

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 7th April 2014 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner, Mr B Hull, Mrs D Noller, Mr P Standford

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Charles Tilbury
Mr Hull declared a DPI in respect of Item 7(1) PA 0813/14

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

2(1) District Councillor report

The Clerk read the report to the meeting. See Appendix

2(2) Community Police Officer report

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

2(3) County Councillor report

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

As the applicants were present it was agreed to consider Item 7(1) before the other business on the Agenda. Mr Hull left the room and Mr Cripps took the chair

7(1) PA 0813/14 Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extension, Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Occold

The plans were viewed and discussed. Mr Daniel Hull, the applicant, explained to councillors that the Planning Officer had requested a reduction in the size of the porch on the front of the house. The drawings seen by councillors had not been amended to show this. All were in favour of supporting the application

Mr Hull returned and resumed the chair

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

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 10.3.14: Woodland offset scheme

The Clerk read out a reply sent on behalf of the Rt Hon Owen Paterson assuring the Parish Council that there was no intention to change the biodiversity offsetting provisions to allow the replacement of ancient woodland with new planting

4(2) Item 4(2) 10.3.14: Speed of vehicles through village

- (a) County Cllr Stringer was happy to finance from his locality budget the purchase of around 50 hi-visibility bibs to be distributed to people who regularly walk through the village. They can be printed with the 20mph sign and "Occold" to reinforce the

message to drivers that they are in a 20mph speed restricted area. He is to send through the quotes to the Clerk

- (b) Councillors had been provided with information about the provision of moveable speed indicator signs and it was thought that this was worth pursuing. It would be difficult to share with another village such as Thorndon or Rishangles however as Occold has the mandatory 20mph limit whereas they have 30mph. It was thought that the cost might be in the region of £3500. Councillor Stringer might be able to help with a further grant from his Locality Budget, and there was thought to be some road safety money in reserves (Clerk to check). It was agreed to go ahead with requesting a survey and quote from the County Council

4(3) Item 4(3) 10.3.14: Redlingfield Road flats

Nothing more had been heard from the Housing Officer but it was thought locally that the tenant in question had been asked to leave the property

4(4) Item 4(4) 10.3.14: Emergency planning

Ms Gill Griffiths from HLS had been in touch offering to answer specific questions about their emergency planning arrangements or to visit the Parish Council. Clerk was asked to thank her and suggest she might talk to councillors later in the year, perhaps after the SALC meeting in June when Community Emergency Planning was to be discussed

4(5) Item 4(5) 10.3.14: Vacancy

There had still be no candidate come forward for co-option

4(6) Item 4(6) 10.3.14: Signposts and potholes for repair

Some potholes had started to be repaired in the area and the subsiding ditch on the B1077 had been repaired. To review again next month

4(7) Item 4(7) 10.3.14: Review of Standing Orders

There had still not been an opportunity to meet to discuss this. Mr Hubner and Mrs Noller agreed to proceed without Mr Hull in order to bring a recommendation to the full council

4(8) Item 5(1) 10.3.14: Correspondence for circulation – any matters arising

The issue of the possibility of members of the public being able to record council meetings and perhaps circulate this through social media was discussed

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation - *District Councils Newsletter* March 2014; *Smarter Choices Suffolk* newsletter March 2014; copy of Eye Town Council submission concerning extent of area to be covered by Neighbourhood Plan; *Local Councillor* Issue 1 2014; leaflet about *Heating Oil Security* from police SNT (Clerk to forward the other information on this to Mrs Noller for inclusion in the next Oracle)

5(2) An invitation to enter Village of the Year Competition had been received. It was decided not to enter

5(3) Information had been received from SALC about a consultation on a draft transparency

code for councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000. It seems that this would do away with the requirement to have an external audit. Clerk to review and inform councillors of anything worthy of note. Consultation ends on 14th April

5(4) Information had been received about pre-application consultation scheme regarding changes to the Huntingdon to Cambridge section of the A14

6. Public Footpaths

Mr Standford reported that the signposts had been repaired or replaced

7. Planning Matters

7(1) PA 0813/14 – already dealt with earlier in meeting

7(2) Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were consulting on the harmonisation of planning documents comprising the Local Validation List for the two Planning Authorities. Clerk to forward the link for the consultation to councillors and put this on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Report from Mr Hull on SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting held on 13th March: - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils integration was continuing. It was sometimes difficult to get hold of officers as they spend time in each of the different offices. There was a shortage of planning officers which caused delays in the planning process

Several parishes reported issues of poor broadband provision

Parish Council records should be forwarded to the Record Office in Ipswich for storage

Standing Orders should be amended to reflect that secret ballots are no longer allowed

Date of the next meeting has been amended to 17th June

8(2) Dates of forthcoming Public Meetings with Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore had been announced. The Mid Suffolk one was to be held at The Limes Hotel in Needham Market at 6.30pm on Wednesday 3rd September 2014

8(3) SALC were now offering tailored training courses to Parish Councils in their own parish. Modules can be chosen to suit requirements and the length of session also customised. Information was placed in the bundle for circulation. Place on Agenda for consideration at next meeting

9. Finance

9(1) Information had been received from SALC on new financial regulations governing signing of cheques allowing the possibility of moving to online banking. Although not wishing to make changes at present councillors agreed to bear this in mind for the future

9(2) It was noted that the date of Audit has been set for 10th June 2014. Clerk to arrange internal audit with Mrs Crisp as usual

9(3) Submitted for payment invoice from ORAC for hire of hall £132 for 2014/15. Approved

9(4) Submitted for payment invoice from Essex & Suffolk Water for cemetery tap £98.10 for

period 1/4/14 to 31/3/15. Approved

9(5) A request from PCC for reimbursement of grass-cutting costs in the cemetery in 2013 amounting to £455 was approved (Mr Hubner declared a DPI and left the room)

9(6) It was noted that acknowledgements had been received from Jubilee Baptist Church and Occold PCC for recent donations. Also from Vitalise

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

10(1) Mr Chittock informed the meeting that Occold FC had reached the final of the cup competition that they were playing in and were due to play the final at Bury on the following Sunday afternoon

10(2) Mrs Noller informed the meeting that MSDC were now requiring further sound-proofing of the fire door on the rear of the hall and ORAC were to file a planning application to build a porch onto this. They were also considering applying to build more storage space at the same time. They were looking to apply for grants to finance the work and may ask if the Parish Council would be prepared to write a letter of support during this process

11. The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12th May 2014 following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.35pm