

MINUTES

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

Present: Mr B Hull, Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr J Hewitson, Mr S Hubner (for part of meeting)

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mrs Noller and also from County Councillor Andrew Stringer, District Councillor Charles Tilbury and the Community Police Support Officer

2. Presentation by Annette Gray, Suffolk ACRE on Neighbourhood Plans and Parish Plans

Mrs Gray gave a very helpful description of the various features of Neighbourhood and Parish Plans and the work and projected costs involved in formulating both. She explained that the first step is to determine what housing allocation has been given to Occold in the Local Development Framework as this will influence which type of plan is more appropriate. A NP, if accepted, becomes a statutory planning document which must be taken into account when planning decisions are made. However, it cannot contradict national planning policy nor prevent development, only be used to control the type and possible appearance of development allocated to the area concerned. These are expensive to produce, possibly in the region of £17,000, and no grant funding is available. By contrast a PP can be regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions but has no statutory standing. These are cheaper to produce, about £8000 for a village the size of Occold, and funding is currently available from several sources including Awards for All. A PP covers social economic and environmental issues as well as planning matters, and it is advisable to carry out a Housing Needs Survey at the same time. Suffolk ACRE is able to provide guidance and software for both types of plan. The Clerk was asked to check on the LDF and report to Councillors before the next meeting when the possibility of undertaking a Parish Plan was to be considered

3. Reports from County Councillor, District Councillor, Community Police Officer

3(1) County Councillor report

County Councillor Andrew Stringer had sent his report to the meeting. See Appendix

3(2) District Councillor report

District Councillor Charles Tilbury had sent his report to the meeting. See Appendix

3(3) Community Police Officer report

The police report had been sent to the meeting. See Appendix

4. Minutes of the previous Meetings held on Monday 10th and Monday 17th September 2012, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

5. Matters Arising

5(1) Item 3(1) 10.9.12: Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported that she still had to arrange for a link from the Occold website to the MSDC Register of Interests pages

5(2) Item 3(1) 10.9.12: Standing Orders to be amended

SALC had confirmed that the new Suffolk Code of Conduct did not require any specific wording to be included in the Standing Orders. The other amendments were agreed. Clerk to type up a clean copy for signature at the next meeting

5(3) Items 3(3) 10.9.12 and 6(1) 17.9.12: Vacancies

An email had been received from Richard Owen expressing an interest in standing for one of the vacancies. His co-option was approved. Clerk to notify him and send him all the necessary paperwork

5(4) Items 3(4) 10.9.12 and 5(2) 17.9.12: Richard Dunnett's celebration - see Finance

5(5) Item 4(2) 10.9.12: Newsletter of the Year competition

Unfortunately the current issue of Oracle was delayed so the deadline for submitting an entry for the competition had been missed this year

5(6) Item 4(4) 10.9.12: Phone box

The Clerk reported that following a report to BT repairs and cleaning of the phone box had been carried out

5(7) Item 4(5) 10.9.12 and 6(2) 17.9.12: A140 Speed Camera at Brome

Comments had been passed to Redlingfield Parish Council but no response had yet been received

6. Correspondence

6(1) Correspondence for circulation: MSDC *Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12*; Suffolk ACRE *Local Suffolk Foods* newsletter and email; LAIS 1342 *Council Tax*; LAIS 1343 *Rural Statement 2012*; LAIS 1344 *Section 106*; LAIS Up2Date 120928; *The Local Councillor 3/2012*; Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils *Affordable Housing* e-newsletter

6(2) A letter had been received from MSDC about its success in the Clean Britain Awards and offering litter picking equipment to groups wishing to carry out autumn clear-ups

6(3) A letter had been received from MSDC/Babergh Monitoring Officer about the need for Parish Councils to remain politically neutral with regard to candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election to be held in November

6(4) Information had been received from SuffolkACRE about the Suffolk Car Share scheme. Poster to be put on the noticeboard

7. Public Footpaths

Mr Hewitson reported that on a recent inspection of the path to the rear of the Village Hall and The Causeway it appeared that someone else had already cut them. He intended to look at doing some clearance of Red House Lane later in the autumn as it was very

overgrown

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Mr Hewitson gave a report on SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting held on 20th September 2012. See Appendix

8(2) Details had been received of Councillor Training Courses organised by SALC for Saturday 13th October and Saturday 20th October 2012

8(3) Invitation to attend SALC AGM 7pm on Monday 12th November 2012 at Haughley Park Barn (with exhibition and drinks reception from 4pm, presentation on insurance advice 4.30-5pm and buffet dinner at 5.30pm)

8(4) Community Emergency Planning Workshops were being organised by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils with the Environment Agency and the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit on 30th and 31st October 2012

9. Finance

9(1) The amended Financial Regulations were adopted and signed

9(2) Items 3(4) 10.9.12 and 5(2) 17.9.12: Richard Dunnett's celebration

It had been agreed that the Parish Council would provide reimbursement for the cost of the band, but the correct paperwork was still needed

9(3) It was noted that the second instalment of annual precept amounting to £3475 had been received

9(4) It was noted that a request for a donation had been received from the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project. The Clerk to send the usual acknowledgement

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

10(1) It was noted that a screening request had been made to the planning authority for a large solar park on Castle Hill

10(2) It was noted that a review was being undertaken of car parking facilities operated by the District Council. This mainly concerned provision in Stowmarket. As the deadline for responses was before the next meeting councillors did not consider that the matter merited calling an extra meeting to discuss it

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 5th November 2012 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.30pm