

## MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, 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 whose train was running late

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

#### **2(1) County Councillor report**

The Clerk read out County Councillor Andrew Stringer's report to the meeting. See Appendix

Councillors were concerned to hear of the government's proposals to allow developers to offset removal of ancient woodland by planting of new trees elsewhere. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Stringer to ask what action could be taken

#### **2(2) District Councillor report**

The Clerk read District Councillor Charles Tilbury's report to the meeting. See Appendix

#### **2(3) Community Police Officer report**

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

It was noted that a police officer had not attended a meeting for a long time and the Clerk was asked to request that someone from the SNT attends the February meeting to take questions and comments from councillors

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting** held on Monday 9th December 2013, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **4(1) Item 4(1) 9.12.13: Speed of vehicles through village**

A response to SDR data had been expected from the Highways department at SCC. Andrew Stringer had been going to follow this up. Clerk was asked to contact him to find out what was happening. Also, with regard to a report in the Diss Express about the visit by the Green Party leader Natalie Bennett which seemed to state that the 20mph limit was "effective", to ask where the information to that effect had come from

#### **4(2) Item 4(2) 9.12.13: Volunteers for winter gritting**

The Clerk apologised that she had not yet got around to advertising the request for volunteers. To be actioned as soon as possible

#### **4(3) Item 4(3) 9.12.13: Housing policy with regard to Redlingfield Road flats**

There had still been no information from the District Council. Clerk was asked to follow up with District Councillor Tilbury

**4(4) Item 4(4) 9.12.13: Emergency planning**

Mrs Grange reported that a review of the HLS site arrangements was just coming to an end and that a copy of the emergency planning document should be available by the end of January

**4(5) Item 4(5) 9.12.13: Vacancy**

Still no applicants had come forward. Councillors were asked to be more active in seeking out people who might be interested

**4(6) Item 5(3) 9.12.13: B1077 signpost**

Although the Clerk had been informed that the post had been ordered it still had not been replaced. There was also the “bend” sign near the junction with Church Street and the 20mph sign on Mill Road outside Haven Cottage

**4(7) Item 5(4) 9.12.13: Suffolk Fire and Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan**

This had been circulated in the bundle but councillors did not have any comments to submit

**4(8) Item 9(4) 9.12.13: Review of Standing Orders in light of new Model**

The Clerk had briefly reviewed the changes to the Model Standing Orders. It was agreed that the best way to decide whether Occold Parish Council’s Standing Orders need amendment in light of them was for the Clerk to forward the marked up version to all councillors and then they could be discussed at the next meeting

**5. Correspondence**

**5(1)** Correspondence for circulation - *Town and Parish Newsletter* from District Councils December 2013; *Fit Villages* update; email from SALC/NALC and copy of Written Statement regarding Local Government Finance; *The Local Councillor* Issue 3 2013; *Clerks & Councils Direct* January 2014

**5(2)** An invitation for nominations for MSDC Community Achievement Awards had been received and councillors were asked to spread the word

**5(3)** SALC had asked for nominations of Chairmen for two places at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014. Councillors agreed that Mr Hull’s name should be put forward

**5(4)** An email had been received from Malcolm McKessar introducing himself as the new Community Watch Liaison Officer for Mid Suffolk at Suffolk Constabulary

**6. Public Footpaths**

**6(1)** It was reported that the footpath sign at the end of the drive adjacent Occold Hall was broken. Clerk to report to SCC

**7. Planning Matters**

**7(1)** Notice had been received of the adoption of Eye Airfield Planning Position Statement as non-statutory planning guidance by MSDC. It is available to view on the Eye Airfield pages in the Planning section of the Mid Suffolk District Council website

7(2) Application 3463/13 Reduce size of lime trees at 16 Old Rectory Gardens  
It was noted that permission has been granted

7(3) Application 2086/13 Agricultural Building at Occold Hall, Castle Hill, Occold  
It was noted that permission had been granted

### **8. Meetings and Training**

8(1) The Clerk's appraisal had not yet been completed, although Mr Hull and Mrs Noller had met to discuss this. To be completed before next meeting

### **9. Finance**

9(1) Dispensations had been granted to all councillors present in respect of setting the precept demand

The Budget and Expenditure for 2013/14 were reviewed and the Budget for 2014/15 set

The Budget for 2014/15 was set as follows: -

Administration	£3000
Training	£ 100
S137 Donations	£ 400
Church & Chapel	£1300
Cemetery grasscutting	£ 600
Water rate	£ 100
Street Lights	£1650 (including £750 towards new unit)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7150</b>

It was agreed to precept £7000, as last year. With the addition of the discretionary grant of £340.25 this would make the spending requirement for 2014/15 £7340.25 (cf £7567 last year due to larger discretionary grant)

9(2) It was noted that a cheque for £103.50 had been received from Henman's Charity. Clerk to acknowledge receipt

9(3) The charitable donations to be made in the current financial year were discussed and decided as follows: -

East Anglian Children's Hospice	-	£40
Marie Curie Cancer Care	-	£40
MacMillan Cancer Support Suffolk	-	£40
Eye & District Volunteer Centre	-	£40
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	-	£40
East Anglian Air Ambulance	-	£40
Vitalise	-	£40
Occold Pre-School	-	£60

With the £30 already paid to the Royal British Legion for the Poppy Wreath in November this brings the total charitable donations under S137 for the year to £370 (cf Budget of £400)

It was noted that councillors would like to consider making a larger donation for the Poppy Wreath next year as it will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the 1914-18 War

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

**10(1)** Mr Hull had completed the paperwork at the Nationwide and was now a signatory ofn the bank account

**10(2)** It was reported that the first streetlight on the left in Ash Tree Close was not working. Clerk to report

**11. Date of next meeting is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 8pm** in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.25pm