

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 9th October 2017 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mr B Hull, Mr R Mullarkey, Mrs D Noller,

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mrs Grange (who was ill), Mr Hubner (who was abroad on business) and Mr Owen (work commitments)

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

2(1) County Councillor report

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

3. Minutes of the previous Meetings held on Monday 11th September and Monday 25th September 2017, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(2) 11.9.17 and Item 2 25.9.17: VAS

The Clerk confirmed that as the Parish Council was not registered for VAT and therefore had no VAT number the order for the VAS would be subject to VAT at the German rate of 19%. This would add around 470€ to the cost, making a total of approximately 2930€ (around £2620 at current exchange rates). It was not clear whether this VAT could be claimed back in the same way as that paid in the UK. The Clerk had contacted HMRC to enquire about this and was awaiting a reply

A review of the reserves showed there to be around £6800 available until the end of the financial year, more than adequate to cover the cost. It was expected that a large proportion of this should be able to be reclaimed by way of grants from County and District Councillors. It was agreed that the order should be placed

SALC had confirmed that payment can be made by a councillor on behalf of the Parish Council as long as the invoice is made out to the Parish Council, and that they can be reimbursed. Mr Hull had offered to make the payment through his business account; there would be a bank charge of £15 to make an online transfer in euros. Clerk to place the order with Radarlux and pass payment details to him once the final cost is confirmed

4(2) Item 4(3) 11.9.17: Community Speedwatch

As Mr Flack was not present this was carried over to the next meeting

4(3) Item 5(4) 11.9.17: Streetlights

Maintenance issues had been reported and apparently dealt with, although it was not clear whether the trees had been trimmed sufficiently outside The Cedars and The Beeches. Clerk to check whether the light outside the Church was working

4(4) Item 3 25.9.17: BT phone kiosk

The Clerk was asked if any progress had been made on the removal of the kiosk. She had not heard anymore from the Community Heartbeat Trust. It was agreed that contact details should

now be passed to ORAC for them to pursue this matter

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation - LAIS 1402 *Precept Consultation*; *SNT Newsletter* September 2017; minutes of SALC AGM 2016; *SALC Annual Report 2016-17* and accounts

5(2) An email had been received from Occold Preschool asking if the Parish Council was able to give it any financial support until the end of the financial year in February. Mrs Noller, who is Treasurer at Preschool, explained that there had been an increase in free-funded hours for some children from 15 hours to 30 hours per week. However, these extra hours were funded at a reduced rate and the payment times from Suffolk County Council had changed resulting in Preschool having a shortfall. All avenues were being investigated with regard to raising funds and reducing costs

Whilst councillors were sympathetic there was little that the Parish Council could do, as the only provision under which payments can be made is S137. There is a cap on the amount that can be donated to charities each year under this heading and the Parish Council is already close to that limit

5(3) SALC had informed parish clerks of the forthcoming obligation to appoint a Data Protection Officer under the General Data Protection Regulation. They have been running seminars and the Clerk was hoping to get some more information about what the post entails

6. Public Footpaths

Nothing to report

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Consultation on Joint Local Plan

The consultation runs until 10th November which is after the next meeting of the Parish Council. Whilst the proposed village envelope and potential development sites for Occold are important there are also other wider issues to respond on. It was therefore decided to discuss this again at the November meeting

7(2) DC/17/03240: Outline Planning Permission for erection of a dwelling at Tollgate Cottage, Clint Road

The plans were viewed and discussed. Whilst the proposed development is outside the village boundary it was considered that it would have little detrimental impact as only one dwelling was proposed, provided that the new building was in keeping with the existing one in terms of scale and design. The Parish Council therefore had no objections (Mr Hull abstained)

7(3) DC/17/04749: TPO works to fell horse chestnut tree at 1 Old Rectory Gardens

There seemed to be some contradiction as to whether the tree in question was diseased or not. No real evidence had been provided to support the assertion that it was, and the application form stated that it was not. Also the application form says that it is a tree in a conservation area. Councillors thought that this was not the case, and that rather it was subject to a TPO. Clerk to clarify these points. Councillors had no objection to the tree being reduced in height and spread but were not in favour of it being felled unless shown to be dangerous

7(4) DC/17/04832: Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension at Barton Thatch, Dublin road

The plans were viewed and discussed. It was agreed that neither the proposed two storey extension at the rear of the house nor the single storey side extension would be visible from the road or overlook neighbours. It was therefore agreed to support the application

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Report from Joint Local Plan briefing held 13th September in Eye

Mr Cripps had attended but did not feel that the event had been very helpful. There was a presentation but little opportunity to ask questions [The Clerk has since been sent a link to the presentation by the district councils: <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning-Policy/JLP-TP-Presentation.pdf>]

Mr Hull had attended the public drop-in event in Eye and had found the planning officers there to be more helpful in explaining the reasons for proposed changes to the village envelope and why some potential sites for development were suitable and others not

8(2) Report from SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting held in Eye 21st September

No-one had attended

8(3) Invitation received to attend SALC AGM 7th November 2017 in Elmswell 7pm onwards

8(4) District Councils Parish Liaison meetings are to be held to discuss the possible future merger of Babergh and Mid Suffolk. For Mid Suffolk these will be held on Thursday 9th November at 1pm in Westhorpe and 6.30pm in Gosbeck

9. Finance

9(1) The Clerk reported on the Conclusion of Audit. Due to an oversight the value of the defibrillator had not been included in the total assets figure and this had resulted in the Parish Council receiving a qualified audit report. The auditors had informed the Clerk that the only consequence of this would be that Occold Parish Council could not apply for Quality Council status in the following year. This was not a problem as this was not something that was likely to be considered

9(2) Receipt of the second precept instalment of £3500 from MSDC was noted

9(3) It was noted that insurance cover had been renewed as agreed at September meeting

9(4) Submitted for payment an invoice from Scott Regan for bus shelter cleaning in September: £25. Approved

9(5) An estimate of costs involved to publish an Occold Roll of Honour booklet (see Item 5(2) 9.1.17) had been forwarded to the Clerk by Mr Woods. 100 copies of an A4 soft cover booklet of 96 pages would be in the region of £130. These are to be distributed to school children. Mr Woods was asking the Parish Council to fund the project. Approved. The invoice will need to be made out to the Parish Council

9(5) The Clerk reminded councillors that by the next meeting it would be almost

Remembrance Day. She was asked to arrange purchase of Poppy Wreath as usual

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

10(1) The Clerk had received notification from UK Power Networks of work to be carried out to houses on The Causeway putting in underground supply cables during November

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 6th November 2017 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

The Clerk asked if the December meeting could be moved from December 4th 2017 to December 11th 2017 as she had a prior commitment on the former date. All agreed

Dates of meetings for 2018 had been booked as follows:-

8 th January	2 nd July
5 th February	10 th September
5 th March	8 th October
9 th April	5 th November
4 th June	3 rd December

The Clerk asked Councillors what they would prefer to do about the May 2018 meeting. The first Monday of the month will be 7th May but this is a Bank Holiday. Leaving the meeting until the following week makes it rather late in the month; it was agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday 8th May 2018 instead

Meeting closed 9.50pm