



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 6th February 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, A Hall, M Grange, H Stone, T Weller, Cllr A Stringer.

Apologies accepted –Cllr S Hubner

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** - Members reminded of their obligations under the National model Code of Conduct.

3. **Public Forum** – 2 members of the public was present to observe the meeting.

Report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer (Summary)

Financial Budget

SCC is currently approving the budget for 2023/24. The budget proposes to increase tax by 2.99% (1% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept) with the aim of making savings through increasing the number of unfunded vacancies on the Council.

Carbon Budget

This year's carbon budget shows that SCC is not on track to reach NetZero by 2030. Current forecasts show the SCC will still be producing half of the CO₂ currently being emitted.

Investment in Trees and Hedgerows

SCC are planning to invest £110,000 in managing and inspecting trees and hedgerows ensuring they are given the best chance to thrive. The Council has planted around 50,000 trees and hedges this planting season.

Safety improvements near the School

Two options have been proposed by SCC:

Option 1 – 'School Keep Clear' road markings – cost in the region of £500

Option 2 - to provide some form of build out either side of the gate / at the gate to stop vehicles parking close to it, providing some form of landing point for pedestrians - cost more in the region of £3-5k depending on spec and size. 'School Keep Clear' road marking could also be incorporated to the north of the proposed build out to prevent parking.

Unanimously agreed for Option 2 to be costed out in detail.

Report from District Councillor Peter Gould

No report received.

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 9th January 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.

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Chair.....



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5. **CIL Funding** - The CIL money available stands at £5156.59 (not including £2,000 set aside for the school safety project). Cllr Grange had brought an example of a Thermal Imaging Camera from the High School that costs in the region of £600. Cllr Duggett confirmed that the village would have the Thermal Imaging Camera on loan as part of the SCC pilot scheme from 7-20th March 2023. It was resolved to continue to consider the use of CIL money to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera to survey properties to save energy, following the experience and results from the loan period from SCC.

6. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Stone reported that a working group needed to be formed which required a terms of reference. Cllr Stone confirmed she would prepare this and send to Councillors. Formation of the working group would be by advertising an initial meeting for interested residents via the different organisations in the village, the website and a leaflet drop to properties in the village. Early stages of the Neighbourhood plan would include surveying residents for their aspirations for the village and evidence gathering of ecology etc.

7. Governance

The Councillor vacancy was still available for co-option. The vacancy is advertised on the website.

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

a. Cllr Duggett had circulated the SID report for January. The highest speeds recorded were 60mph (inbound on Tuesday 10th at 05:34) and 61mph (outbound on Tuesday 3rd at 23:05) on the SID by the school. Traffic volumes were slightly higher than the previous month at 1107 v 731 vehicles. The data also showed that 85% of the traffic passing through the village is travelling at 31mph or less.

The SID by the church had reduced coverage in January as the unit was removed for the ANPR camera. The highest speed recorded was 45mph (on Thursday 12th January at 15:45), average speed was 21mph. When comparing data from the previous year, there is still a suggestion that the SID located outside the church is moderately reducing speeds.

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 the village hosted the ANPR camera the week beginning 23rd January 2023 and it was positioned outside the church in place of the SID. The village would be hosting the camera again for a week in March and a summary report will be received from each period.

c. The Clerk confirmed the training package had been received for Lorrywatch. It was resolved for this to be sent to all Councillors for their consideration for volunteers.

9. Items for Discussion –

a. Occold Circular walk leaflets – Cllr Hall reported she had contacted SCC about the need for markers to be replaced on the circular walk and the possibility of including the Occold circular walk in the SCC ‘Discover Suffolk’ Guide (www.discoveruffolk.org.uk). Cllr Hall had circulated an email prior to the meeting of what this could offer to promote the walk including costs involved for part funding of leaflets. It was unanimously agreed for Cllr Hall to take this project forward.

b. Thermal Imaging Camera – discussed previously in item 5 of the agenda.

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- c. Councillor Training - Cllr Hall confirmed she had contacted SALC regarding training and there was a training course for Councillors in July. Unanimously agreed for Cllr Hall to attend this course.
- d. King’s Coronation – Cllr Duggett reported that a preliminary meeting with representatives from organisations in the village had been held to start planning celebrations for the King’s Coronation. The suggestion of a tree being planted by the Parish Council wasn’t encouraged due to the lack of a position for it. Provision of a plaque or celebration mugs was suggested as an alternative option. It was resolved for Cllr Cripps to contact an ORAC representative regarding ideas and report back to the next meeting.
- e. Grant Application – A Grant application had been received from ORAC for money towards erecting a fence between the village hall playing field and the car park. It was resolved to request further details about the project (such as design and access for emergency vehicles) and re-consider at the next meeting.

10. Planning -

a. Applications

DC/23/00240 | Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No. detached single-storey dwelling (accessed via existing access to Church Street) | Land at rear of Cedar Cottage The Street Occold Suffolk

RESPONSE- The proposed building is substantial in size and will, mainly, be constructed outside the permitted development land (ie land for which permission was given previously) as the application acknowledges. The size of the proposed building is inappropriate in the setting, having a footprint larger than any other properties in the immediate vicinity.

The topographical drawing shows none of the existing development of Cedar’s Rise, nor does it illustrate the impact of the new building on the skyline or on the properties situated on the other side of Church Street. It will dominate Cedars Cottage and detract from this historic building. The plans show a height of 6 metres for the new building, which is a significant height for a bungalow. It may soften the impact of the existing two storey development on the approach to Occold, however the design of the proposed building could be made more sympathetic to the neighbouring properties, particularly Cedar Cottage, and the rural location. This could be achieved by incorporating a sustainable less obtrusive ‘green’ design eg Sedum, which would blend in better as a ‘transition’ property.

However, this property could ‘book end’ the development of Cedar’s Rise so that there is no further development. This is the implication of the drawings, with a fence being erected around the boundary and a landscape planting barrier above Cedars Cottage. It would be important to confirm that a permanent fence boundary was part of a planning approval. It should also be clarified as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the environmental strip.

It is the view of the council that it should be a condition of any planning consent of any nature on this plot, to remove all permitted development rights to help ensure no future overdevelopment and also to guarantee the future certainty of the ecological net gain of the environmental strip.

DC/23/00259 | Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/04071 - Condition 3 (Biodiversity Enhancement Layout) | Hundred Lane Barn Benningham Green Occold Eye Suffolk IP23 7PF

RESPONSE – No objections

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DC/23/00350 | Application for Works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation Order - Fell 1No. Sycamore (T1) | 7 Old Rectory Gardens Occold Eye Suffolk IP23 7PD

RESPONSE – No objections

DC/23/00502 | Application for Works to Trees Subject to Tree Preservation Order MS11/A1- Fell 1No. Conifer (T1) | 13 Old Rectory Gardens Occold Eye Suffolk IP23 7PD

Application not considered - trees not subject to a Tree Preservation Order and hence planning permission not required

b. **Determined** – None

11. Financial Matters –

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

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary			254.96	Clerk Salary – Jan
Headway Suffolk	200.00		200.00	S137 donation
CAB Mid Suffolk	200.00		200.00	S137 donation
East Anglian Air Ambulance	200.00		200.00	S137 donation
Cllr C Cripps			55.00	Flowers for departing Clerk
RECEIPTS				
None				

12. Correspondence – received since the last Meeting

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
27 Jan 23	Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk	Cost of living forum invitation	Noted
24 Jan 23	BMSDC	Street Name and Numbering Policy 2023	Noted
19 Jan 23	Richard Livall	Parish Biodiversity Action Plans & Ecological Assessments	Noted
7 Jan 23	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)	Update letter and Report	Noted

13. **Date of next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 6th March 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed as a true record of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 6th February 2023

Chair.....