



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 6th November 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, T Weller, H Stone, A Hall
DCllr Lucy Elkin, and CCllr Andrew Stringer

Apologies accepted – None

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)

Supporting Suffolk Farmers

Councillors voted at the Council meeting in October to approve a motion supporting local farmers and food producers by ensuring that local products were served at Council events. The Council also pledged to encourage Suffolk residents to buy local produce and shop locally wherever possible.

Walking and bridleway access

The Suffolk Local Access Forum presented their annual report to the Cabinet in October which included work they are doing to improve and maintain footways and access around the County. They raised concerns about large scale energy infrastructure projects planned for the County impacting on the County’s natural environment.

Suffolk Pharmacies

Councillors attended Health Scrutiny looking at the service provided by pharmacies in Suffolk and the challenges they face. Recommendations were made to write to the minister about funding.

Budget Consultation

Suffolk County Council has launched an online consultation to give Suffolk residents, businesses and communities an opportunity to have a say in budget setting for 2024-25.

Storm Babet Flooding

Suffolk County Council expressed thanks to all who helped residents who were affected by the flooding from Storm Babet. The Council has an area on the website for anyone affected where they can obtain support and advice.

CCllr A Stringer also expressed his thanks to the local community in Occold for rallying to support residents in the village. A discussion on the flooding in Occold specifically, concluded that the ability of the emergency drains at the end of the drive of the Village Hall and Bulls Hall Road are of concern to cope in significant rain events.

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Report from District Councillor Lucy Elkin (summary)

Flooding

The Council has been working hard to help residents affected by flooding following Storms Babet and Ciaran. There is a reporting tool on the Suffolk County Council where householders are urged to report damage. The Government has announced financial support for flooded homes and businesses.

Further discussion on the flooding specifically linked to Occold concluded that DCllr Elkin would liaise with Highways to see if the drains system can be improved and follow up known flooding spots. It was also concluded that the development of a community flood plan for the village (based on the Environment Agency Plan) could be developed.

Solar and low carbon energy

A 'position statement' on low carbon energy has been agreed by Mid Suffolk Council.

Sustainable transport

A working group to be formed to review sustainable integrated transport in the District.

Cosy Homes Launch

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

Council housing repairs

The new administration is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs.

Your community your say

A consultation process giving residents the opportunity to have their say on initial ideas from MSDC on planned priorities for the District has been launched.

First 'State of the District' report

Mid Suffolk has produced its first 'State of the District' report with data and insights on a range of issues.

Pride in your Place grant - extended

The deadline for the Pride in your Place grants to support improvements in litter picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal etc has been extended to the end of November.

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 2nd October 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. Cllr Duggett reported that 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 submitted and he was awaiting a response. He reported that the SID will need to be adapted to take the solar panel at a cost of £55.

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b. To consider new projects for CIL Funding – In light of the flooding experienced during Storms Babet and Ciaran, it was suggested that resources (eg pumps, flood signs, cones etc) could be purchased to support the community in the case of future flooding events. Cllr Weller offered to look into options and costs for flood signs and Cllr Duggett offered to research pumps. It was also suggested that Grit bins may be of benefit to the community through the winter. Cllr Weller and Cllr Hubner offered to look into options and costs for these. It was also resolved for the Clerk to present a breakdown of the CIL monies held at the December meeting.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

a. Cllr Stone reported that the Grant for the Neighbourhood Plan had been received. The draft survey was currently with Ian Poole for review to check that it worked electronically and with the Landscape Consultant for the opportunity to add any questions. The next stage is to release the survey at a community event and the working group.

b. Consideration was given to funding a prize draw to encourage participation in the resident's survey. It was resolved to fund prizes to the values of £350 and an additional £150 donation to Charity.

7. Governance – None.

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

a. Cllr Duggett had circulated the SID report for October. The highest inbound speed recorded for the unit on Mill Road was 57mph at 05:20 on 6th October. The average speed for all vehicles was 23mph, 85% of vehicles did not exceed 30mph. For the unit at the Church 85% of vehicles did not exceed 24mph. The highest inbound speed recorded on this unit was 50mph at 03:00 on 5th October. In general, the SIDs are working well and seemed to be having an effect on traffic.

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 – During the period from 1st-8th September when the village hosted the ANPR camera, 431 photos had been taken, 106 vehicles exceeded 24mph which would receive letters. The fastest speed recorded was 39mph. It appeared to be worthwhile hosting the camera and the opportunity to do so again would be taken should it be available.

c. School Safety Project – CCllr Stringer reported that he was in communication with the school to arrange an on-site meeting to go over the draft plans, although a date had still not been set.

9. Items for Discussion

a. Flooding following Storm Babet – discussed previously in item 3.

b. Occold Circular walk leaflets – Cllr Hall reported that SCC had asked for some architectural/archaeological highlights about the village to be included in the leaflet. As there were not any of these to include they were proceeding with the leaflet and she was waiting for the draft.

Cllr Chittock reported that there was a locked gate in place at times on the permissive footpath on Redhouse Lane. Cllr Hall agreed to look into this and report back at the next meeting.

c. Setup of a village Post Office – Cllr Hall reported that during a Councillor Induction training course

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she had learnt that Parish Councils have the power to open a Post Office. A discussion was held as to whether this should be something that should be considered and looked into further by Occold Parish Council. It was resolved a better option might be to look into the feasibility of hosting a mobile Post Office. DCllr Elkin offered to look into this possibility further.

d. The Council resolved to donate £60 to the Royal British Legion in lieu of the poppy wreath. Cllr Hubner would attend the service at the Church on Remembrance Sunday and lay the wreath.

10. Planning

- a. **New Applications** – There were no new applications to consider.
- b. **Determined** – DC/23/04162 | Land North of Cedars Close, Occold, Suffolk | Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of an agricultural building to form 1 dwelling

Decision – Refused

- c. **Appeal Submitted** – 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

11. Financial Matters

- a. The following payments were approved:

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Staff salary	254.96		254.96	Clerk Salary – October 2023
RECEIPTS				
CIL Payment	3528.82			
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	9620.00			

12. Correspondence - Correspondence received from Groundwork East (Net zero and energy efficiency support) and BMSDC (Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations) was noted, no action required.

13. Date of next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 4th December 2023. The Clerk requested for the date of the January meeting to be changed from 8th to 15th January 2024. This was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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