable and would significantly impact on the views from the dwelling which is adjacent to the proposed site. Storage of equipment for land management could be contained within a more sympathetic structure such as a shed. The shipping container would be completely incongruous to the land and buildings in the area and Council strongly object to this application.

12. Financial Matters –

- a. The payment of the Annual Insurance policy renewal at a cost of £420.04 (in accordance with the 3 year contract resolved at Agenda item 11a on 6 September 2021) was approved.
- b. The following (General Power of Competence applies) were approved for payment.

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	308.44	61.80	246.64	Clerk Salary – July
Staff salary	308.44	61.60	246.84	Clerk Salary - August
Westcotec	4014.00	669.00	3345.00	Speed Indicator device and data collector
WAVE	20.82		20.82	Water charges Cemetery
ICO Registration	35.00		35.00	Annual renewal
A Duggett	27.48	4.59	22.89	Padlocks for SID
RECEIPTS				
None				

13. Correspondence – received since the last Meeting.

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
7/8/22	SU	Request for dog bins	The Council has not budgeted for additional bins for this financial year. The request will be reconsidered at the January budget meeting. Clerk to respond accordingly.
16/8/22	SAAA	Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements	The Council resolved to continue to opt in to the Central scheme.
19/8/22	Suffolk Police	Public meeting dates 2022	Noted – the Clerk will circulate on social media and on the website.
26/8/22	SALC	Area Forum date Thursday 8 September	Noted – Cllrs to notify Clerk if they are available to attend.

**14. Date of next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 3 October 2022
The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

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Chair.....