

## MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mr S Hubner, Mr B Hull

### **1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies had been received from Mrs Grange

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

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

Mr Horn gave his report to the meeting (no written report)

Cllr Horn spoke on planning matters, reminding the Parish Council that it can be represented at planning committee meetings and that this can be very helpful to give the committee the benefit of local knowledge

There was some discussion about the forthcoming proposals from central government to release land from green belt to allow the building of more new homes. In Suffolk there is no greenbelt as such, so this would have little effect locally. There has been an emphasis on using brownfield sites for development instead, although this is an expensive option. Mr Horn also believed that there would be an emphasis on providing more homes for the rental sector rather than ownership

The benefits of having a community-led planning policy in place were discussed.

Neighbourhood Plans have material weight in planning decisions but are costly and time consuming to develop, whereas a community-led plan can be developed at less expense and can still provide some direction. The first step would be to undertake a housing needs survey in the parish

The District Councils have a target of 35% affordable housing on new development sites, but they are looking at ways of providing this figure over the whole region rather than on a site by site basis

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

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

**3. Minutes of the previous Meetings** held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **4(1) Item 4(1) 9.1.17: Defibrillator**

Installation was expected to be undertaken in the coming week. Once in place the defibrillator needs to be registered and an open evening should be arranged. Mr Hull would speak to Andy Davidson who had volunteered to help with training. It may be that this event will be postponed until warmer weather if it needs to be done outside. Cllr Horn offered district council assistance with a launch event

#### **4(2) Item 4(3) 9.1.17: SID**

There had been only one response to requests for feedback from residents on post locations,

relating to the post on Mill Road outside The Cottage. The concern was that it would reduce visibility from the drive. Councillors asked the Clerk to reassure the resident concerned that the post was very slim, and the monitor would be mounted at such a height that it would be easy to see underneath it from a vehicle. Clerk to complete forms in relation to the 5 locations suggested

## **5. Correspondence**

**5(1)** Correspondence for circulation - *Town and Parish Newsletter* January 2017; report from District Councillor Glen Horn January 2017; copy of press release from Mid Suffolk District Council about changes in governance arrangements; Suffolk Age UK leaflet: SNT newsletter January 2017

## **6. Public Footpaths**

It was reported that there had been complaints from some members of the WI at its recent meeting about some footpaths being overgrown and difficult to walk. Unfortunately there were no details given of the particular routes affected. Clerk to make the footpaths warden aware and ask him to check. Councillors asked her to encourage him to attend the next meeting if at all possible to discuss whether some work parties need to be set up to help with clearance

## **7. Planning Matters**

**7(1)** Various tree works: -

14 Old Rectory Gardens – an application had been filed with the District Council for reduction of several trees which have TPOs

6 Old Rectory Gardens – an unprotected horse chestnut had recently been removed

Birchfield House, Redlingfield Road – an unprotected tree at the front boundary had recently been removed as it was obstructing the telegraph/electrical supply wires

**7(2)** PA4300/16 The Cedars, Occold: Alterations to existing outbuilding ... to provide store and personal gym (retrospective)

It was noted that permission had been granted

**7(3)** It was suggested that the Parish Council should look into the possibility of a Community Plan as mentioned by Cllr Glen Horn in his report. The first stage would be to look at the possibility of undertaking a Local Housing Needs Survey (LHNS). Clerk was asked to research the procedure for starting this.

## **8. Finance**

**8(1)** Submitted for payment an invoice from Scott Regan Window Cleaning for bus shelter cleaning January 2017 £25. Approved. The Clerk was asked to check up on how frequently the shelter was being cleaned, as it had been agreed that this would be done three times a year

**8(2)** Submitted for payment the Clerk's expenses for lamination of signs for SID posts £7.75. Approved

**8(3)** It was noted that the precept payments had been confirmed by District Council

**8(4)** It was noted that a cheque for £89.96 had been received from Henman's Charity

**8(5)** It was noted that a request for donation had been received from Suffolk Age UK. Clerk to send usual acknowledgment

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

**9(1)** The Clerk reported that the new chequebook had still not arrived from the Nationwide. She had been into the branch to enquire and had been told it was on order. To chase again

**9(2)** Mr Mullarkey reminded councillors that 13<sup>th</sup> March was Commonwealth Day and he had asked the Primary School if they would undertake to fly the Commonwealth Flag again as last year

**10. Date of next meeting is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.20pm