



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

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

Present – Cllrs C Cripps (Chair), Cllr K Chittock (Vice Chair), A Duggett, S Hubner, A Hall, Cllr Andrew Stringer.

Apologies accepted –Cllr H Stone, M Grange, T Weller and District Cllr Peter Gould

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** - Members reminded of their obligations under the National model Code of Conduct. Cllr Hall submitted her Declarations of interests.

3. **Public Forum** – 1 member of the public was present to observe the meeting.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer. (Summary)

Full Council Dec 1st

Our Group submitted a Motion calling for a more comprehensive public transport strategy in Suffolk – one that serves the rural communities better through demand-responsive services and community transport, as well as investigates the viability of a workplace parking levy to increase funding for public transport. This Spring, SCC were notified by Government that it would be receiving zero funding from their Bus Back Better bid. The Department for Transport stated the bid was not ambitious enough. The motion was rejected.

Labour submitted a Motion calling for significant investment into the recruitment and retention of social care workers. Our Group was fully supportive of the Motion. Back in February, our Group submitted a budget amendment to increase the Adult Social Care Precept by 1%. The Conservatives all voted against the Motion.

Cabinet 8th November

The Cabinet met to discuss the Q2 forecasts of the Council’s budget. Currently, there is a £12.2m budget gap – largely due to inflation and energy prices. The Council will use Reserves to cover this cost. The Cabinet also met to agree a new road enforcement scheme, and to apply for new Government powers to penalise drivers who commit offences affecting buses. The trial for the scheme has selected four sites in Ipswich for a cost of over£200,000.

Suffolk County Deal – As part of the government’s Levelling-up Strategy, Suffolk CC are currently negotiating a deal for more devolved powers. It was announced this month in the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement that Suffolk will look to install a directly elected leader, known as a Mayor.

There are potential issues with the new mayoral role, as a Mayor can be elected from outside the majority party and has the power to select a Cabinet that is also outside of the majority – which could create a gridlocked political system.

SEND Services – Group received an update this month outlining the progress our SEND services have made to implement the report’s recommendations.

We were told 22 of the 32 recommendations have been actioned, and the remaining 10 will be completed by the end of 2022. The delivery of 1317 new specialist school places by 2026 has been agreed and 826 of these places are now open. The number of Education Health Care Plans (EHP) has increased to 6847 in September 2022, from 5849 in September 2020.

Ukraine - New hosts coming forward to help accommodate guests that are already in Suffolk can sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, by [completing our online form](#) or emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

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Chair.....



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Report from District Councillor Peter Gould (summary)

The abuse and intimidation of councillors must end – that’s the call from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils amid rising concerns about toxicity in public and political discourse.

People are urged to get behind brilliant small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk this Christmas, with figures showing the huge impact you can have by shopping locally.

Christmas and New Year waste collections schedules are now available on our website. Collections will take place as normal up to, and including Friday 23 December, then from Monday 26 Decembers to Saturday 14 January, refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils has its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) last month, due to the severe weather.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils have approved a new Tenant Engagement Strategy which will give tenants more opportunity to be involved in decisions about their homes.

Councillors at both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils voted unanimously last month to support measures to protect local rivers and waterways.

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 7 November 2022 were approved and signed.
- b. Cllr Hubner has made enquiries of the land registry in relation to the ownership of a piece of overgrown land at Redlingfield Road regarding an inquiry from Occold Conservation and Wildlife group to improve the bio diversity of the site. Clerk to write to the owners to request information on any plans for the land.

5. **CIL Funding** - 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).

6. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Stone has obtained an estimate of costings for the plan to be project managed by a professional consultant. This has been circulated to all Councillors via email. After discussion it was proposed and seconded and all in favour.

Resolved – To accept the fee proposal from Places4people for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and to apply for the relevant grants through the Government’s Neighbourhood Plan Grant programme.

7. Governance

- a. Councillors were notified of the resignation of Cllr David Griffiths due to work commitments . The Chair asked that a note of thanks be minuted for his contributions over the last 18 months and wished him well for the future.
The Clerk has notified BMSDC elections officer and a notice of vacancy will be posted on the notice board and website. Should an election be requested then it will not be held until May 2023.
- b. Councillors welcomed the newly appointed Clerk Libby Alexander who was present to observe the meeting. Libby has experience of working with Parish Councils in Norfolk and will take over from 20 December 2022. After discussion it was proposed and seconded that the Council cover the salaries of

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the incoming and outgoing Clerks for the month of December to allow handover and annual leave entitlements. All in favour

Resolved – Council to cover salary of both Clerks for December 2022

8. **Suffolk Highways, Speeding, and Road Related Issues.** Cllr Duggett has circulated the report for November. There were issues with the SID this month. It seemed reluctant to download the data and the data that was available was incomplete, not all days were recorded. Looking at the data that is available it follows the model established over previous months with the exception that the highest speeds recorded were 48mph (inbound on Tuesday 8th at 06:05) and 46mph (outbound on Thursday 3rd at 04:00 and again on Tuesday 8th at 07:14).

When comparing data from the two units 85% of vehicles passing the new SID (outside the Church) are travelling 4 or 5mph slower than the “school” unit. It is possible that this can be attributed to drivers being advised of the actual speed limit as they approach it. The average speed recorded is slightly lower too. The top speed recorded is 50mph which has been the case for the several months, the upper speed limit set for the unit is 100mph.

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

9. **Items for Discussion –**

- a. Occold Circular walk leaflets – Cllr Hall has attempted to follow the circular walks leaflet but in places this has been very confusing. After discussion Cllr Hall agreed to take on the project of revisiting the public footpaths in the village and reporting any defects in signage or access before revamping the footpaths brochure.

10. **Planning -**

- a. **Applications** – None
- b. **Determined**

Reference	Address	Date received	PC Meeting	Response	MSDC Decision	Date
DC/22/04821	Green Farm, Benningham Green	28/9/22	Not considered	No comment	Granted	23/11/22

- c. Councillors considered an email from SJB designs relating to a proposed development in Church Street behind Cedar Cottage. After discussion it was resolved that the Council wished to make no comment at this stage but would respond to a live application once submitted

11. **Financial Matters –**

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

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
WAVE	14.09		14.09	Cemetery water (3 months)
Suffolk CC	50.00		50.00	Contribution to Quiet Lanes initiative.
Staff salary			387.64	Clerk Salary –Nov (includes back pay)
RECEIPTS				
None				

12. **Correspondence** – received since the last Meeting. – None

13. **Date of next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 9 January 2023 (Budget meeting)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Chair.....