

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 7th December 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner, Mr R Mullarkey, Mrs D Noller, Mr R Owen

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from 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 Glen Horn gave his report to the meeting. See Appendix

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2015, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 10(1) 9.11.15: Street light timings; Christmas and New Year lighting

The Clerk confirmed that the village lights were coming on at 5.30am as they were scheduled to do

The Parish Council had been asked by SCC whether the village street lights were to be left on all night on 24th December and 31st December as the SCC lights will be. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. Clerk to notify SCC

4(2) Item 10(2) 9.11.15: Brome HWRC

The site is in financial difficulties due to the low prices currently being paid for recyclables. SCC and MSDC are working to support the owners but because it is a private business rather than a local authority site they are limited in the help they can give. There is a possibility that the site might be relaunched/rebranded in the spring and it was suggested that local parishes could lend their support at that time by publicising the facilities available and encouraging local people to use them

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation - SALC CEO Report to Area Meetings November 2015; LAIS 1384 CPRE Report and Spending Review

5(2) A letter had been received from ORAC concerning the possible purchase of defibrillator and an offer to finance part of the cost. There was some discussion as to the possibility of using the old phone box for the cabinet but it was agreed that as this is in the ownership of BT there were complication regarding the electricity supply, etc. It was believed that the village hall would be a more suitable location. The Clerk was asked to research costs, etc. and a meeting to be held on Thursday 17th December at 8pm to approve the expenditure. Cllr Horn's

Locality Budget could be used towards this project – applications must be received by 8th January 2016

5(3) A reply had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding 20mph speed limit enforcement in the village and the Clerk read this out to the meeting. In summary it states that 20mph limits should be self-enforcing through traffic calming measures rather than being enforced by police presence. However the local SNT sergeant has visited the village and is in touch with the Highways Department at County Council to discuss improving the traffic calming measures

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow comments from the public

Although we had previously been informed by the police that Community Speed Watch could not be used to enforce a 20mph limit Cllr Stringer informed the meeting that as the scheme is now administered by the County Council rather than the police he thought that it would be worth trying to set up a scheme, especially given the public support demonstrated for it. He also indicated that he should be able to help with the purchase of a speed gun via his highways budget

5(4) Christmas Waste Collection calendars had been received for distribution. These will no longer be delivered to individual households by the District Council. Some copies to be left in the pub (and village hall?)

6. Public Footpaths

7. Planning Matters

Cllr Horn outlined the current situation regarding the application for outline planning approval for the housing development at the Eye Airfield site (ref 3563/15). This is for a development of up to 280 homes and a 60 bed care home; a decision will be made towards the end of January. Eye Town Council had refused to support the application, although Cllr Horn thought that most of the objections raised had been addressed and mitigated via the consultation process. Funding would be obtained for the additional school places required, and this would entail some new building at the secondary school. Mr Mullarkey raised concerns that the impact of the new homes on the healthcare system did not appear to have been properly addressed. It was explained that, unlike education, healthcare provision is not a planning consideration. The GP practice would be aware of the potential growth of the town and it was up to them to commission more services, for instance another doctor, if they believed there was a need

Cllr Horn pointed out that as the current application was for outline [planning only, and that all matters were reserved, it was possible that the final development could be significantly different from that being put forward at present. Another factor to bear in mind is that the Eye Airfield Development Brief has not yet been formally adopted – this is due to be considered on 11th January and could have an impact on the application

8. Meetings and Training

Since the last meeting a group of 10 councillors and others from the village had visited the SITA (now Suez environnement) energy from waste facility at Great Blakenham which

had been very interesting and informative

9. Finance

9(1) The Clerk explained that under the new financial arrangements coming into practice in April 2017 Occold Parish Council would no longer be required to submit an Annual Return to external auditors, simply publish it and other financial information via the website. However, it was still necessary to appoint an auditor to deal with any queries raised by the public. NALC are in the process of setting up a Sector Led Body (SLB) for audit procurement and all councils will automatically be included unless they opt out of this provision. A response is required by end of January. It was decided that Occold Parish Council would remain opted-in

9(2) Information had been received from MSDC regarding precept and discretionary grant levels for the forthcoming financial year, which would be relevant when setting the precept next month

9(3) Submitted for payment an invoice from Scott Regan for cleaning bus shelter and sign in October £35. Approved

9(4) The Clerk reported that Mr Hull had some concerns about account security at Nationwide after he had received a letter from them about financial compensation, he contacted the branch had been able to find out the balance and apply for an internet banking password on the Parish Council account

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

10(1) Clerk was asked to book village hall dates for 2016 meetings

10(2) Clerk's appraisal to be arranged for the New Year

10(3) The Clerk reported that she had made SCC aware of the recent flooding at the Wash on the B1077 after heavy or prolonged rain

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 11th January 2015 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.30pm