



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 4th December 2023 in the Village Hall at 8pm

AGENDA

1. Roll call and Apologies for Absence.

Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), K Chittock (Vice Chair), A Duggett, S Hubner, H Stone, A Hall, DCllr Lucy Elkin and CCLlr Andrew Stringer

Apologies accepted – Cllr T Weller

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - Members reminded of their obligations under the National model Code of Conduct. Cllr Hall informed the Council that she had added membership of Greenpeace to her Declarations of Interest with BMSDC.

3. Public Forum – No members of the public were present to observe the meeting.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer (Summary)

Extra £10m Investment in residential roads

Details of the Council's additional £10m investment in resurfacing urban and residential roads have been announced. A programme of repairs from now until March 2025 will be put together. A meeting has also been held with the new contractor for highways to discuss how works will be undertaken in the future.

Budget monitoring

Cabinet have reviewed the quarter two monitoring report for the Council budget, with a net overspend of £11.4m predicted for 2023-24.

Flooding investigations and repairs

SCC teams have been clearing up after Storm Babet. £1m will be spent investigating the causes of flooding and action to be taken to prevent future floods, improving the County's resilience for further storms and excess rainfall. Owners of flooded properties can also apply for money to protect their properties from future flooding.

LionLink energy project

The Council has submitted a second, extensive response to proposals for LionLink, an energy project which could have considerable impacts on Suffolk's coastal communities and natural environment.

Libraries consultation

The Council is consulting residents on the new library service for the County as the contract with the current provider ends in March 2025.

New Highways contract for Suffolk roads

The contract with the new Highways contractor promises better communication with Councillors and residents and incentives for the new contractor to work efficiently.

Suffolk adult care rated good

An inspection of adult social services in Suffolk judged services to be good with strengths in safeguarding, leadership, use of digital technology and the way SCC work with partners to provide care.

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Social worker of the year awards

Suffolk County Council won a number of awards at the Social Worker of the Year Awards.

Report from District Councillor Lucy Elkin (summary)

Flooding Recovery

Households or businesses that have not yet reported flooding experienced during Storm Babet are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. The Government has announced financial support for eligible flooded homes and businesses. In Occold, details of drainage issues have been reported to the County Council and discussions are under way on how flood risk can be reduced.

Cosy Homes

The Cosy Homes initiative was launched in mid-November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their homes.

Planning: Adoption of Joint Local Plan Part 1

MSDC voted to adopt the new Joint Local Plan Part 1 which sets out a planning framework to guide planning in the districts up to 2037. A revised 'Local Development Scheme' has also been approved which sets out a timetable for the Joint Local Plan Part 2.

Polling arrangements consultation

Councils have asked residents and Parish Councils for feedback on polling arrangements.

Bike maintenance stand in Eye

MSDC is installing a new bike maintenance stand in Eye alongside a new electric bike charging point.

Cycle path upgrade

MSDC is seeking to increase the number of safe bike routes in the district, helping to link communities together and encourage more active travel. MSDC is keen to identify paths such as bridleways that could be upgraded for cyclists.

New benches for Occold

ORAC has successfully received funding from the MSDC Locality Award for new benches for the playground and playing field.

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/>

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Clerks report

- a. The minutes of the meeting on 6th November 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.

5. CIL Funding

- a. To review CIL monies held – The Clerk reported that the CIL monies held currently totalled £10662.52 of which £2000 was earmarked for the School Safety Project. Of the total amount held, £7133.70 needed to be spent by October 2026 and the remaining £3528.82 by October 2028.
- b. To receive an update on batteries for the SID - Cllr Duggett reported that he had not yet heard as to whether the application for grant funding of £900 through the Eye wind farm fund 106, to purchase solar units to power the SID batteries, had been successful. Currently the batteries on the Radarlux

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unit required changing twice a week and also the Bluetooth connection in the unit had broken. The unit was also becoming unreliable in capturing date with only a few days recorded in November. Cllr Duggett suggested there were a number of options to consider going forward:

- i. Continue with the Radarlux unit as it is
- ii. Purchase new batteries, in the hope that this resolves the problem, batteries were last replaced in Jul 2021
- iii. Return the unit to Radarlux (now only based in Germany) for the Bluetooth function to be fixed and adapt the unit to fit solar panels and purchase required solar panels
- iv. Purchase a new unit from Westcotec, the same as the other SID

Resolved for Cllr Duggett to get costs for a new unit with Solar panels from Westcotec. Decision on purchase of a new unit to be taken with this information and along with the decision on the grant application, at the meeting in January.

c and d. To receive an update on flooding resources/Grit bins – Cllr Duggett reported that to purchase a pump for the village community would cost in the region of £107, sandbag bags would cost approximately £1 each. Grit bins could be located in the village, filled with sand and empty bags so that residents could fill them when required. Cllr Hubner reported that the village was not eligible for grit bins through the Council. To purchase grit bins would cost in the region of £400 each, but these would need approval to be sited. It was suggested other storage bins could be sourced for storing sand. Resolved for Cllr Elkin to liaise with the flood team at the District Council for advice on best approach and to report back at the next meeting.

e. To consider new projects for CIL Funding – There were no new projects to consider for CIL funding.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Stone reported that the draft survey should be finalised by the end of the week. Following a meeting of the working group, the plan was to distribute the survey to all residents in the first week of January. This would be followed by a drop-in event on Friday 19th January from 2.00-8.30pm in the Village Hall with light refreshments available. This would offer residents the opportunity to have help completing the survey or ask any questions they may have. Cllr Stone proposed that the Parish Council support the drop-in event by contributing funds towards the refreshments. It was resolved for the Parish Council to provide £100 towards the event. Cllr Stone also reported that AECOM, who do the design codes for the plan were coming out in the near future and a landscape assessment was also being carried out. AECOM had also recommended a housing needs survey was carried out as part of information gathering for the plan.

7. Governance – None.

8. Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues.

a. Cllr Duggett had circulated the SID report for November. The unit on Mill Road only recorded 4 days of data despite frequent and regular battery changes (see Item 5b). The highest inbound speed recorded for the unit was 49mph at 04:00 on 4th November and highest outbound speed was 47mph at 07:50 on 4th November. For the unit at the Church 85% of vehicles did not exceed 24mph. The highest speed recorded on this unit was 45mph at 23:05 on 1st November.

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

b. ANPR Project update – Cllr Duggett reported that Occold were on the Suffolk County Council rota to host the ANPR camera again from 4-11th March 2024.

c. School Safety Project – Cllr Stringer reported that he was having an on-site meeting with the school on 6th December to go over the draft plans, and would report back at the next meeting.

9. Items for Discussion

a. Flooding following Storm Babet – see also Item 5c. Resolved to form a Flood working group to draw up an emergency flood plan for the village. This to be led by DCllr Elkin. along with Cllrs Hall and Duggett and other interested local residents who were affected by flooding. Cllr Stone suggested flood signs be purchased and stored at the pub. Cllr Hubner agreed to look at accurate costs for signs, sand and storage bins for flooding and report back at the next meeting.

b. Occold Circular walk leaflets – Cllr Hall reported that she had been researching the history of the village and had sent photos to SCC to be included in the leaflet. She hoped to have the draft available at the next meeting. The walk would be included in the Suffolk Walking Festival next year. Cllr Hall also reported that having spoken to the current landowner that there was no documentation to support there being a permissive footpath on Redhouse Lane.

c. Setup of a village Post Office – Cllr Hall reported that the pub was not willing to host a Post Office. DCllr Elkin reported that she was waiting for a response into the feasibility of hosting a mobile Post Office.

10. Planning

- a. **New Applications** – There were no new applications to consider.
- b. **Determined** – None.

11. Financial Matters - The following payments were approved:

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	395.56		395.56	Clerk Salary – November 2023 inc. backpay
WAVE	27.12		27.12	Cemetery water
Scott Regan	25.00	5.00	30.00	Bus Shelter cleaning
Lucy Batchelor-Wylam	1375.00		1375.00	Landscape assessment for N Plan
RECEIPTS				
None				

12. **Correspondence** - Correspondence received from SCC (Street Lighting Contract), BMSDC (Winter Grant, Notice of Adoption of Joint Local Plan and Consultation on listed building consent orders) was noted, no action required.

13. **Date of next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 15th January 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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