

MINUTES

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

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mr N Flack, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner (for part of meeting), Mr B Hull, Mr R Mullarkey, Mrs D Noller, Mr R Owen

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Mr Hubner would be late arriving due to his train being delayed

2. Reports from County Councillor

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 11th December 2017, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 11.12.17: VAS

The VAS had been in its current position outside the church for about 3 weeks but the batteries had now run out. It takes 24 hours to charge each one so there would be a delay before it was in use again. Removing the batteries for recharging is relatively simple but mounting the unit on the pole had been more problematic and was definitely a job for two people. It was agreed to leave the unit in situ to collect data for another week and then move it to Mill Road to get an idea of speeds nearer the school

The Clerk reported that both applications for funding to County and District Councillors were in hand, hopefully the promised Locality Grants would be received soon

4(2) Item 4(2) 11.12.17: Community Speedwatch

The new PCSO had been in touch with Mr Flack and was arranging a new speed survey of the village. Once this has been done the inspection of sites for potential use of the Community Speedwatch equipment would be carried out

4(3) Item 10(1) 11.12.17: Flooding at Thorndon Wash

The road had been flooded since the last meeting held in December. Cllr Stringer and Mr Owen reported that engineers had been on site recently but that the plan was to jet out the drains again. This was not considered to be a long-term solution to the problem; neither was digging a channel allowing the water to escape onto Mr Owen's land as had been done recently. Councillors consider that the best plan of action is to install a drain on the Thorndon side of the road with a pipe leading into the large ditch

Cllr Stringer noted this suggestion. The Clerk was asked to write to SCC Highways demanding a site meeting between engineers and some parish councillors including the local landowners

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation - information from NALC via SALC email on Precept

Referendums; *The Local Councillor* Issue 3 2017; *Clerks & Councils Direct* January 2018; information from NALC on role of DPOs in new Data Protection legislation

5(2) The nomination form for a place for the Chairman and a guest at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party had been received from SALC. Clerk to complete and return

5(3) Information had been received from the District Councils about the consultation on a possible merger, One Council for the Heart of Suffolk. Councillors were encouraged to respond to the online consultation and let other people know that it is running. There is a link on the village website to the consultation survey

5(4) Cromer Town Council is asking for parishes to respond to a survey about the effect of second homes on services for permanent residents. However, the survey refers to parishes which have 10% or more second homes which does not apply to Occold

5(5) SALC had forwarded more information from NALC about the role of the Data Protection Officer in the new data protection regulations. Placed in bundle for circulation
The Local Council Public Advisory Service is running half-day courses in Bury St Edmunds and Attleborough. Mr Flack offered to attend one of them if he was free

Mr Hubner arrived

6. Public Footpaths

The Clerk was asked to get in touch with the Footpaths Warden to report the overgrown brambles on the footpath near Woodhouse Farm

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Planning Application DC/17/06022: Occold Village Hall Erection of Side Extension
This is a new application for a two-storey extension larger than the design given permission around a year ago. Unfortunately the application had arrived just before Christmas and the deadline for comments was 3rd January so it had not been possible to arrange a meeting to discuss the application in time for comments to be submitted

7(2) Planning Application DC/17/05726: 4 Old Rectory Gardens Removal of Beech Tree.
It was noted that permission had been granted

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Community Housing Fund meeting/workshop Tuesday 16th January 2018 at Tattlingstone Village Hall 10am - 12 noon

8(2) Dates of SALC Mid Suffolk North meetings had been forwarded – they are Wednesdays 7th March, 6th June, 19th September and 5th December

9. Finance

9(1) The Budget and Expenditure for 2017/18 were reviewed with a view to setting the Budget for 2018/19 and determining the precept for 2018/19

It was noted that there would be expenditure required in the next financial year for appointment of a DPO and also to cover the cost of a new laptop for Parish Council use with associated software. It was agreed to budget £800 and £400 respectively for these two items. In addition it was agreed to increase the amount in the budget for charitable donations but to reduce the training budget as this was not used to its full extent

The following Budget for 2018/19 was agreed: -

Administration	£4600
Training	£ 150
S137 Donations	£ 700
Church & Chapel	£1300
Cemetery grass-cutting	£ 600
Water rate	£ 60
Street Lights	£1350 (including £750 towards new unit)
TOTAL	£8760

It was agreed to use £760 from reserves and precept £8000, an increase of £1000 on last year's figure. The increase is primarily due to the requirements of the new data protection regulations

9(2) The charitable donations to be made in the current financial year were discussed and it was decided to give a £50 donation to each of the following: -

Suffolk Age UK
Macmillan Cancer Support
Eye & District Volunteer Centre
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service
East Anglian Air Ambulance

and a donation of £115 to Occold Pre-School

With £35 spent on Poppy Wreath during the year this brings the total charitable donations under S137 for the year to £400 (cf Budget of £400)

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

10(1) The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk who felt that it was time for a change after doing the job for 22 years. It was agreed that the position should be advertised as soon as possible via SALC and also the village website, although it was noted that it would probably be necessary to recruit someone with some experience of local government procedure

10(2) An enquiry had been received from a local resident about problems with blocked/overflowing ditches, asking about whose responsibility it was to prevent flooding. Mr Mullarkey had sent the Clerk some information from an Environment Agency publication called Living on the Edge which addresses the responsibilities of landowners

who have any form of watercourse on their land to maintain the free flow of water through it. There is also similar information available on the Suffolk County Council website. The Clerk was asked to pass this on to the resident concerned

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

Meeting closed 10.05pm