

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 7th December 2009 in the Village Hall.

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

Also County Councillor Andrew Stringer and PCSO Stephen Jones (for the Police report)

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Hubner, Mr Hull and Mr Owen. Also from District Councillor Charles Tilbury

Mrs Grange signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Council by the Chairman

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

2(1) Councillor Andrew Stringer

Green Beer Recycler

A groundbreaking renewable energy producing Biogas plant was given unanimous approval at today's Suffolk county council development control committee.

The proposal site at Adnams distribution centre near Southwold will anaerobically digest up to 20000 tonnes of liquid and food waste per annum turning it into Biogas and soil improver. The waste will be brought in from no further than a 30 mile radius of the site. The resultant gas would be sufficient to power the entire vehicle fleet of Adnams Brewery with any spare gas being transmitted straight into the gas grid sited locally.

This is the first of its kind for Suffolk and an example of solving a number of waste and environmental issues locally .

Home Grown Arts

“Home Grown” is an arts project that is backed by the county council and the Arts Council to enable local communities who organise or would wish to organise arts events, this scheme offers advice help and inspiration, the project runs for 17 months and will help create and develop some exciting arts events.

admin@creativeartseast.co.uk or 01953 713390

Local Transport Budget

You may recall back in July I reported that I have a local transport budget for small items that could help communities with road safety issues; the budget among the 10 Mid Suffolk County Councillors was £150,000. Before dividing the money up among the 10, £50,000 was “top sliced” for a major scheme in the Mid Suffolk area. Surprisingly the 10 cannot agree on a single scheme so we are discussing the possibility of the £50,000 being redistributed among the 10 effectively giving each member an extra £5,000 to spend, I would value your thoughts on this matter.

Local Government Review

Following the court of appeal ruling in favour of the boundary committee the committee published its recommendation to the Secretary of State today, stating that they preferred a one Suffolk option but asked that the Ipswich Felixstowe and rural Suffolk two council option also be looked into

2(2) Community Police Officer

Reported Crimes

Since the 10th November 2009, there have been no reported crimes in the Parish of Occold.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch is finally back up & running with a new member of staff at Police Headquarters. We are now looking to see if residents of Occold are interested in setting up a Community Speed Watch which costs approximately £1200. We would be looking for a minimum of 6 residents to join the speed watch scheme. For further information or if you would like to sign up, please contact us. You may want to set up a joint scheme with neighbouring villages such as Thorndon and Stoke Ash to spread the cost. The Mid Suffolk Central SNT is applying for a new SID machine which can more easily be set to monitor the 20mph limit and also provides better data analysis

Suffolk Safe Key

We will remind you of the Suffolk Safe Key Scheme: by paying an annual fee of £12 and registering your key holder details the police will be able to save valuable time gaining access to your property should an incident occur whilst your property is left unattended. You can register on line at www.suffolk.safekey.org.uk. There are separate schemes for residential and commercial properties

Crime Prevention

With the long dark nights now upon us please be vigilant and secure your property, we recommend leaving a light on if you go out, preferably on a timer or with a light sensor and also leaving a radio playing on a speech channel will give the impression of the property being occupied. Alarms where fitted should be activated when the premises are empty and keys stored out of view.

There have been a number of burglaries in the Mid Suffolk area from outbuildings and the surrounds of property and it should be stressed that outbuildings should where possible be fitted with an alarm. Details of portable alarms can be obtained from ourselves. A very effective shed padlock with an alarm in it is available

It has been found that low energy exterior lighting on a dusk-to-dawn setting is more effective at deterring intruders than lights on an infra-red detector switch

Have Your Say

The Neighbourhood Police Meeting is now open to the public: please come along and raise any issues with us. The next meeting is on 6th January 2010, it starts at 7pm and finishes at 8pm and will take place at The White Horse, Station Road, Finningham. IP14 4TL

Quality of service

PCSO Emma Cowell has transferred to Stowmarket as Schools Liaison Officer, Chris Bales will now be your Police Community Support Officer.

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 Clare Wayman, Chris Bales or any Debenham Officer

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

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

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2009, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 9.11.09: Bus stop

A site meeting had been held with Paul Horne from Suffolk County Council. Mr Chittock, Mr Hull and the Clerk were present, as were Di Noller and Dawn Crisp from ORAC. As a result of the meeting SCC had provided plans and costings for the proposed bus stops and shelter. These were tabled for consideration

The County Council had estimated the costs for removing the two trees from the green at over £1000. It was resolved that the Parish Council would undertake to do this as Mr Hull had been given a figure of around £200 to do the work. It will be necessary to obtain three quotes before deciding who to use

It was agreed that the enclosed 2 bay shelter as shown on the plan was the preferred option, even though slightly more expensive, because it would give the best protection from the prevailing wind

On the opposite verge there were two manhole covers opposite the green so the stop will have to be offset slightly to the west. The plan showed a width of 1400mm which the Clerk reported meant that there was not enough space between the tarmac and the hedge for a lawnmower to get through. Rather than increasing the width it would be preferable to make it narrower if possible, as shown on the hardstanding on the green, and the Clerk to clarify this with Paul Horne. Also to clarify the extent of the slope and its orientation as this was not clear to Councillors from the plan supplied

It may then be necessary to call an extra meeting

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation – Suffolk’s Environment Monitoring Report for 2008/9; *Clerks & Councils Direct* November 2009; What’s On in Mid Suffolk Jan/Feb 2010; Mid Suffolk CAB Newsletter and reports; information on S106 Developer Contributions

5(2) A letter and poster had been received from the NHS publicising the Bowel Cancer Screening programme

5(3) A letter had been received from Mid Suffolk Tourist Information about the Festival of Christmas Trees at Stowmarket Church. One of the trees is decorated with bells, each naming a parish in the district, including Occold

6. Parish Paths Partnership

The broken footpath sign at The Causeway had been reported but had not yet been repaired

7. Planning Matters

7(1) The Parish Council had been informed of a Scoping Opinion request concerning proposed wind turbines at Eye Airfield. No response was required until a formal application had been submitted by the applicant. The document was placed in the bundle for circulation

7(2) Application 3275/09 Burnt House Farm, Rishangles for Listed Buildings Consent. The Clerk had not been sent a copy of the papers but on looking on the website it appeared to be the same as an application considered earlier, for which the Parish Council had been in support. It was decided not to file any comments

8. Finance

8(1) Clerk's appraisal

It was reported that a procedure had been formulated by Mr Hewitson and agreed with the Clerk and Mr Hull. The appraisal had not yet taken place but should do so before the next meeting

8(2) Register of Assets

Mr Hull had been able to inform the Clerk that the village sign had been donated to the village in May 1988 by Harry Standley in memory of his father. At the time it was valued at £600. This information had been entered on the register so that this was now complete and could be signed by the Chairman

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

9(1) An email had been received from Paul Banjo at Mid Suffolk District Council asking for feedback about demand for allotments in the parish. No-one was aware that there had been any requests for allotments to be provided here in recent years

9(2) Suffolk County Council is carrying out a Local Flooding Survey and have sent a questionnaire to be filled in about any local problems. To be considered at the January meeting

9(3) The Clerk reported that the Mid Suffolk Messenger had been delivered to all houses in the parish thanks to Lewis Bloomfield, whom she had agreed to pay £15

9(4) A retired architect had been in touch with the Clerk to send a photographic survey of the village that was carried out in 1976. The booklet was placed in the bundle for circulation. It was suggested that the photos could be put on the village website so that more people could see them

9(5) Items for discussion at the next Village Forum meeting in February to be decided at the January meeting

9(6) Councillors voiced concern that the pub remained closed and that there seemed to be little that the Parish Council could do to remedy the situation

10. **Date of next meeting** is Monday 11th January 2010 at 8pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.15pm