

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 4th April 2011 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr R Burnett, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner, Mr J Hewitson, Mr B Hull, Mr A Miller

Also present to give their reports County Councillor Andrew Stringer, PCSO Stephen Jones. Present for most of the meeting District Councillor Charles Tilbury. Present to give a report on Waste Handling Roy Barker, District Councillor

Having opened the meeting the Chairman asked for members to observe a minute's silence in memory of Mr Robert Owen who had passed away suddenly soon after the last meeting

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies. Several councillors declared interests in the planning applications to be discussed. See Item 7 for details

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

2(2) Community Police Officer report

PCSO Stephen Jones gave the police report to the meeting. See Appendix

2(3) District Councillor report

District Councillor Charles Tilbury gave his report to the meeting. See Appendix

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2011, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 2(1) 7.3.2011: Revised bus timetables

The new timetables had come into effect on the day of the meeting. There were a few minor changes to timings and one fewer bus in each direction but on the whole the level of service had been maintained. Clerk to find out if the new timetables will be provided in the bus shelter

4(2) Item 4(1) 7.3.2011: Bus stop and shelter

It was reported that the bus stop and shelter were now complete and were being used. Mr Hull offered to seed the area around the hardstanding with grass seed

4(3) Item 4(2) 7.3.2011: Streetlights

The report on G39 compliance provided by SCC was reviewed. Mr Hewitson summarised the findings and the proposed remedial action needed to bring each light into compliance. It was agreed that the money set aside in reserves should be used as and when a light failed

and was in need of repair anyway, rather than picking out certain lamps to upgrade then finding a different one failed and could not be repaired due to its non-compliance

4(4) Item 5(2) 7.3.2011: Skip hire

The Clerk had been quoted a price of £132 inc VAT for a 6 cubic yard skip or £168 inc VAT for a 8 cubic yard one from Kent Skips. The problem would be policing the use of a skip in the village to make sure only allowable waste was put into it

District Councillor Barker, who holds the portfolio for Recycling and Environment, was invited to address the meeting. He explained that the situation regarding Brome Household Waste Recycling Centre was currently very fluid: the County Council had announced that it would close on 9th May but the proposed closure would now have to be debated by the County Council following the collection of a significant number of signatures on the online petition. The debate would be held on 25th May and Mr Barker had therefore asked that the site be kept operational until 1st June. It was possible that a private waste operator could be brought in to run the site if the County Council will no longer do so. Mid Suffolk's focus is on reducing the amount of recyclable material that is taken to the tip. For instance, garden waste accounts for a large proportion of this but it can be collected in the brown bins which cost a household £40 per year. There are also "bring sites" for recycling glass, paper, textiles, tetrapaks, etc and if these could be increased the amount of waste being taken to a tip would be reduced. They have the advantage for local communities that they receive a financial reward from Mid Suffolk, based on a value per ton. Mid Suffolk also provide chargeable services for collection of bulky items and hazardous waste. There will be a residual landfill element of waste, currently 1440 tons per year at Brome, and this could be dealt with by a skip hire scheme in local communities – perhaps charging residents a small fee to use it

It was agreed to arrange a village meeting at which Mr Barker could explain the various options and gauge reaction to a skip hire arrangement. Clerk to contact ORAC as its cooperation will be needed for siting any extra collection banks. Monday 23rd May was proposed for the meeting, book village hall, deliver flyers to all residents. Possibly involve Mark Murphy from BBC Radio Suffolk who fronts their anti-litter campaign

4(5) Item 5(5) 7.3.2011: Suffolk Fire and Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan

The consultation had been circulated in the bundle. No councillors had any particular issues to raise

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation – LAIS Up2Date 110315 and 110329; LAIS 1308.1 Publicity Code; LAIS 1314.2 Localism Bill; LAIS 1317 Council Meetings; LAIS 1318 Statutory Duty Review; LAIS 1319 Budget 2011; Update on Implementation of New Strategic Direction Report to Suffolk County Council

5(2) Parking at school

A letter had been received from a parent at the school outlining problems with parking near the school outside the garden of Flimworth House. This had led to a near miss recently when a child had almost been hit by a vehicle turning into the Street from Mill Road and swerving around the parked car. The letter asked the Parish Council to intervene and request parking restrictions be imposed – the writer had been advised by the County

Council that extending the white “deterrent” lines was really the only way of dealing with the problem and that the request should come from the Parish Council. Clerk to acknowledge letter and contact the County Council to ask for a site meeting so that they can advise what could be done. Also ask PCSO to attend site meeting

5(3) Several anomalies in addresses on the Electoral Roll were pointed out, primarily in Tudor Court and Church Street. Councillors were asked to look at the areas around them to make sure that there were no other discrepancies. To review at next meeting

5(4) Notification had been received from SCC of a temporary closure of part of Church Street. The road would be closed between the junction with the B1077 and Coledale Lodge from 3/5/11 to 7/5/11 9.30am to 3.30pm for BT cabling works

5(5) A letter had been received from Dr Daniel Poulter MP offering to hold a “Meet Your MP” event in Occold. It was suggested that he could be invited to attend the meeting about waste

5(6) Village of the Year 2011 competition details had been received. Closing date is 27th May - Clerk to look at the entry form ready for the next meeting

5(7) An invitation to join Suffolk ACRE as a member had been received

5(8) Information from Suffolk County Council on “Don’t be a Tosser” anti-litter campaign had been received, including car bumper stickers and posters

5(9) Notice had been received of the appointment of new joint Chief Executive for Babergh and Mid Suffolk (As reported by District Councillor Charles Tilbury)

6. Parish Paths Partnership

Following the piece in Oracle Mr Hewitson had been contacted by three volunteers to help with the footpath working party at the end of April. There had been some confusion about dates as the Minutes appearing in the same edition of Oracle referred to the 3rd April, but this had subsequently been changed. A risk assessment had been drawn up and was on file Work would go ahead at the end of April. Mr Hewitson will allocate a footpath to each volunteer and help move equipment to the required location

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Mr Hubner gave a report on SCC consultation document regarding S106 provision. See Appendix

7(2) PA0116/11 Land adjacent 1 Redlingfield Road, Occold: Detached single storey dwelling. It was noted that permission had been granted

7(3) The following planning applications were considered: -

(i) PA0541/11 Poplar Hall Farm: Erection of 3 wind generators
Mr Hull declared a personal interest

The plans were tabled and discussed. A majority of councillors were in favour of supporting the application

(ii) PA0588/11 Mistletoe, Tudor Court: Single storey front extension
Mr Burnett, Mr Hewitson and Mr Hull each declared a personal interest
The plans were tabled and discussed. All in favour of supporting the application

(iii) PA0607/11 5 Tudor Court: Two storey extension
Mr Burnett declared a prejudicial interest. The plans were tabled and Mr Burnett answered some questions about the proposed design then left the room. Mrs Grant and Mr Hull declared a personal interest
The application was discussed. All in favour of supporting the application

(iv) PA0797/11 The Willows, Dublin Road: Demolish existing house and erection of 4 bedroom house with detached triple garage
Mr Chittock declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. Mr Hull took the chair. The plans were tabled and discussed. The design was exactly the same as the previous application that had been withdrawn, but the accompanying papers now included an historical survey of the existing cottage to back up the argument that it should be demolished. Councillors expressed the view that allowing a house to fall into disrepair should not then be used to give grounds for demolishing it. The proposed replacement building was of a size incompatible with others around it with the exception of the adjacent Richmond Lodge, itself a modern replacement of an old cottage. The proposed materials are inappropriate to the surroundings being brick and tile rather than coloured render. The proposed garage is extremely large, nearly big enough to be a house in its own right. The majority were against supporting the application. A site visit by committee members is strongly recommended

(v) PA0858/11 1 Old Rectory Gardens: Tree works
The proposals were reviewed. All were in favour of supporting the application

(vi) PA 0909/11 Land at Flimworth House: Demolition of existing building and erection of new 2/3 bedroom dwelling
The plans were tabled and discussed. Although the proposed building had been considerably reduced in size from the original plans (see Items 6(2) 10.1.11 and 3(1) 7.2.11) councillors still felt that it was infilling garden space in the centre of the village and as such was undesirable. For this reason they were not able to support the application

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) A Village Groups Meeting was held on Monday 21st March, at which Mr Cripps relayed information from the Parish Council. The main news from other groups was that the problems with noise at the village hall seemed to be coming to some resolution

8(2) Report on Operation Connect event held on Sunday 27th March. It was felt that this had been a useful exercise

8(3) Shaping Our Society event Friday 8th April 10am – 3.30pm Needham Market Community

Centre. No-one wished to attend

9. Finance

9(1) Submitted for payment an invoice from Suffolk County Council for £1000 being the Parish Council contribution towards the provision of bus shelter. Approved

9(2) Submitted for payment an invoice from Essex & Suffolk Water for £87.50 for water rates for cemetery tap for period 1/4/2011 to 31/3/2012. Approved

9(3) It was noted that acknowledgements had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and Occold Pre-School for recent donations

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

10(1) The Clerk was asked to write a letter of condolence to Mrs Owen from the Parish Council. The idea of purchasing something in his memory was discussed, perhaps a cup to be awarded at the school. Clerk to check on statutory powers available for this and to approach Mr Owen's family for approval of the idea

11. Date of next meeting, which will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, is Monday 9th May 2011, immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 10.40pm

APPENDIX

Reports given to meeting of Occold Parish Council held on 4th April 2011

CONTENTS

- 1. County Councillor's Report**
- 2. Community Police Officer's Report**
- 3. District Councillor's Report**
- 4. Report on SCC consultation regarding S106 agreements**

- 1. County Councillor's Report**
Residential Care Home Consultation

The results of the consultation into the future of residential care home provision, has been announced. In a consultation that ran from 1.11.2010 to 24.1.2011 we asked Suffolk people what options they preferred, in transferring ownership of our 16 residential care homes.

The 3 options were;

- 1 Close the homes and buy alternative services from the independent sector
- 2 Sell the homes as “going concerns” in which existing residents are not required to move.
- 3 Close some homes and transfer the remaining homes to the independent sector.

Over a thousand responses came back, the key points identified were:

53% of people favoured selling homes as going concerns.

31% said they did not agree with any option.

10% of respondents said they supported closing some homes and transferring the remaining homes to the independent sector

6% of people said we should close all of our homes.

The findings of this report will be put to the Cabinet in May to approve which option to pursue.

This subject has increased my inbox considerably as families have been very concerned with potential disruption and uncertainty; this has caused some families to move relatives to other providers to mitigate the upheaval.

Conversations in “your place”

On the 17th of March during the debate on the update on the “new strategic direction” specific officers were appointed to lead “your place” conversations regarding the potential outsourcing to parishes of certain services provided at the moment by SCC. (libraries, country parks etc) these conversations will lead to services being discussed not in a piecemeal, service by service fashion, but looking at these services as a whole. The officer assigned to our area is David Evans he lives in Haughley and is donating his time for free to work along side myself make sure our patch gets its voice heard.

It is annoying that yet another buzz word has crept into our vocabulary , but at the heart of this one is a genuine attempt to get this right.

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1 to 1 with the Chief

Last week I had another quarterly meeting with Andrea Hill, our much publicised Chief Executive. We did discuss at length the distraction that her salary, spending decisions etc are causing, and the impact this is having on her and our future. She did suggest that she would like to come to Upper Gipping to see some of the good work we do in our parishes, I welcomed this offer but did suggest she wear jeans and good boots when she comes.

Andrew Stringer andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk

01449 780339 07774 199061

2. Community Police Officer’s Report

Reported Crimes

There have been no reported crimes in the Parish of Occold since the last report.

Connect Weekend.

As part of the above officers visited every village in the Central Area and called house to house in Occold where they received a positive response from residents.

Distraction Burglaries and Crime prevention.

Distraction Burglaries continue to be a problem:

When someone calls.

Do close and lock the BACK door and remove the key before answering the front door.

Do put the door chain on BEFORE opening the FRONT door.

Do ask for identification from the caller and ask them to pass it through the gap without removing the chain.

Do close the door whilst checking the identification carefully. A genuine caller will not mind waiting outside whilst this is carried out.

Do ask them to come back another day when you can have a friend or relative available.

Do get three quotes. Ask friends and family for recommended traders.

Do call police on 999 if suspicions are raised. Police take these incidents very seriously and it is no trouble to them.

With spring in the air don't forget how vulnerable garden equipment can be. Don't abandon expensive items of equipment in the front garden or along the verge while you just pop into the house, this is just what the opportunist thief is looking for. This also applies to pedal cycles and play equipment.

The garden shed is also a target for thieves, please fit a substantial lock and where possible a portable alarm.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR ARE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING
REPORT IT ON 01473 613500 and IF YOU THINK A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED
ALWAYS DIAL 999.

HOW ARE WE DOING.

Suffolk is a very safe County, Crime levels, based on our figures to the end of December 2010, were slightly down from the previous year meaning crime has declined every year for a decade.

Priorities

- Along with our partners, we are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across the county. Together we have developed Minimum Standards of service for victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour, ensuring a high level of service is provided across the county.

The current Priorities for Mid Suffolk Central are:-

- Investigate improving road safety in the area of Stonham Aspal Primary School – together with other agencies we are looking at road/pavement layouts and other possibilities.
- To Progress provision of facilities/activities for the youth in Debenham Ip14.

Have Your Say

The Community Priority Setting Meeting is now open to the public and is where our priorities for the following month will be set, please come along and raise any issues. The next meeting is on **5th May 2011**, at The Old Baptist Church, A140 Norwich Road, Stonham Parva, IP14 5JT.

This meeting starts at 7.00pm and finishes at 8pm. All members of the Parish Council as well as the public are invited to attend when they can bring any issues/concerns to the meetings attention.

Please contact us to find out when later meetings are, alternatively the information is on our website.

Quality of service

If you would like to tell us your views on the service that you have received from us or just to say how nice it is to see a Police Officer in your village, please let us know. We appreciate all feedback & comments from residents within our SNT area.

Contact us

Tel: 01473 613500 & ask to speak to the Mid Suffolk Central Team

E-mail: midsuffcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral - please visit our website which is updated regularly.

Kind regards

PC 873 Clare Wayman and PCSO 3192 Stephen Johnson.

Mid Suffolk Central SNT
Debenham Police Station
Low Road
Debenham
IP14 6QU

3. District Councillor's Report

1. Appointment of new joint Chief Executive

On March 18th Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils confirmed the appointment of Charlie (Charlotte) Adan as their new joint Chief Executive.

Charlie will be starting at Babergh and Mid Suffolk in mid-May on an annual salary of £111,467.

Starting her career as a lawyer, Charlie has worked in both the private and public sectors. Charlie has accumulated over 17 years' experience in local government, across a range of rural and urban authorities. Most recently Charlie was Interim Assistant Chief Executive of Herefordshire Public Services partnership, working on the successful and pioneering integration of Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire. Before that she was the Interim City Solicitor at Liverpool City Council and the Assistant Director of Transition for the then new Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

In all of these roles, Charlie has built up an impressive track record as someone who can forge strong relationships with councillors, staff, partners and communities to transform organisations for the better, improve services and deliver value for money for Council Taxpayers.

Charlie's family home was in Lavenham for many years, where friends and close family still live.

2. Caring for older people in Mid Suffolk

Closure of two care homes in Mid Suffolk is a serious concern to all residents and families who are currently accommodated this way and Mid Suffolk wants to ensure that those involved have their concerns and situations taken most seriously. In the case of Paddock House in Eye, requests have been made to SCC that if it is to close or be taken over privately, it should coincide with the development and availability of the new Hartismere site. What needs to be emphasised is the quality of life for these elderly people should be utmost in the minds of the decision makers. The final decision has yet to be made.

3. Waste and Recycling

The abandonment of the Household Waste sites by Suffolk County Council has caused much extra work and worry for all concerned. The situation is so fluid at the moment on what the best option is The District Council is working on finding the best solution possible, including how to deal with waste which would normally go to these sites. On 8 April we have a special meeting of the Joint Waste Management Board, from which we hope will provide some more positive answers.

The Garden Waste Service has seen an increase in customers with the closures of the Household Waste sites and the continuing increases in the cost of fuel. We are taking on over 50 extra customers a week at the moment, a rate of increase which looks set to continue throughout the summer.

As Easter Monday (25 April) and the Royal Wedding Day (29 April) are in the same week, collections will be a day behind with catch up on the Saturday. The crews have agreed to work the Friday as this would have messed up the next week.

4. Broadband

The pan Suffolk solution is bidding for several million pounds from BDUK to help realise the ambition of 100% coverage with a minimum download speed of 2 mbs by the end of 2015. This bid is being supported by all local authorities (apart from Ipswich) by April 16th. We trust the government will provide the money required!

5. Update on new retail businesses in Stowmarket

- Morrisons – ground works well underway
- Costa Coffee – all jobs now being advertised in Job Centre Plus
- Wetherspoons – some work has commenced on the site

There has recently been a lot of interest from potential retailers in opening up new, independent shops and cafes in the town centre. However, there are very few empty shops available to them at the moment as retail has been a very resilient sector locally. This has only reinforced the need to progress with the re-development of Ipswich Street as soon as possible.

Charles Tilbury
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4. Report on SCC consultation regarding S106 agreements

To: Occold Parish Council
From: Stephen Hubner
Subject: Suffolk County Council consultation on section 106 agreements

Dear All

I have reviewed the consultation documents.

It has a number of unusual or unexpected provisions.

I would not anticipate that we in Occold will see much impact, as it is extremely unlikely we will see any significant development within the village. I do not therefore consider that it is necessary for us to respond to the consultation document, but you might like to know some of the provisions which caused me to raise an eyebrow or two:

1. The Council is going to seek to obtain payments from developers for a number of projects in order then to carry out larger infrastructure developments such as provision of a new school or "larger road schemes". This rather cuts across the idea that any payments made under a section 106 agreement should relate to the community in which the development is taking place.
2. The Council states that it wishes affordable housing to be a priority in any development, but then seems very confused about what is meant by affordable housing. This might be subsidised supported housing, sheltered housing, housing for key workers in the local community or something entirely different. I am not sure developers will readily sign up to something which is so unclear.
3. Any development with more than 10 dwellings will need to provide a contribution towards increasing local education for children aged between 5 and 18. This seems a fairly robust approach.
4. You will be pleased to know, no doubt, that the Council recommends that all development is equipped with high speed broadband through fibre optic cable links. There will need to be direct access from a new development to the nearest BT exchange I think this is optimistic.
5. Finally, I was delighted to see that the Council will require contributions to meet the needs of investment for Libraries(!).

As I have said, I think it is not worth us responding to the consultation but one wonders how much in the way of resources were used on drawing this up.....