

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 5th February 2018 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mr N Flack, Mrs M Grange, Mr B Hull, Mr R Mullarkey, Mr R Owen

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Hubner

Councillors noted with regret that Mrs Noller had taken the decision to resign from the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to her passing on the council's best wishes. The vacancy will be advertised and, assuming that no bye-election is requested, it should be possible to co-opt someone to take her place

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

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 8.1.18: VAS

The Clerk reported that £1000 had been received from SCC as a donation from Andrew Stringer's Locality Budget. She had also been notified that the £1000 payment from Mid Suffolk had been authorised and would be in the bank account within the next 10-14 days. Mr Flack informed councillors that now that he was working full-time he would no longer be able to take sole responsibility for the maintenance of the sign, charging and replacing batteries etc. As Mr Owen had helped put the sign up in the first instance it was agreed that he would meet as many of the other councillors that could attend on the coming Saturday to move the VAS to the post in Mill Road outside Jubilee Heights and show them how it is mounted. The Clerk would need to download the data collected so far but at some point someone else would need to take over looking after the software. The sign needs adjusting to be activated when vehicles are further away; it is currently operating on default settings. It was suggested that the Parish Council could ask for one or more volunteers from the village to take charge of looking after the sign, downloading data etc. via the website and Facebook group

4(2) Item 4(2) 8.1.18: Community Speedwatch

There was nothing further to report as the PCSO had not yet carried out a speed survey

4(3) Item 4(3) 8.1.18: Flooding at Thorndon Wash

There had been no further action. The letter that the Clerk had sent to the highways department had not been answered – an acknowledgment had been received from Customer Services and a further report logged on the Highways Reporting Tool. Cllr Stringer reported that he had had meetings with the engineers and was waiting for them to give him a date for a

site inspection which he would then pass on to the Clerk

4(4) Item 5(5) and 9(1) 8.1.18: Data Protection Regulations

There seemed to be conflicting advice being issued about the new regulations and the costs involved in complying with them, in particular with regard to the appointment of a DPO. The latest advice from SALC was to wait for now. NALC was preparing a pack of forms etc that would be provided free of charge to help with compliance

With regard to acquiring a new laptop, this needs to be done before the Clerk leaves at the end of March. A budget of around £400 had been agreed at the last meeting, to cover the cost of a laptop and software package including internet security and virus protection. The Chairman offered to go to 121 Computers in Diss to see what they could offer and would report to the next meeting

4(5) Item 10(1) 8.1.18: Clerk's vacancy

Unfortunately there had been no applications for the vacancy. It was agreed that it should be re-advertised and councillors to ask around to see if anyone was interested

4(6) Item 10(2) 8.1.18: Village ditches

Following the last meeting the Clerk had passed on information from the Environment Agency about responsibilities of landowners for keeping watercourses on their land running freely to the resident in The Causeway that had raised concerns. He had responded by asking the Parish Council to take some action to help make sure that the whole system of drainage was kept clear. It was suggested that a letter could be sent to all householders along The Street and Church Street reminding them of their responsibilities in this respect. Also a piece in Oracle

5. Correspondence

5(1) Information had been received from MSDC about Spring Clean Suffolk 2018. Councillors thought that the WI might be organising their own litter pick this year, although the view was that there was not too much of a problem with litter in the village

5(2) A letter had been received from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association asking for a one-off donation of £50 to help a county-wide organisation that has taken over running the Neighbourhood Watch scheme since the police stopped doing so

6. Public Footpaths

The Clerk was asked to report broken/fallen footpath signs at The Bottles and Gosling Hall. She had not heard from the footpaths warden since the last meeting

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Application ref DC/17/05868 Single Storey three bedroom dwelling and garage; Land to the rear of The Cottage, Mill Road. It was noted that permission has been granted

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) The District Councils were holding a series of meetings about the Community Infrastructure Levy policy. The nearest to Occold was to be on Monday 19th February at 6pm in Eye Community Centre

8(2) The next Police Locality meeting would be held on Friday 23rd February 10am-12noon at Eye Town Hall

9. Finance

9(1) Receipt of £97.11 from Henman's Charity was noted

9(2) It was noted that acknowledgements had been received from the following charities for donations made:-

Suffolk Age UK, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Eye & District Volunteer Centre, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Occold Pre-School

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

10(1) The Clerk had received an inventory of street lights owned by the Parish Council from SCC, to be checked before the invoice for maintenance and supply is issued

10(2) Information had been received from SCC about their Community Self Help scheme and asking for parish councils' input about the type of work they might be prepared to undertake. The Clerk to forward to councillors for discussion at the March meeting

10(3) MSDC had asked for all parish councillors to review and if necessary amend their Register of Interests entries on the website. Mr Chittock, Mr Cripps and Mrs Grange needed to make amendments. Clerk to forward necessary forms to them for completion

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 5th March 2018 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.30pm