

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 10th February 2014 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner (for part of meeting), Mr B Hull, Mrs D Noller, Mr R Owen, Mr P Standford

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Hubner who hoped to arrive before the end of the meeting

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) Community Police Officer report

PC Jayne Gardiner gave the police report to the meeting. See Appendix

2(3) District Councillor report

The Clerk read the report to the meeting. See Appendix

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 10th January 2014, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 2(1) 13.1.2014: Woodland offset scheme

Cllr Stringer had confirmed that any letter from the Parish Council should go direct to Mr Paterson's office. Clerk was asked to write to express the Parish Council's concern over the threat to ancient woodland

4(2) Item 4(1) 13.1.2014: Speed of vehicles through village

Cllr Stringer explained that the comments quoted in the local press about the effectiveness of the 20mph limit in Occold related to the fact that the limit did appear to bring down the average speed of vehicles to below 30mph, whereas many surrounding villages had average speeds of 36mph or more. Parish Councillors were of the opinion that more should be done to ensure that vehicles are travelling at 20mph or less. The fact that Occold has no paved footway for pedestrians was cited as a reason for being vigilant about vehicle speeds. When asked about enforcement PC Gardiner said that the PCSO had visited Occold with the speed gun several times recently but had not recorded any speeding vehicles. She explained that police procedures currently have an expectation that 20mph limits should be self-enforcing due to highway design features. Cllr Stringer mentioned a trial scheme about to start in Thorndon with movable flashing signs that light up when the speed limit is exceeded. The Parish Council is to be responsible for the maintenance and operation of these. Once this scheme is up and running it may be possible for Occold to have similar signs provided. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Passmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, requesting that Policy and Procedure with regard to 20mph enforcement be

reviewed to enable officers to take more action

4(3) Item 4(2) 13.1.2014: Volunteers for winter gritting

A request for volunteers had been placed on the noticeboard and on the website, and would appear in the next edition of the Oracle due out in early March. So far no-one had responded

4(4) Item 4(3) 13.1.2014: Housing Policy with regard to Redlingfield Road flats

Cllr Tilbury was not able to give any further information yet. It was reported to the Parish Council that some local residents are concerned that some of the flats appear empty most of the time, even though someone is supposedly living there. Clerk was asked to contact the Housing Officer to ask him to look into this

4(5) Item 4(4) 13.1.2014: Emergency planning

Mrs Grange had given the Clerk's email address to HLS for the emergency planning document to be sent to her but this had still not been received. Mrs Grange to follow up

4(6) Item 4(5) 13.1.2014: Vacancy

There were still no applicants for the vacancy

4(7) Item 4(6) 13.1.2014: Various signposts to be repaired/replaced

The repairs reported to SCC were still outstanding. There were some problems with getting this kind of work carried out at the moment because of the prolonged bad weather. Cllr Stringer asked the Clerk to send him a list of the reference numbers and dates when the problems were first reported so that he could collate them with all others in the area

4(8) Item 4(8) 13.1.2014: Review of Standing Orders

It was agreed that the best way to deal with this was for a committee of councillors to go through the changes and make recommendations to the full council at its next meeting. Mrs Noller, Mr Hubner and Mr Hull agreed to do this

4(9) Item 8(1) 13.1.2014: Clerk's Appraisal

This has now been completed satisfactorily

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation - SALC LAIS1362 *Allotment Disposal*; SALC LAIS1363 *Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014*; SALC e-Bulletin; copy of SALC email regarding Final Local Government Finance Settlement; District Councils' *Town and Parish Newsletter* January 2014; *The Local Councillor* Winter 2013/14; SALC LAIS1364 *VAT Consultation*; SALC LAIS Up2Date 140206

6. Public Footpaths

6(1) There was a broken FP sign at Occold Hall to be reported

6(2) Mr Stanford, as Footpaths Warden, said he intended to do a proper survey of the paths once the weather improved and would publicise the network of rights of way in the Oracle and on the website. The question was raised of how long an alternative route (other than the official right of way) could be used before rights accrued for walkers to carry on

using it. This will be looked into and the rules and regulations about footpath use explained as well

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Information had been received from Progress Power about proposed development on Eye Airfield site. The information was placed in the bundle for interest but councillors did not see the need to comment as Occold would not be directly affected by the proposals

7(2) PA 0042/14 Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch – 2 Cranley Cottages, Mill Road, Occold

Mrs Grange declared a LNPI as a neighbour of the property and knowing the family who own it

The plans were tabled and discussed. Although the proposed extension is very large relative to the size of the existing building it will have little effect on nearby properties as it is surrounded by open land. The majority of Councillors had no objections to the proposal

7(3) PA3610/13 Erection of single storey rear and side extension incorporating two bay carport (following demolition of existing garage/kennel) - Kings Farm, Cranley Road, Eye. As this is not in Occold, Councillors did not see the need to comment on the application

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Councillors were informed about a Public Transport Seminar – Bus Services, to be held on 24th February at Elmswell 10.00 to 15.30

8(2) The date of the next SALC Mid Suffolk North Meeting to be held on Thursday 13th March was noted

9. Finance

9(1) Acknowledgement of precept demand had been received from MSDC. Also, via SALC, confirmation had been received that Parish Councils would not be subject to referenda in 2014/15 with regard to the level of precept set

9(2) Submitted for payment invoice from SCC for street lighting maintenance and supply for 1.4.2013 to 31.3.2014 £578.75 + £115.75 VAT = £694.50. Approved

9(3) It was noted that acknowledgements had been received from East Anglian Children's Hospice, Marie Curie Cancer Care, MacMillan Cancer Support Suffolk, Eye & District Volunteer Centre, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, and East Anglian Air Ambulance for recent donations made

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

10(1) Several potholes were noted for the Clerk to report: -

on Mill Road inside the 20mph limit

Village Hall drive (already reported by Mrs Noller – reference number to be supplied)

on Church Street near junction with B1077 (already marked up)

Also, the ditch on the B1077 needs looking at again

10(2) Mr Hubner informed the council that tree works would soon be carried out in the churchyard and cemetery to deal with overgrowing branches

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 10th March 2014 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.40pm