

MINUTES

of the Annual Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 9th May 2011 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr R Burnett, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner, Mr J Hewitson,

Also present Mr Brian Hull

1. Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Election of Chairman

The six re-elected Councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office. As retiring Chairman Mr Chittock asked for nominations for Chairman for the forthcoming year. There was a single proposal that Mr Chittock should be re-elected. Mr Chittock was willing to stand again and was unanimously elected.

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Miller stating that he had chosen not to stand for re-election for this term. Mr Hull, however, had submitted his nomination papers but they had gone missing in the post and did not reach Mid Suffolk in time. There were consequently three vacancies on the Parish Council. Mr Hull was unanimously co-opted to fill one of these and immediately signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillors were asked to consider who else in the village may be interested in standing and to encourage them to put their name forward before the next meeting. Clerk to advertise the two remaining vacancies

2. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andrew Stringer and District Councillor Charles Tilbury.

Councillors had each been provided with a copy of the Register of Interests to be completed and were reminded that the Clerk needed to send these in to Mid Suffolk before 2nd June

3. Reports from County Councillor and Community Police Officer

3(1) County Councillor report

The Clerk read out a report from County Councillor Andrew Stringer to the meeting. See Appendix

3(2) Community Police Officer report

PCSO Chris Bales arrived to give the police report to the meeting but this had already been read out at the Annual Meeting. See Appendix. He was asked if the two crimes in Occold had been detected. The recent heating oil theft had not and he was not sure about the theft from a vehicle but would check up and let the Parish Council know

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 4th April 2011, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

5. Matters Arising

5(1) Items 4(1) and 4(2) 4.4.11: Bus stop

New timetables for the bus shelter had been promised but had not yet been delivered. ORAC had enquired about the seeding of the area around the hardstanding. Mr Hull had not been able to do this yet because of the long period of dry weather. It was reported that roosting birds on the lines over the bus stop were fouling the shelter and pavement and it was asked whether anything could be done to prevent this

5(2) Item 4(4) 4.4.11: Brome Household Waste Recycling Centre

A letter had been received from Suffolk County Council stating that the HWRC at Brome and six others would now be kept open until 31st July owing to the amount of public response to the announcement of their closure, whilst other options for running them are explored. In view of this the Parish Council decided to postpone the planned open meeting until more was known about the future of the Brome site

5(3) Item 5(2) 4.4.11: Parking at school

The Clerk read out a response from Julia Proctor at SCC. The white lines are advisory only and overuse can decrease their impact. Yellow lines require a TRO and are costly to implement. They also require police enforcement to be effective. She believes that it is up to the school to be pro-active about parents' parking and is putting the school travel plan advisor Nicola Fowler in touch with the school to help solve the problem

5(4) Item 5(3) 4.4.11: Electoral Roll

There are discrepancies with regard to the numbering of Tudor Court and also most of the houses on Church Street appear as The Street. Clerk was asked to contact the Electoral Roll Officer to advise him of this

5(5) Item 5(6) 4.4.11: Village of the Year competition

The Clerk was asked to complete an entry form for Occold

5(6) Item 10(1) 4.4.11: Memorial to Robert Owen

The Clerk had still not heard from SALC whether or not the Parish Council has powers to buy something as a memorial to Robert Owen. Consequently she had not yet written to Grace Owen with condolences from the Parish Council. Clerk to chase up a response from SALC

6. Correspondence

6(1) Correspondence for circulation – Letter from Andrew Good, retiring Chief Executive of Mid Suffolk District Council; LAIS Up2Date 110426; LAIS1319.1 Car allowances and LAIS1320 Parish Financial Data; extract from NALC e-bulletin dated 15/4/11 concerning planning issues; *The Local Councillor* Issue 1 2011; *Suffolk View* Spring 2011; South and Heart of Suffolk Walking Festival booklet; LAIS 1314.3 Localism Bill Update; joint newsletter from Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils *Facing the Future*

6(2) The Clerk read out a letter from a school parent about road signs being dirty and/or obscured by hedges. Mr Burnett had already cleaned the 20mph signs near his house and

Mr Hubner volunteered to clean the school warning triangle sign outside The Beeches and ask Donald Turner about cutting back part of his hedge so that it clearly visible

6(3) Information had been received regarding Digital Switchover Help Scheme. Clerk to arrange for posters to be displayed and information to appear in Oracle

7. Parish Paths Partnership

7(1) The path clearance work at the end of April had been very successful with all paths now cut. Mr Hewitson particularly wanted to thank volunteers Ray Quinton, Alfred Jones and Sue and Tiny Welch for their help

7(2) Notification of the Rights of Way Clearance Programme 2011 had been received from SCC. They will cut the Hundred Lane bridleway as in previous years

8. Planning Matters

8(1) It was noted that permission has been granted for the following applications: -
PA 0588/11 Erection of single storey front extension at Mistletoe, Tudor Court
PA 0607/11 Erection of two storey extension at 5 Tudor Court
PA0513/11 Erection of two bay detached cart-lodge at The Cedars, The Street
PA 0858/11 Tree works at 1 Old Rectory Gardens

9. Finance

9(1) The Clerk was appointed as Responsible Financial Officer for forthcoming year

9(2) The internal audit had recently been carried out and the internal auditor's report was read out to the meeting and gained approval

9(3) The Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 was submitted to the council. Both the accounting statements and annual governance statement were approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

9(4) Letters had been received from Occold PCC and Occold Baptist Church acknowledging the recent donations made to them. In response to an enquiry from the Parish Council the Baptist Chapel treasurer had itemised some of the projects on which money donated by the Parish Council had been used. It was noted that not all of these related to maintenance of the building and it was agreed that when another donation is made it should be emphasised that the money is intended only for the upkeep of the building in accordance with the statutory powers governing Parish Council expenditure

9(5) Two invoices were submitted for payment: -

SALC subscription - £206

ORAC Hall Hire for meetings 2011/12 - £132

Both approved. It was noted that the ORAC invoice included £11 for the hire of the hall for an extra meeting for the open meeting on waste. As this was now to be postponed the Clerk to ask if the extra fee can be held on credit until the meeting date is rearranged

9(6) The receipt of £3475 from Mid Suffolk District Council, being precept for first six

months of 2011/12, was noted

10. Matters to be advised (at the Chairman's discretion)

10(1) An email had been received from Mr Bill Stratton voicing concern over the number of dead rabbits being found around Mill Road, Barrack Lane and the field in between. The suspicion was that they had been poisoned as the Stratton's dog had been ill after eating one of the carcasses. Councillors could not explain why the rabbits were being found above ground – they would be expected to be in their burrows. Mr Cripps offered to get an analysis carried out at work to identify any poison if he could be provided with one of the bodies. Clerk to contact Bill Stratton and put him in touch with Mr Cripps

10(2) The Clerk informed Councillors that the addition of a new signatory on the Nationwide account requires all existing signatories to sign the form. In the case of Mr Owen this means that a certified copy of the Death Certificate will have to be taken into the bank and the new signatory will also have to attend with ID. Mrs Grange offered to be the additional signatory. Clerk to sort out paperwork

10(3) A copy of the re-submission of PA 096/10 for two wind turbines at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate had been received. The Parish Council had not commented on the original application owing to a lack of technical expertise and it was not felt necessary to hold a meeting to discuss this new application

10(4) Information had been received from Suffolk County Council about the streetlight dimming policy to be introduced to lights owned by them. This will not affect the majority of the village but may affect Ash Tree Close. Detailed information about which streets are affected is not yet available. To be put on the Agenda for the next meeting

10(5) An email had been received from Barry Woods asking if the Parish Council would consider being more pro-active about using the website, which will be moving to a new host soon. To be discussed at the June meeting

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 6th June 2011 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.20pm

APPENDIX

Reports given to meeting of Occold Parish Council held on 9th May 2011

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2. Community Police Officer's Report

1. County Councillor Report

Residential Care Home Consultation

The results of the consultation into the future of residential care home provision, has been announced. In a consultation that ran from 1.11.2010 to 24.1.2011 we asked Suffolk people what options they preferred, in transferring ownership of our 16 residential care homes.

The 3 options were;

- 1 Close the homes and buy alternative services from the independent sector
- 2 Sell the homes as "going concerns" in which existing residents are not required to move.
- 3 Close some homes and transfer the remaining homes to the independent sector.

Over a thousand responses came back, the key points identified were:

53% of people favoured selling homes as going concerns.

31% said they did not agree with any option.

10% of respondents said they supported closing some homes and transferring the remaining homes to the independent sector

6% of people said we should close all of our homes.

The findings of this report will be put to the Cabinet in May to approve which option to pursue.

This subject has increased my inbox considerably as families have been very concerned with potential disruption and uncertainty; this has caused some families to move relatives to other providers to mitigate the upheaval.

Conversations in "your place"

During the recent debate on the update on the "new strategic direction" specific officers were appointed to lead "your place" conversations regarding the potential outsourcing to parishes of certain services provided at the moment by SCC. (libraries, country parks etc) these conversations will lead to services being discussed not in a piecemeal, service by service fashion, but looking at these services as a whole. The officer assigned to our area is David Evans he lives in Haughley and is donating his time for free to work along side myself make sure our patch gets its voice heard. P.S "your place" has now been amended to "our place"

1 to 1 with the Chief

Last week I had another quarterly meeting with Andrea Hill, our much publicised Chief Executive. We did discuss at length the distraction that her salary, spending decisions etc are causing, and the impact this is having on her and our future. She did suggest that she would like to come to Upper Gipping to see some of the good work we do in our parishes, I welcomed this offer but did suggest she wear jeans and good boots when she comes.

Broadband Conference

Last month I attended a Broadband conference in Beccles, attended by 3 regional MP's and the minister Ed Vaisey. The conference focussed on the bid Suffolk has made for central government funding and the outstanding issues that need to be addressed to deliver adequate broadband to our area.

Andrew Stringer andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk

01449 780339

07774 199061

2. Community Police Officer Report

Reported Crimes.

There have been TWO reported crime in the Parish of Occold during the past year. In June 2010 there was a theft from a motor vehicle and in March 2011 heating oil was taken.

Security of Outbuildings.

Between March 29 and April 28, 29 outbuildings, 11 of which were left unlocked or open were targeted across Mid Suffolk.

Garages, Sheds and workshops across the district were broken into with items such as lawn mowers, bicycles, tools and electrical equipment stolen.

Our advise is never to leave items of value unattended in gardens or on display in outbuildings. Mesh or bars can be fixed to windows and UV pens or SmartWater can be used to mark items. Ensure that buildings are locked and bicycles and ladders are locked up, and smaller items kept out of sight.

Vehicles should be secured in garages or parked in open well-lit areas. Take pictures of valuable items or register them on the National database "Immobilise."

Loft insulation Scam.

Suffolk Trading Standards are warning people to be on their guard after reports of unsolicited telephone calls from traders offering to conduct loft insulation surveys, paid for by government grants.

Always ask for proof of identity and report any suspicious calls to Consumer Direct 08454 04 05 06.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR ARE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING REPORT IT ON 01473

613500 and IF YOU THINK A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED ALWAYS DIAL 999.

PC. Andy Pursehouse Gains Prestigious Award.

Andy Pursehouse who you all know as one of Debenhams Police Constables has been awarded the **The Sheepshank Award**.

This Award is presented to recognise the outstanding professionalism, dedication, and commitment of Police Community Officers in Suffolk over a continuous 12 month period.

HOW ARE WE DOING

Suffolk is a very safe County, Crime levels, based on our figures to the end of December 2010, were slightly down from the previous year meaning crime has declined every year for a decade.

Priorities

- Along with our partners, we are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across the county. Together we have developed Minimum Standards of service for victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour, ensuring a high level of service is provided across the county.

The current Priorities for Mid Suffolk Central are:-

- To investigate improving Road Safety, with other Agencies, in the area of The Stonham Aspal Primary School, A1120 (IP14 6AF) for pedestrians, involving looking at road/pavement layout and other methods.
- Crime Preventative Initiative in respect of Theft From/Tampering with motor vehicles in Gardeners Road (IP14 - 6Qy/6RX/6RZ/6SD) and The Meadows estate (IP14 6SJ/6SL) in Debenham.
- Road Safety in respect of Cycle use by children at Schools in the IP14 area.

Have Your Say

The Community Priority Setting Meeting is now open to the public and is where our priorities for the following month will be set, please come along and raise any issues.

The next meeting will be on **4th August 2011**, at a venue to be advised.

Meetings start at 7.00pm and finish at 8pm. All members of the Parish Council as well as the public are invited to attend when they can bring any issues/concerns to the meetings attention.

Please contact us to find out when later meetings are, alternatively the information is on our website.

Quality of service

If you would like to tell us your views on the service that you have received from us or just to say how nice it is to see a Police Officer in your village, please let us know. We appreciate all feedback & comments from residents within our SNT area.

Contact us

Tel: 01473 613500 & ask to speak to the Mid Suffolk Central Team

E-mail: midsuffcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral - please visit our website which is updated regularly.

Kind regards

PC 873 Clare Wayman and PCSO 3192 Steve Johnson.

Mid Suffolk Central SNT
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Low Road
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IP14 6QU