



OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 9th January 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, A Hall, M Grange, Cllr Andrew Stringer.

Apologies accepted – Cllr H Stone, 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)

Budget

The first proposals for the 2023/24 budget are for SCC planning to increase tax by 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept).

County Deal Update

National government met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal which will agree to devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education.

The headline '£480m' is over 30 years – equating to only around £16m a year. Just under £6m has been agreed for new affordable housing, this equates to under 30 homes. The deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation.

New SCC Website

Suffolk County Council have launched their new website, aimed to be easier and simpler. This platform is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities.

To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Modern Slavery

As the Council's modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities.

General signs of modern slavery can include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse. If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Police on 101, or the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 0800 121 700 – if there is immediate danger, phone 999.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/modern-slavery>

Suffolk looks for more hosts!

Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK).

If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

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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 of 5th December 2022 were approved and signed.
- b. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. **CIL Funding** - The CIL money available stands at £5156.59 (not including £2,000 set aside for the school safety project). Cllr Duggett suggested that the purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera to survey properties to save energy may be a benefit to the village and worth considering for use of CIL Money. It was resolved for Cllr Grange and Cllr Duggett to look into options and report back to the next meeting.

6. **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Clerk confirmed that the application had been made for the relevant grants through the Government’s Neighbourhood Plan Grant programme. In the absence of Cllr Stone there was no further update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Governance

The Clerk had received notice from BMSDC that no election had been requested for the Councillor vacancy, so the Council were now able to co-opt. The vacancy to be advertised on the website and in the Oracle magazine.

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

- a. Cllr Duggett had circulated the report for December. The highest speeds recorded were 56mph (inbound on Wednesday 21st at 17:05) and 76mph (outbound on Friday 16th at 20:20).

When comparing data from the previous year, there is a suggestion that the SID located outside the church is moderately bringing speeds down. The data also shows that 85% of the traffic passing through the village is travelling at 30mph or less.

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

- b. Cllr Duggett confirmed that the village would be hosting the ANPR camera the week beginning 23rd January 2023 and this would be placed in position outside the church where the SID is currently located.

9. Items for Discussion –

- a. Occold Circular walk leaflets – Cllr Hall confirmed she had walked the circular walk and photographed junctions on the walk. She suggested it would be useful to have a map of the walk, with photographs, on the village website. Some parts of the walk were impassable, particularly around Church Farm and Wood House Farm and in some places the footpath had been diverted. Cllr Hall confirmed she would

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approach landowners and report back at the next meeting. Cllr Stringer informed the Council that definitive footpath maps could be found on the SCC website.

- b. 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 suggested that information should be posted on the village website inviting residents to get in contact if they are interested in having their homes surveyed.

10. Planning -

The Clerk reported that Planning Application DC/22/04695 - Erection of 1 Agricultural Workers dwelling with attached double garage for farm manager (re-submission of DC/21/06625). | Castle Hill Farm Castle Hill Thorndon Suffolk had been withdrawn.

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

11. Financial Matters –

- a. The Quarter 3 Financial Report was received and approved. Current Bank Balance - £18,076.27.
- b. The Section 137 Grants for financial year 2022/23 were discussed and resolved as follows –
 - i. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk £200.00
 - ii. East Anglian Air Ambulance £200.00
 - iii. Headway £200.00

It was suggested information/links to the Charities supported could be added to ORAC and the village website. This was unanimously agreed.

- c. The budget for 2023/24 was discussed. It was suggested Cllr Hall, as a new Councillor, should attend SALC training. Following discussion of ways to celebrate the King’s Coronation, it was resolved that planting a celebration tree may be a suitable special project. The Budget was resolved at £9,825.00 made up from a precept request for £8,800 (No change from the previous year) with £1025.00 taken from reserves. This precept gives the Parish a Council Tax Band D amount of £42.80. This is an increase of 1.36% on 2022/23.

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

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
ORAC	20.00		20.00	Additional Hall Hire for New Clerk Handover
Staff salary			264.44	Clerk Salary (Joy Hart) – Dec
Staff salary			254.96	Clerk Salary (Libby Alexander) – Dec
HMRC			288.20	PAYE Q3
RECEIPTS				
None				

12. Correspondence – received since the last Meeting

Date	From	Detail	Actions, if any
Dec 22	Citizens Advice	Annual update for consideration of donation	Granted as above

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Dec 22	Headway Suffolk	Annual update for consideration of donation and mobile shop	Granted as above
Dec 22	Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council	Consultation of revisions to the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Planning Local Validation List (LVL)	Noted
Dec 22	Chris Hook	Tree Planting	Resolved to respond, informing that the Council were hoping to plant a tree for the King's Coronation

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

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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