

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 9th June 2008 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr B Dyla, Mr J Hewitson, Mr A Miller, Mr R Owen
Also Mrs Brewin, Mr and Mrs Jardine from Tudor Court, and County Councillor Clover

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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

Mr Hewitson had provided the Clerk with a list of the charities of which he is a member for inclusion on the Register of Interests. Other Councillors were reminded to do the same so that one letter could be sent to the Monitoring Officer containing all the details

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

2(1) The Clerk read out a report from District Councillor Tilbury: -

1 1. Bottle bank reorganisation

There is a reorganisation of bottle banks in the district, since the technology of the magic eye that can separate different coloured glass has been put in place at the end recycling facility. 40 of the less productive banks have been removed leaving one mixed bank for green and brown glass but the payments to the community will be the same. (the reclaiming rate for all glass is the same £316.15 / ton) The District council will be saving on the rent of the bottle banks just under £37 / month with the same tonnage going to recycling.

2. Rationalisation of telephone boxes

I understand that BT is planning to remove a large number of telephone boxes in the District, as their use has obviously declined with the spread of mobile phones. Telephone boxes which are listed, however, are likely to remain.

3. Community Crew project, Eye Town Moors

Community Crew is a project that aims to work with young people who are keen to improve their community. The Crew, managed by the charity Crime Concern, carried out a major regeneration of the playing area on Eye Town Moors over the Easter break, and brought together various volunteers and agencies including MSDC, Heart Foyer, Suffolk Police and Eye Playing Field Association. Over 25 children, ranging from 10 to 17 years old, turned up every day to plant shrubs, repaint the play equipment and fencing, build a willow youth shelter and design graffiti boards.

This successful project aimed to show young people all aspects of working on community projects, including the benefits of working together to improve the local community whilst projecting a positive image of young people to the wider community. A similar project is due to follow in Stowmarket.

4. Community clear-ups

34 parishes in the District have undertaken community clear-ups so far this year, with several more in the pipeline. In response to the positive reaction, MSDC has increased its level of support, and has provided many parishes with their own kit (pickers, hi-vis jackets, gloves and bags), whereas previously these items were merely loaned. As a result, parishes can lend equipment to local user groups (e.g. in Felsham the local youth club carried out its own Saturday morning litter pick). Contact Gillian Brown at MSDC on 01449 724946 for more details if interested.

5. A14 cleaning

MSDC has officially taken this role back in-house. We have joined forces with both Ipswich Borough and Babergh to tackle the litter problems on both the A14 and A12. We have a new team and will now service the relevant stretches of both those roads on their behalf. The area we cover is from Thurston to the Orwell Bridge on the A14 and from the Copdock interchange to the Essex border on the A12.

2(2) The Clerk read out the following report from the Community Police Officer: -

Reported Crimes

There has been one reported crime for the period 13/05/08- 7/06/08, since the last report. Overnight on 14th May £500 worth of lead was stolen from the church roof whilst builders had been carrying maintenance. The roof was accessed via the builders' scaffolding.

Again, myself and Emma send our apologies at not attending this month's meeting as we are on our rest days. I have, however, had the opportunity of meeting some of the villagers at the coffee morning at the school on 23rd May, and we also attended the youth club on Friday 6th June.

It was brought to my attention at the coffee morning that there are concerns on the manner of driving through the village at rush hours, and I did say to the parents at the coffee morning that I would start to look into it. We have made contact with Brian LOMAX from Suffolk County Council. Apparently he has already had some communication with a Mr DYER from the village, who has written to him. Mr LOMAX has checked with the council's legal dept and the 20mph limit is not enforceable under the current order. I have also checked with our Roads Policing unit, who state the same. Mr LOMAX is looking to have the order changed to rectify this and if achieved, it will take about 2 months. Occold has also been placed back on the list with the council to have the Speed Indicating Device or SID put into the village which will be able to download speeding information so that there is some actual data collated. This should take place in about 6-8 weeks time.

Crimestoppers

If you want to help but for whatever reason do not want to give your name and/or contact details then please call **Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111**.

Contact us

Should you wish to report any criminal, suspicious or anti-social activities then please either contact **PC Clare Wayman** or **PCSO 3170 Emma Cowell** on Tel: 01284 774100 or via e-mail: midsuffcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Please visit our website www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral
You can report **Fly-Tipping, Noise Nuisance & Abandoned Vehicles** directly to the Council using the link on our pages.

2(3) County Councillor Clover gave his report to the meeting: -

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

An Ofsted inspection of the Suffolk Youth Service in 2007 had highlighted several concerns. The issue of lack of funding had been addressed by the County Council providing an additional £350,000 with an increase of £150,000 for each of the next two years. The Scrutiny Committee looked at the progress made on the integration of Youth Service and connections. The report had also criticised the service for insufficient target setting and too few young people getting accreditation

Schools Organisation Review

This had gone well in Haverhill and Lowestoft but possible improvements in the consultation process had been discussed

Head and Neck Unit

The move of this specialist unit from Ipswich Hospital to Norwich seemed inevitable, despite the opposition of those at Ipswich Hospital and many local people

Mr Clover promised to chase up the issue of the footpath and the lagoon with officers in the Rights of Way department

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12th May 2008, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 5(1) 12.5.08: Parking restrictions at HLS

A further letter had been received from SCC informing the Parish Council that the changes to the parking restrictions proposed by the Parish Council had been put forward to the police for their comments

4(2) Item 5(2) 12.5.08: Street lighting issues

A report had not yet been received from SCC as to the status of the individual streetlights following the replacement of overhead cables. Carry forward to next meeting

4(3) Item 6(4) 12.5.08: Bus shelter waiting list

A response had been received from SCC to our request to be retained on the bus shelter waiting list. The over-riding problem with providing a new bus stop and/or shelter is to provide a site suitable for the raised kerbs required by the Disability Discrimination Act. It was suggested that a site meeting be set up with representatives from the Parish Council, SCC and those residents most concerned about the issue in order to try to identify a suitable location within the village

5. Correspondence

5(1) The Clerk read out a Thank You card from Mrs Welch for the books that she had

been given in recognition of her work as Footpaths Warden

5(2) A letter from Mrs Christina Brewin was read out. She voiced the concerns of several residents about the speed of vehicles through the village. The situation is particularly hazardous when children are being walked to school along The Street where there is no footpath

The meeting was closed to allow those residents present to express their concerns. They are looking to approach the County Council to introduce some more effective traffic calming measures and wanted to see what the Parish Council felt could be done. The history of the long running issue of trying to improve road safety in the village was reviewed.

Mr Dyla had been in contact with Brian Lomax, a Safety Engineer at SCC, over many months regarding the enforceability of the 20mph limit. He had recently been sent an email explaining that when the Traffic Regulation Order for the 20mph limit was made the 30mph limit was not revoked. Mr Lomax was not able to confirm what speed limit currently applies and felt that the police may not be able to enforce either a 20mph or 30mph limit until the TRO is remade to correct the anomaly. This process has been started and is expected to take 2-3 months

Mr Lomax has suggested a site meeting once the road markings have been completed following the recent resurfacing work, to discuss signing for the speed limit. He has suggested that the police should be present and it was agreed that Mrs Brewin and Mr and Mrs Jardine were welcome to attend as well Parish Councillors

Clerk to write to Mr Lomax thanking him for the information he had sent to Mr Dyla and asking him to keep the Parish Council informed of progress

5(3) Jo Careford had been in touch to ask if a volunteer could be found to take over from her as Neighbourhood Watch coordinator. It needs to be someone who is in the village a lot with lots of contacts and who can get messages passed on quickly and efficiently. It was suggested that the request for a replacement be publicised through the ORACLE

5(4) Notification had been received from NATS that consultation period on proposed changes to airspace has been extended until 19th June

5(5) The Clerk had received a copy of the Rural Deprivation Report from Suffolk ACRE and SCC on memory stick which was available for any Councillor that wished to download it

5(6) Notice had been received from MSDC that in future reporting of Councillors' Misconduct would be made direct to the Standards Committee of MSDC rather than via the Standards Board for England

5(7) Councillors were reminded that the Rural Coffee Caravan will be in Occold again on Tuesday 15th July 10am -12 noon

6. Parish Paths Partnership

6(1) Report from Footpaths Warden

Mr Hewitson had led a circular walk to Eye and back on 14th May as part of the Mid Suffolk Walking Festival. 14 walkers had attended and it had been a successful event. He was currently busy cutting all the paths

6(2) It was reported that the footpath between Mill Road and Barrack Lane is flooding at the Barrack Lane end after heavy rain. It was thought that the ditch alongside the field was supposed to drain under the road and that maybe this was blocked, causing water to overflow onto the path. Mr Dyla and Mr Hewitson to consult on exact location and SCC to be approached to advise on the best way forward

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Acknowledgment had been received from the Planning Inspectorate of receipt of comments from Occold Parish Council regarding application at the Cottage, Dublin Road, Rishangles. The Parish Council will be sent a copy of the decision when it is made

7(2) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for work at Castle Hill Farm House. This is actually in Thorndon Parish and Occold Parish Council had never been sent the papers for comment

7(3) Retention of barn no 4 at White House Farm – it was noted that the application has been referred to committee (on 4th June)

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Several councillors and others had been to the Masons Recycling Facility run by Viridor at Great Blakenham on May 22nd. The visit had been extremely interesting and informative. Certificates were distributed to those who had attended. A piece is to appear in ORACLE with a photo

8(2) An invitation had been received to attend a conference hosted by the Orwell Housing Association and Suffolk Preservation Society on “Affordable Housing – Delivering the Elmswell Exemplar Project” on Tuesday 22nd July 9.30am -3.30pm at Blackbourne Hall Elmswell

8(3) There would be a SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting at Hoxne on Wednesday 11th June 7-9.30pm

9. Finance

9(1) It was noted that Dawn Crisp had carried out the internal audit last week in preparation for the Audit which is due on 4th July 2008. Councillors approved the Governance Statement on the Annual Return which had been omitted at the May meeting

9(2) Payment of an invoice from SALC for Chairman’s training of £50+£8.75VAT was approved

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

10(1) Andy Andrews had been in touch to ask for profiles of new councillors for forthcoming editions of ORACLE. Website also needs updating

10(2) Confirmation had been received from MSDC that the current vacancy can be filled by cooption as an election has not been requested

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 14th July 2008 at 8pm in the Village Hall

Dates of meetings for the rest of the year were set as follows: -

August – no meeting

September 15th

October 13th

November 10th

December 8th

Meeting closed 9.15pm