



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 4 July 2022 in the Village Hall at 8pm

AGENDA

1. Roll call and Apologies for Absence.

Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), K Chittock (Vice Chair), S Hubner, A Duggett, T Weller, H Stone and District Cllr Peter Gould.

Apologies accepted – Cllr Andrew Stringer (Report received).

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

3. Public Forum – One member of the public was present to observe the meeting.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer.

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk GLI to propose that Suffolk has a Cost-of-Living Emergency

Full Council is on the 7th July. Our Group have submitted a motion calling for SCC to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency, and for the Council to redirect funds and efforts towards targeting those most vulnerable.

Prices for fuel, food and energy are increasing as wages take in real terms, a cut from rising inflation. Our Group calls on this government for further support to those falling below the poverty line.

In addition, we are calling on the government to make it easier and cheaper to insulate homes. Our motion asks to waive VAT on energy-saving materials, such as insulation, and adequately fund a retrofitting programme so communities can save money on their bills during winter where energy price caps are due to rise even further.

Cabinet Meeting: SEND Capital Programme

Cabinet met on 20th June to vote on funding the next phase of SCC’s programme to build more capacity for SEND children in education. The cabinet agreed a package of £15.9m, as part of a £45m programme.

Currently, there is a high demand for SEND services, with requests for placement going up by 32% since 2020. The funding Cabinet have agreed will create three new specialist units across Suffolk.

Our Group supported such a project, but was mindful of the rising demand and what was needed for the future. The Cabinet agreed a third phase was required, which will be discuss later this year.

National Grid consultation: SCC submit a response

Last month our Group said we would put pressure on SCC to respond to the consultation, rejecting the current proposals for expanding the on-shore pylon network in Suffolk. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk’s rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartlidge.

After a meeting with Cabinet member, Cllr Rout, the Conservatives states they will also reject the proposals. SCC have now submitted a response to National Grid, agreeing with our position. They have stated that the application cannot be supported in its current form, and that an offshore alternative must be provided to be considered.

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Chair.....



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Report from District Councillor Peter Gould

Present – no written report

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

The Clerk raised the following issues –

- The committee of ORAC has suggested that it will be beneficial for a member of the Parish Council to attend the ORAC meetings which are monthly. After discussion, Councillors agreed that this would be beneficial to the village and to the Council and if they are notified in advance of the dates then one of the Councillors will attend.
- Cllr Weller suggested that it would be a useful exercise to prepare a quarterly article for publication in the Oracle to update residents as to what the Parish Council were doing. He would be happy to do that on behalf of the Council. After discussion this was approved.

Action – Clerk to contact ORAC and ORACLE editor to get relevant dates and circulate to Cllr Weller and all Councillors for the meeting dates.

5. CIL Funding

- a. The SID will be delivered to Cllr Duggett later this week. The Clerk asked Council to confirm that the payment could be authorised before the September meeting as this has already been resolved in previous meetings. This was approved. The Clerk will set up the invoice for authorisation of payment when it arrives.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

- a. Informal Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 30 June 22
Cllr Griffiths reported that he, along with Cllr Duggett, Stone and Grange had attended an informal meeting with James Hayward who had been involved in the Thorndon plan.

Thorndon's campaign started with an MSDC input to a meeting at the village hall in June 2016 and they got the plan accepted and made in February 2022, so about 6 years.

The plan involved a housing needs survey which had a response of 100 out of 243 homes. (Occold last had one in 2017 so it would have to be redone). The response rate and interest was sufficient to allow work to continue. A good response is a necessary prerequisite for amongst other things securing funding employ a consultant to guide process. A Planning Committee was then established to direct the process.

He also advised that the Council engage a reputable firm to guide through the process and contact details have been obtained.

Thorndon started with 7/8 on the planning committee but this reduced to 4, a chairman who over saw it all, someone who acted as secretary keeping paper work in order and two others who did a lot of the information gathering. 4 active members was the ideal number for them.

The planning committee should be separate to the Parish Council with a parish council rep. Cllr Griffiths suggested that the way forward was

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OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

- 1) For the Parish Council to endorse the Neighbourhood Plan
- 2) To contact the reputable firm to arrange a first informal session to point us in the right direction
- 3) If the plan is to go ahead then a launch is arranged in the village to get some interest and to arrange a housing needs survey.

After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Duggett that the Council move forward on the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors were unanimous in agreeing to points 1-3 as above. Cllr Griffiths to contact the reputable firm.

Action – Cllr Griffiths to set up a meeting with the reputable firm

7. Governance

- a. The Annual Report 2021-22 was approved for publication.
- b. Councillors received an application for co-option to the Parish Council by Angela Hall who was present. This vacancy to replace Cllr Jill Crouch. The application was presented in order and the resident confirmed qualified to stand as a Parish Councillor by the Clerk. She was therefore co-opted to the Council and signed an acceptance of office before being welcomed in to the Council by the Chair.

8. Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues

- a. Cllr Duggett has circulated the Monthly SID report. The report for June consists of three graphs. The SID recorded 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. The graph is a composite of travel in both directions. A total of 24830 movements were captured, split 12099 heading in and 12731 heading out. There was a 5-day gap in recording between the 11th and 16th. The highest speed recorded was 54mph heading in (between 21:40 & 21:44 on the 9th) 59mph heading out (between 01:10 & 01:14 on the 10th). Almost 700 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 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

9. Items for Discussion – None notified

10. Planning - No new or decided applications

11. Financial Matters –

- a. Council received the Financial report – Quarter1. There were no queries
- b. The following payments (General Power of Competence applies) were approved for payment

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	246.64		246.64	Clerk Salary - June
J Hart	61.50		61.50	Clerk expenses
HMRC	185.00		185.00	PAYE Q1 22-23
ORAC	136.50		136.50	Hall Hire – Village Hall
Scott Regan	30.00	5.00	25.00	Bus shelter cleaning
ORAC	1000.00		1000.00	CIL money donation for driveway repairs
Unity Trust Bank	18.00		18.00	Quarterly bank charges

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RECEIPTS			
John Henman Charity	208.41	208.41	Donation – (2 yr period 2020-21)

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

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
9/6/22	Suffolk CC	Save the Day – Rural transport conversation 22 July 22	This event to take place at Martlesham and was noted
10/6/22	SALC	Invite to AGM – 20 July 22	Cllr Weller agreed to attend – Clerk to book a place
13/6/22	BMSDC	Response to proposals – East Anglia Green project	Noted
16/6/22	SALC	Suffolk Community Awards 2022	Noted
27/6/22	BMSDC	Mid Suffolk corporate peer challenge review	Noted

13. **Date of next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 5 September 2022

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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