



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 10th May 2023 in the Village Hall at 8pm

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 (Cllr Duggett) and seconded (Cllr Hubner) – 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**
Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), K Chittock (Vice Chair), A Duggett, H Stone, T Weller, S Hubner, DCllr Lucy Elkin.
Apologies accepted – Cllr A Hall and CCllr A Stringer.
3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** - Members reminded of their obligations under the National model Code of Conduct.
4. **To consider appointments to the following**
 - a. Vice Chairman – Cllr Chittock was nominated (Cllr Weller) and seconded (Cllr Hubner) for the position of Vice Chair. There being no other nominations, Cllr Chittock accepted the position. All in favour by a show of hands.
 - b. Responsible Financial Officer – Libby Alexander was appointed as the Responsible Financial Officer.
 - c. Personnel Sub Committee – Cllr Chittock, Duggett and Stone were appointed to the Personnel Sub Committee.
 - d. Planning Sub Committee – Cllr Cripps, Chittock and Hubner were appointed to the Planning Sub Committee in the event of a special meeting having to be convened.
5. **Public Forum** – No members of the public were present.

County Councillor Andrew Stringer was not present, but had sent his report in advance of the meeting which the Chairman read out.

Report Summary

Ukraine: One year anniversary

A year had passed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Councillors cross-party had shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. The 'Homes for Ukraine' programme continued to provide hosts for refugees.

Full Council: Motions

In 2022 six motions had been submitted as a way of highlighting issues and attempting to change Council policy. These had included a request to declare a cost of living emergency in Suffolk, committing further to Community transport and to promote cleaner rivers in Suffolk.

Carbon Budget – SCC is not on track

This year's carbon budget shows that SCC is not on track to reach net zero by 2030. Current forecasts show that SCC will still be producing half of that currently being emitted.

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Chair.....



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2023/24 Budget Meeting

The Council's budget increased tax by 2.99% - 2% rise in the Social Care Precept and a 0.99% increase in general tax.

Report into SEND Provision

The report following an independent review into SEND provision in 2021, highlighted some shortcomings with recommendations to remedy these. By January 2023, all recommendations had been acted upon and completed.

Suffolk Devolution

Following a Government White Paper on Levelling-Up in 2022, it was agreed that Suffolk will be one of the initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation to devolve powers. A public consultation will now follow.

Pylons Project

Last year National Grid launched a consultation into a proposal to connect Norwich to Tilbury using pylons as the least expensive option. Currently there is a further review ongoing of the financial claims before the project is put to Government for a decision.

Report from District Councillor Lucy Elkin (Summary)

Budget Proposals 2023/24

A Council Tax freeze for residents was agreed. An increase in Council house rents was proposed. The Council also agreed to set aside money from reserves to help residents with insulation for homes.

Housing Issues

MSDC referred themselves to the Regulator of Social Housing following issues relating to Health and Safety Compliance. An action plan has been agreed to resolve the issues.

Gateway 14

Construction of a distribution unit for The Range is underway at Gateway 14. Gateway 14 Ltd will provide a new base for manufacturing, logistics and R&D businesses as well as space for smaller and start up businesses.

Houses for Homes

Bagbergh and Mid Suffolk are aiming to reduce the number of long term empty properties and bring them back into use. Houses for Homes is a rebranding of the Service.

SHELF Project

MSDC Cabinet approved the next phase of the business case for the Stowmarket wellbeing and leisure hub. The project intends to include a sports pavilion, multi-use games area, indoor sports courts and a well-being hub.

Solar Carport Scheme

A solar carport, battery storage and EV Charging facility has opened at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre.

Electric Bus Scheme

In the previous year's budget Mid Suffolk agreed to pilot a demand responsive electric bus scheme, this had now been put on hold by the administration.

Planning

The Joint Local Plan had moved forward but there was still a long way to go before a complete set of up to date policies were in place.

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

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

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Clerks report

- a. The minutes of the meeting on 3rd April 2023 were approved and signed.
- b. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda or in the Clerk's report.

7. Meeting Calendar the meeting calendar for 2023/24 Council year was approved for publication.

8. 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 2023 were approved and the annual return was signed.
- b. The AGAR Part 2 Exemption Certificate was approved and signed.
- c. The Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 was approved and signed.
- d. The Accounting Statements 2022/23 were approved and signed.
- e. The statement of significant variances for year ending 31 March 2023 was noted.
- f. Standing Orders 2023 were approved and adopted.
- g. Financial Regulations 2023 were approved and adopted.
- h. The Statement of Internal Control 2023/24 was approved.
- i. The Asset Register 2023 was approved.
- j. The Risk Assessment 2023-24 was approved.
- k. Council resolved to adopt the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct.
- l. The Annual CIL Expenditure report was approved.

9. Suffolk Highways, Speeding and Road Related Issues.

a. Cllr Duggett had circulated the SID report for April. The highest speed recorded was 72mph (outbound on Sunday 2nd at 01:50) on the SID by the school. There was an unexplained gap in the data for the month for a 7 day period (likely a battery issue). 85% of vehicles were below 30 mph and the average speed was 23 mph.

The SID by the church recorded a highest speed of 55mph (on Sunday 2nd at 02:35), 85% of vehicles passed the unit at 25mph, about 5mph lower than the device by the school.

This data was much the same as previous months. The SIDs were to be swapped round to see if the SID that has been located by the Church has the same effect of moderating speed as it does by the Church.

The full report can be viewed on the website at <http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/minutes-and-reports-for-2/>

b. Cllr Duggett reported that following the village hosting the ANPR camera, over 400 people had received letters for speeding over the 2 periods combined. Cllr Chittock thanked Cllr Duggett for all his work and effort on this project. It was agreed that it would be good to be involved in this project again in the future if there was an opportunity.

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c. Lorrywatch – it was agreed that logistically it is very difficult to take the necessary details of vehicles for this project. It was resolved to take no further action on this project (eg buying signs) if it cannot be enforced. If repeat offending vehicles are identified the details can be passed on.

d. School Safety Project – in the absence of Cllr Stringer who was going to report further details on the School Safety project, it was agreed that the Clerk would email Cllr Stringer to see if these would be available for the next meeting in June 2023.

10. Items for Discussion –

- a. Occold Circular walk leaflets – In the absence of Cllr Hall this item was deferred until the June meeting.
- b. King’s Coronation – Cllr Hubner reported that the celebrations for the King’s Coronation had been very successful, with lots of residents attending.

11. CIL Funding - The CIL money available stands at £5133.70 (not including £2,000 set aside for the school safety project).

a. Cllr Duggett reported he was waiting for feedback on the entire Thermal Imaging Project. The feedback he was getting locally from the residents that participated in the project was that they were not going to act on the results of the imaging of their properties. A discussion considered the pros and cons of the Council purchasing a camera. Logistically it could be difficult to arrange lending to residents due to the strict parameters required to carry out the imaging. It was suggested a camera could be purchased jointly with another Council or loaned out to other Councils.

It was resolved for the idea to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera to be put on hold at the present time, but discussion on its potential could be rolled into the Neighbourhood Plan working group discussions.

b.. There were no new projects to consider for CIL funding.

It was suggested a breakdown of the available CIL money and timelines for when it has to be spent would be beneficial to the Council. It was resolved for the Clerk to present this at the next meeting.

12. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Stone confirmed that The Beaconsfield Arms were happy to host the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meetings and proposed these be held on the second Tuesday of the month, with the first meeting to take place on Tuesday 13th June 2023. She had produced a leaflet to promote the agreed meeting date and the Clerk agreed to print copies for distribution to Occold households when Cllr Stone had finalised it.

Following the application for grant funding not going through Cllr Stone confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan Consultant, Ian Poole was happy to put in another application. It was suggested that CIL Money could possibly be used to fund getting the Neighbourhood Plan started if there was a delay in getting funding. District Cllr Elkin confirmed she would look into the Neighbourhood Plan funding position.

13. Planning

a. Applications

The Clerk reported that the following application had had an appeal submitted:

Full Planning Application for change of use of land for a temporary period of three years for the stationing of a shipping container to store equipment used in conjunction with the land management (re-submission of DC/22/02720).

There were no new applications to consider.

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b. Determined

Reference	Address	Date received	PC Meeting	Response	MSDC Decision	Date
DC/23/00947	4 Cedars Rise Occold Eye Suffolk IP23 7QA	24/02/23	06/03/23	Approve	Granted	25/04/23

14. Financial Matters

a. The following payments were approved:

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	254.96		254.96	Clerk Salary – April
SALC	260.36		260.36	Annual Subscription
WAVE	16.32		16.32	Cemetery water
RECEIPTS				
MSDC	4400.00			Precept – 1 st instalment

15. **Correspondence** – received since the last Meeting – The Debenham Project Public Meeting - Noted.

16. **Date of next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 5th June 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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