

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 17th September 2012 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr B Hull, Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr J Hewitson, Mrs Di Noller

There were also about 20 parishioners present

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Hubner who was unable to get away from work. Mr Hull (as landowner) and Mr Hewitson (as a neighbour of the site) each declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 2

2. Planning Application 2548/12 for 3 Wind turbines at Church Farm, Occold

Mr Hull and Mr Hewitson left the room

Vice Chairman Mr Cripps took the chair. The plans were displayed and the meeting closed for public discussion

When the meeting was reopened councillors considered the application. It was clear that there were local concerns about the proposal arising from the close location of Church Farm to the village, including potential noise and a loss of visual amenity for nearby residents which may give rise to a loss in property values. It was also pointed out that a bridleway passed close to the proposed site of the turbines and there would be a detrimental impact for users of this

The Parish Council was concerned to hear that residents in Old Rectory Gardens, which back onto Church Farm land, had not been notified of the application by the District Council

Whilst the application did include pictures of the current views from Redlingfield Road and the Eye Road (B1077) these did not include any visualisations of the proposed turbines. Nor was there any representation of the view from the rear of properties in Old Rectory Gardens. Therefore Councillors did not feel that they could make an informed judgement about the likely impact of the proposal on the landscape

The Clerk was asked to pass on these comments to the planning authority

Mr Hull and Mr Hewitson returned to the meeting, Mr Hull took the chair

3. Mid Suffolk/Babergh District Councils' community engagement process

Councillors had completed the questionnaire forms and these were collected by the Clerk for forwarding to the District Council

4. Village Review

The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Annette Gray from SuffolkACRE would be attending the meeting on Monday 8th October, at 7.30pm, to explain about Village Reviews. Councillors had been forwarded the information that she had sent in advance

5. Finance

5(1) Submitted for payment an invoice from BDO for audit services £120 + £24vat =£144.
Approved

5(2) The amount of a donation to be made under s145 towards the costs of Richard Dunnett's homecoming reception held in July was considered. It was agreed that the Parish Council would cover the cost of the band which had been £250. As they had already been paid on the day the Clerk asked for a receipt to be provided showing who should be reimbursed for the cost of hiring the band. A cheque can then be issued

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

6(1) Mr Hull had spoken to both Mr Hopkinson and Mr Owen about the possibility of standing for co-option. They were both still considering whether or not to do so

6(2) The Clerk asked whether Councillors were happy for her to send comments about the possible funding of a speed camera on the A140 from County Councillors' Locality Budget (see Item 4(5) 10.9.12) via Redlingfield Parish Council rather than direct to Guy MacGregor as had been suggested at last week's meeting. She felt that this was more appropriate as he was not Occold's County Councillor and it was possible that Redlingfield had already discussed the possibility with him

Meeting closed 9.30pm

