

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 11th September 2006 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr S Hubner (part of meeting), Mr B Hull, Mr R Owen, Mr S Warnes. Also, for part of meeting, Footpaths Warden Mrs Sue Welch and Community Police Officer PC Jon Eaves

1. Apologies had been received from Mrs Careford, Mr Andrews and Mr Underwood. Also from County Councillor Jeremy Clover

2. Minutes of previous Meetings held on 10th and 25th July, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were proposed for approval by Mr Warnes, seconded by Mr Chittock. All in favour

3. Matters Arising

3(1) Item 4(1) 25/7/06: Street name signs

Councillors believed that the signs for Church Lane and Redlingfield Road were now in place

3(2) Item 4(2) 25/7/06: New dog-waste bin

The Clerk reported that this had been ordered, and she was awaiting delivery. Clerk to chase Glasdon to find out where it is. Mr Andrews had offered to ask residents, via the newsletter, to suggest a location for the old smaller bin once the new one is in place

3(3) Item 4(3) 25/7/06: School crossing attendant

Confirmation has been received from SCC that the traffic and child counts were too low to recommend a crossing patrol in Occold. Clerk to notify Mr Seivwright

3(4) Item 4(4) 25/7/06: Rural Coffee Caravan

The second visit had taken place in the previous week. Response had not been great but they had offered to come again in October – either Tuesday 10th or Thursday 12th. The visit needs to be well publicised so that those residents that might benefit actually know about it – the Clerk had put leaflets through some doors for the last visit but more were needed. A piece should go in the newsletter due out soon

Whilst discussing residents who should be notified Councillors mentioned that Mr Wilf Bull, a Parish Councillor for many years, had recently been in hospital. The Clerk was asked to send him a Get Well card now that he was home

3(5) Item 4(5) 25/7/06: Ownership of War Memorial and possible publication to commemorate war dead

(i) Ownership of War Memorial

Mr Warnes had met members of a family in the cemetery that was related to one of the soldiers on the War Memorial named Woods. They offered to contact the Clerk if they could find any information from relatives about possible ownership

The Clerk had not had time to visit the Record Office over the summer to look at old Parish Council Minutes held there. She would try to go before the next meeting. There should be a Faculty for the erection of the memorial. If so this will be with Diocesan records in Bury St Edmunds. The Church insurance policy had been checked and although there was some cover for damage and public liability in the cemetery it would still be necessary to establish the ownership of the memorial, as the Church was required to demonstrate that it had attempted to recover any costs from the owners of a memorial that was not the property of the Church

(ii) SALC had confirmed that the Parish Council could use its powers under S144 of the Local Government Act 1972 to finance publication of the information about the people commemorated on the War Memorial. This provides for the Parish Council to encourage visitors and SALC believed that such a publication would come within its remit.

Mr Andrews estimated that the maximum cost would be £120 for 250 copies. Mr Owen proposed that the Parish Council should finance publication up to a maximum of this amount. Mr Warnes was against publication, as he did not believe many residents would be interested. Mr Hull seconded Mr Owens' proposal which was then put to the vote. Mr Warnes voted against, the other 3 Councillors voted in favour. The proposal was carried. Clerk to ask Mr Andrews to proceed and invoice the Parish Council when he has completed the project. He hopes to be ready by Remembrance Day

3(6) Item 4(6) 25/7/06: Memorial to Victor Gormer and bus service alterations

The Clerk had not yet managed to make contact with the correct contact at SCC. Carry forward to next meeting

3(7) Item 12(1) 25/7/06: Vacancy for Councillor

Although official notification has not yet been received from the Electoral Roll Officer the period during which a bye-election can be requested has now passed. No one had yet come forward as a candidate for co-option but it was thought that Mrs Pate may possibly be persuaded to return, or Mrs Doreen Sim might be interested. Clerk to ask for confirmation from MSDC that co-option can now proceed

3(8) Item 7(3) 25/7/06: School Reorganisation Review

Mr Hull had taken the document to study and had also spoken to some teachers about the differences between the two-tier and three-tier systems. The general opinion was that the three-tier system was more difficult and disruptive for children who had to cope with two changes of school, rather than just one, between the ages of 5 and 16. It was agreed that the Parish Council should recommend adoption of the two-tier system countywide. Mr Hull to return the consultation document to the Clerk for a response to be sent in

4. Correspondence

4(1) For circulation - *Forthcoming Bus Service Changes* numbers 203, 204, 205 and 206; *Suffolk View* (Suffolk Preservation Society) Summer 2006; *The Local Councillor* Summer 2006; *Suffolk Hedgerow Survey Newsletter* Summer 2006; letter from Suffolk Rural Services Group about financial support and advice for local businesses and services; NALC policy briefing on The Commons Act 2006; NALC Legal Briefing on Freedom of Information Act; ENCAMS publication *Litter and the Law*; *Clerks & Councils Direct* September 2006; SCC guide *Your Council 2006*; Key Saver Newsletter Summer 2006; leaflet from Suffolk Local

4(2) A letter had been received from Suffolk Constabulary acknowledging receipt of the Parish Council's letter concerning dangerous driving in Occold, but with no comment other than that the matter is receiving attention

4(3) The Clerk read out a letter from SCC about finance for future rural pavement construction. Occold's requested scheme for Church Street is currently scheduled for the 2009-2011 construction list assuming current levels of funding are maintained until then

4(4) A copy of Suffolk Safety Plan – Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service 2007/2008 Draft Action Plan had been received for consultation. The Clerk read out a few points of interest but there did not seem to be any issues needing comment. The booklet was placed in the bundle for circulation

4(5) A consultation document had been received from MSDC on Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act 2005. This concerns the procedures for granting licences for casinos, betting shops, etc and therefore does not appear very relevant to Occold

4(6) A consultation document had been received from SCC on Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document. The nearest site to Occold for which an application has been made is at Creeting, so Councillors did not feel it necessary to respond

4(7) MSDC had sent a variety of Crime & Disorder leaflets for distribution to various people and places. Councillors took some leaflets, Some were for the pub. Others to be handed to Dawn and Andrew Crisp for Youth Group and to Paul Harvey of the Baptist Chapel (via Mr Owen), and through the Church

5. Planning Matters

5(1) The Parish Council had been notified of the adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement by MSDC. This is part of the new Local Development Framework. A short user-friendly leaflet is in the course of production for more general release

5(2) Notification has been received from MSDC of a Local Plan Alteration with regard to Affordable Housing Policies following a Public Inquiry. This will allow more affordable housing to be built by increasing the proportion from 15% to 35% in developments of 15 or more houses in Stowmarket and Needham Market, and of 5 or more houses in villages

5(3) Notification has been received from East of England Regional Assembly of a Public Consultation on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites in the East of England Plan. A consultation document had also been received from Mid Suffolk District Council on the same subject. As the Parish Council has no contact with or experience of gypsies and travellers it did not have any contribution to make to the consultation

5(4) Mr Andrews had suggested that the Parish Council should make its views known to MSDC on the application for the Eye abattoir on a Greenfield site, even though it was not a

consultee. All Councillors were in agreement that the preferred location for such a development should be on an industrial site such as the old Eye airfield and that there was no justification for building it on a Greenfield site. Clerk to write to MSDC

5(5) The application at Benningham Grange for retention of hardstanding and field access was still listed as undecided on the MSDC website

Mrs Welch and PC Eaves arrived

6. Parish Paths Partnership

6(1) Suffolk County Council is to carry out a review of the path hierarchy in the Public Rights of Way Network. RoW are to be graded in one of two categories and this will affect the level of maintenance that they receive. The form was passed to Sue Welch to complete and return

6(2) FP24 Redhouse Lane/Thorndon

Debbie Adams from SCC, who is now in charge of this case, had contacted the Clerk. She is to visit the area this week and will come to look at the footpath concerned. Her details were passed to Mrs Welch so that she could try to meet on site.

The Clerk had found reference on the planning register at Mid Suffolk to an application that had granted retrospective permission for the soil mound in the field adjacent to Castle Hill, but no reference to the lagoon

6(3) Mr Hull reported that bridges had been installed on his land for the newly instated footpath. One of them slopes into the bottom of a ditch, which seems to be an odd choice of location. Clerk was asked to approach County Councillor Clover to see if it was possible to ascertain the total costs of the legal process and of installing the bridges etc incurred to open the footpath

7. Reports from Community Police Officer, County and District Councillors

7(1) Community Police Officer PC Jon Eaves

- PC Eaves' Inspector had asked him to update the Parish Council on the situation regarding dangerous driving in and around the village. One of the youths in question had recently been charged with offences relating to burglary and harassment, he was currently on bail and would be appearing in court again soon. Councillors were urged to contact the police, using 999 if necessary, to alert them if either of the two were seen driving in a dangerous manner
- There had been a recent theft from a garage locally. PC Eaves recommended fitting an intruder alarm which can be purchased from the police office in Eye for £10 (normally retailing at £20)
- There had been a recent spate of opportunist thefts in the Wetheringsett area, when the thieves had targeted insecure vehicles. They only seem to have taken small change and keys, some of which had later been found nearby behind the garage or shed!
- In Stowmarket a known burglar had attempted to create a diversion by setting fire to wheelie bins whilst he broke into an antiques shop. However he was apprehended Mr Hull's cows had been scared by something during the night sufficient for them to stampede and break down several fences. The cause has not been established but it was thought that it must have been something other than people to cause such a severe reaction

- It seems likely that the extension of the 30mph limit in Eye along to Cranley Green would be given approval
- In answer to a question from Mr Andrews (via the Clerk) PC Eaves had no news of the possibility of the lifting of the injunction at HLS. He is still of the opinion that the protestors have insufficient funds to finance the necessary court action to get it lifted, and that they are concentrating their resources elsewhere

7(2) Report from District Councillor Charles Tilbury

The Clerk read out a report sent by Mr Tilbury. A copy is attached

Mr Hubner arrived

8. Meetings, Training and Visits

8(1) An invitation had been received over the summer for two Councillors to visit the MRF facility for recycling refuse. The booking period had in fact expired before the meeting but the Clerk offered to see if any dates were still available if anyone was interested in attending. Mr Andrews had expressed an interest, as did Mr Warnes. Clerk to try to book them on a visit next week

Councillors were informed of the following meetings, etc: -

8(2) SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting Wednesday 13th September 2006 7pm for 7.30pm at Laxfield Village Hall

8(3) Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau AGM 20th September 12noon –2pm at Needham Market Community Centre

8(4) MSDC Parish Liaison Meeting 25th September in Council Chamber MSDC, 9.30am – noon or 6-8.30pm – Mr Chittock to attend the evening session

8(5) Customer Service Direct open event at 6 Cross Street Eye 11.30am-2.30pm Tuesday 26th September – Clerk to attend

8(6) Suffolk ACRE AGM Thursday 28th September 2006 7pm for 7.15pm at Haughley Park Barn

8(7) SALC AGM on Thursday 5th October 6.45pm for 7pm at Haughley Park Barn

8(8) Invitation to Coffee Cakes and Communications hosted by onesuffolk/SALC and STG on Wed 18th October 2-4pm in Debenham (or alternative dates and locations) – Clerk to pass on information to Mr Andrews

8(9) Various training and courses offered by SALC: -

Clerks Training Days

Risk Assessment for Town and Parish Councils

Employing People

Networking Day for Clerks

Two Day Training for Councillors

Chairing Skills

9. Finance

9(1) It was noted that an acknowledgement had been received from Susan Whymark Funeral Service for the donation of £50 made by the Parish Council to The Royal Brompton Hospital in memory of Brian Mann

9(2) It was noted that the interest rate at Alliance Leicester has been decreased from 4.33% to 3.82%, and also that interest of £18.30 and £19.43 accrued for July and August 2006 respectively

9(3) The receipt of P3 grant of £20 from Suffolk County Council was noted

9(4) Submitted for payment an invoice from Suffolk County Council for Street Lighting Maintenance and Energy for the period 1/4/06 – 30/9/06 of £287.63 + £50.34 VAT = £337.97. Mr Hull proposed and Mr Owen seconded payment. All in favour

9(5) Submitted for renewal the annual insurance policy with Zurich Municipal through Suffolk ACRE – renewal premium £280.06. It was noted that this was a decrease compared with last year's premium. Mr Owen proposed and Mr Hubner seconded payment. All in favour

9(6) Submitted for consideration a request from Occold PCC for reimbursement of grass cutting costs in the cemetery of £310. Mr Hubner declared an interest and abstained from the vote. Mr Owen proposed and Mr Warnes seconded payment. All in favour

9(7) Submitted for payment Clerk's salary for six months to 30th September 2006 of £755. Mr Warnes proposed and Mr Chittock seconded payment. All in favour

9(8) The order for a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day was considered. Mr Warnes proposed and Mr Hubner seconded that a donation of £30 should be made this year. All in favour

9(9) It was noted that an appeal for a donation had been received from Vitalise. Clerk to send usual acknowledgement

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

10(1) Mr Owen reported that the ditch along the B1077 on the right hand side between Greenacres and the layby is very constricted because of slippage caused by heavy vehicles. The County Council is supposed to be monitoring this ditch but its current state should be brought to the attention of the Highways Department immediately. Clerk to write to Gerald Clarke at SCC

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is **7.30pm on Monday 13th November 2006** in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.45pm