

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 7th October 2013 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps (in the chair), Mrs D Noller, Mr P Standford

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mrs Grange, Mr Hubner and Mr Hull

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

2(1) County Councillor report

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

2(2) District Councillor report

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

2(3) Community Police Officer report

The Clerk read the police report to the meeting. See Appendix

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 10th September 2013, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(2) 10.9.13: Emergency arrangements at HLS

Although unable to attend the meeting Mrs Grange had informed the Clerk that HLS did have arrangements in place for emergencies and were looking to provide a copy of these for the Parish Council's records

4(2) Item 4(3) 10.9.13: Dog waste bin near Cedars Close

Mr Cripps reported that after the last meeting he had been approached by a resident of Cedars Close again asking for a dog waste bin to be provided at that end of the village. Despite being invited to put the request in writing to the Clerk with an indication of how many people supported the idea, nothing had been received to date. As the Parish Council had previously decided against providing a fifth bin for this purpose on the basis of both the cost of purchase and the on-going cost of emptying it, there was no basis on which to change that decision. It had been reported that the bin on Redlingfield Road was difficult to access because of brambles, etc. surrounding the post. Mr Hull had volunteered to have a look and clear around it before he went on holiday

4(3) Item 4(4) 10.9.13: Potholes in Barrack Lane

The Clerk had received a request from SCC for a more accurate location of the potholes reported but on driving down the road recently she had been unable to find any. It would seem that the repairs had already been carried out

4(4) Item 4(5) 10.9.13: Obstructed footpath

The details had been passed to Thorndon Parish Council's footpaths warden to look into

4(5) Item 5(2) 10.9.13: Vacancy

As no bye-election had been requested the Returning Officer had given permission for the vacancy to be filled by co-option. The vacancy was already being advertised, and a couple of residents were thought to be interested

4(6) Item 5(3) 10.9.13: Speed of vehicles through village

The Clerk had written to the bus company but had received no response. The SNT team had said they would bring their speed gun but no-one had yet seen them here. Mr Cripps informed the meeting that Norfolk Constabulary arranged for speed wires to be installed at trouble spots which were able to monitor speeds and types of vehicles passing through over a couple of weeks. The data collected could then be used to pinpoint the best times for deploying a speed gun. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask if this could be done here, but to go to the county Traffic Police rather than the local SNT

4(7) Item 10(2) 10.9.13: Councillor profiles for website

The website had been updated with regard to the councillors currently on the council, but profiles were still needed for several members

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation - *Suffolk View* Autumn 2013; *Town and Parish Newsletter* from Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils September 2013; copies of correspondence regarding precepts and grants to local councils from SALC to Charlie Adan and from Brandon Lewis MP

5(2) A letter had been received from the Emergency Planning Officer about operating a scheme of winter gritting team volunteers. The Clerk was asked to obtain the necessary information and then advertisements for volunteers could be placed in Oracle in December and on the website. Ideally it would be best to have one person in charge of each grit heap with maybe a couple of extra helpers

5(3) Information had been received from District Councils about Fit Villages/Suffolk Sport and a recent consultation that had found that 86% of respondents were interested in setting up or participating in locally based sporting activity or exercise. Parish Councils were asked to help in putting the right people in touch with the funding body. Mrs Noller took the letter to contact the sender for an article to be placed in the Oracle

5(4) As mentioned in the Police Report (see Item 2 (3)) there had recently been an incident involving one of the tenants in Redlingfield Road flats which included police attendance and the alleged breaking down of a door. There was concern on the effect of this sort of occurrence on the elderly residents living in the same block and councillors were puzzled as to the housing policy that was used to place such tenants in Occold. District Councillor Tilbury had spoken to the Head of Housing at MSDC, Martin King, who had been unaware of the incident, and was waiting for a response from him

6. Public Footpaths

Mr Standford had volunteered to take over some of the duties of footpath warden and had walked the circular route with Mr Hewitson recently to familiarise himself with the rights of way network in the parish. Clerk to hand over the maps and associated paperwork to Mr Standford. There is a collapsed stile on one route that needs reporting

7. Planning Matters

7(1) PA 2146/13 Walnut Treet House: Erection of triple bay garage

It was noted that permission has been granted

7(2) PA 2372/13 Erection of single storey extension to studio to create an annex at Barleyfields, Bulls Hall Road, Occold

The plans were tabled and discussed. The proposal did not seem to have any adverse impact on neighbouring properties. Although it was noted that the current proposal had no kitchen facilities there was a concern that if these were added at a later date the development could potentially become a separate dwelling in the countryside. It was suggested that a proviso to the effect that the proposed development can only ever be used as an annex to the main dwelling be included in any permission granted

7(3) PA 2583/13 Erection of Stables Tack Room and Store Room at Malting Barn Dublin Road Occold

The plans were tabled and discussed. Councillors had no objection to the siting and design of the proposal, but agreed with the Conservation Officer's comments with regard to the materials to be used

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Invitation to attend Citizens Advice Bureau AGM on Weds 16th October at 12.45pm at Stowmarket Community Centre

8(2) Invitation to attend SALC AGM on Tuesday 12th November 7-9.30pm (preceded by drinks and buffet for £12 per head) at Henley Community Centre

9. Finance

9(1) Changes to the cheque signatories were required due to Mr Hewitson's resignation. Mr Hull had offered to become the third signatory. All in agreement. Clerk to complete the necessary forms

9(2) Submitted for payment an invoice from SCC for installation of 14 Telecells to street lighting units £630. Approved.

The Clerk was asked to check with SCC that the street lights were all operating under the new timings as it was thought that some in The Street were still on at night

9(3) Submitted for payment invoice from SALC for 10 copies of The Good Councillors Guide £28 + £1.90VAT = £29.90. Approved

9(4) Noted receipt of £3,500 from MSDC as second instalment of precept

9(5) It was noted that the insurance policy renewed at a cost of £265, which is the minimum annual premium under a 3 year agreement, as agreed at last meeting

10. Date of next meeting is Monday 11th November 2013 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.10pm