

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 10th November 2008 in the Village Hall.

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

Also for part of the meeting County Councillor Jeremy Clover, District Councillor Charles Tilbury and PCSO Emma Cowell

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies. See item 7(3) for declarations of interest

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

2(1) County Councillor Jeremy Clover

The 14-19 Learning Reforms Agenda

In the words of Ed Balls: "we will change the education of 14-19 year olds in this country". This reform will involve 2 stages: firstly the creation by 2013 of a new and much richer and wider curriculum and secondly the transfer by 2010 of all responsibilities for planning, commissioning and funding from the Learning Skills Council to the County Council

Following the reorganisation of local councils the County Council is in the process of setting up pilot Community Boards who will represent local interests; at present these have led to some interesting discussions. They are meant to be community-led boards but Parish Councils are looking to the County Council for leadership

The County Council is now looking at next year's budget in earnest, having spent the last 6 months considering what the people of Suffolk want. Over the last 3 years £57 million has been saved (equivalent to £190 per household) in efficiency savings

Mr Clover reported that he had not had a response regarding FP24 and he would chase it up. A member of Thorndon Parish Council had informed Occold Parish Councillors that the lagoon did have planning permission even though the footpath ran through it

2(2) District Councillor Charles Tilbury

Land at Thorndon (in parish of Wetheringsett) in vicinity of Deadmans Lane and Thwaite Road

Last month it was brought to the attention of officers of the Council that a large area of land was being marketed for sale as an investment by Pemberton International Limited. The "formula" stated that it allowed investors to purchase house-sized plots of land. The prospectus document included a "Site Plan", which suggested (for illustrative purposes only) a layout of some 300 houses. The Council had received enquiries from people looking to invest in the site.

The land in question is identified as countryside within the development plan. The

potential development of gates, walls or fences to reflect sub-division of the land into plots or the use of the land for stationing of caravans as permitted development would be at odds with established countryside protection policies, contrary to the Core Strategy, and seriously harmful to the character, appearance and amenities of the rural locality.

The Council's Executive Committee, meeting on October 8, agreed that an Article 4 Direction should be served, removing appropriate permitted development rights with immediate effect, in order to protect the countryside amenity.

It has since transpired that the land in question has *not* been sold to Pemberton International, whose very existence was unknown to either the vendor or the recent purchaser of the land, who intends to continue to farm it. The matter has been reported to the Trade Standards Authority for further investigation.

Financial crisis

Mid Suffolk District Council has no deposits with any Icelandic bank - nor any other foreign bank for that matter. Moreover, as a result of a recent rating downgrade, we have removed a number of institutions from our list of those in which we are prepared to invest

Snoasis

The Secretary of State did not raise any objection to the plans for this development which is now set to go ahead

2(3) PCSO Emma Cowell

Reported Crimes

Since the 22nd September 2008, there have been no reported crimes in Occold.

A reorganization of working teams will mean that 24 hour cover will be provided from Eye or Debenham with effect from January 2009

Mobile Police Station visit

On Saturday 1st November the Mobile Police Station was in Occold from 12 noon until 3pm. PC Clare Wayman, Sergeant Nick Emerick & PCSO Emma Cowell were all in the village having a walk around & meeting some of the residents. We had a few people attend the Mobile Police Station enquiring about Neighbourhood Watch & some wanting some UV pens to mark their property with their postcodes.

Neighbourhood Watch

Three volunteers have come forward to take over from Jo Careford coordinating Neighbourhood Watch in Occold

Speed Limit in Occold

As many of you will be aware, we are now able to enforce the 20mph speed limit through Occold. We will be in the village at anytime with the speed gun & S.I.D (Speed Indicator Device) making sure that the speed limit is adhered to. We have had complaints of speeding at all times of the day within the village, but predominantly when school starts & finishes.

If drivers are found to be driving in excess of the speed limit there are several things that we can do:

1. We can issue them with a warning.
2. A letter can be issued stating when & where they were found speeding.
3. A Fixed Penalty Notice for £60 & 3 Penalty points if appropriate.

Initially the idea is to try to change habits through education but fixed penalty notices will be used if excessive speeds are involved

Occold Primary School

On Thursday 6th November PCSO Emma Cowell took an assembly with the whole school. The speed limit in Occold was talked about & the children are going to design some safety posters. These posters will then be displayed reminding all villagers & people who pass through the village to keep to the 20mph speed limit.

PCSO Emma Cowell was asked to come back to the primary school as they all enjoyed their input.

To contact our local officer telephone 01284 774100 & ask to speak to Debenham Officer
E-mail: midsuffcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 13th October 2008, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were unanimously approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(2) 13.10.08: Streetlights

SALC had confirmed that other parishes were experiencing similar problems regarding the G39 clearance issues, but had not suggested any way to deal with the problem. SALC were looking into the possibility of getting funding for replacing any street lights that need to be moved

It was resolved to chase up the outstanding repairs to three lights in the village. Mr Hewitson to check the lights in question and get back to the Clerk who will then contact Rod Jones at SCC and ask how SCC intend to honour their maintenance contract with us. There was a suggestion that the Parish Council should withhold payment until the matter is resolved – however a bill has recently been paid for the six months to end April 2009. The Clerk is to ask Mr Jones to attend a site meeting in the village to explain the issues directly to Councillors

4(2) Item 4(3) 13.10.08: Bus stop

ORAC had invited the Parish Council to attend a joint informal meeting to discuss issues of concern to both organisations. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that the suggested date of 25th November be accepted. Clerk to reply and give an outline of some of the issues that the Parish Council would like to cover, those being the New Village Hall, bus stop/shelter, speeding, footpath along The Street. Also to suggest limiting time to 2 hours

Paul Horne at SCC had provided more information about the required hard standing. This was now said to be 9 x 1.5m to accommodate the slopes up to the raised kerb height. Councillors felt this to be excessive and thought that other local bus stops had much

smaller amounts of hard standing than this (although this could be because they had been built before the DDA came into effect). Some volunteered to photograph and measure up examples at Coddenham, Wickham Skeith and others

4(3) Item 4(4) 13.10.08: 20mph limit

PCSO Emma Cowell had outlined in her report the police intention to monitor the speeding in the village. The meeting with Brian Lomax proposed in June 2008 was now felt to be unnecessary as a result, and Councillors were very pleased with the outcome of his efforts. Clerk to contact him and the local residents who had attended the meeting in June to express their concerns on this issue

4(4) Item 5(3) 13.10.08: Brome Waste Facility

A response had not yet been received from SCC – Clerk to chase

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation – *Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees: A consultation*; briefing from NALC Chief Executive on banking crisis; *Draft Fire Action Plan 2009-10*; update on Mid Suffolk District Council Local Development Framework; *Clerks & Councils Direct* Nov 2008; *Stowmarket Town Crier*; Eye & District Volunteer Centre leaflet

Councillors were requested to ensure that they pass on the circulation bundle promptly as delays meant that some councillors were not seeing the contents until two or three months after they were first circulated

5(2) Mid Suffolk District Council had confirmed that the vacancy could now be filled by cooption. Bernard Dyla had applied to be reconsidered and an application had been received from Mrs Chrissie Brewin. A secret ballot was held and the successful candidate was Bernard Dyla, the vote being extremely close. Clerk to write to Mr Dyla and to Mrs Brewin encouraging her to put her name forward if another vacancy should arise

5(3) Information had been received from SALC on the adoption of the new Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme as required by 1st January 2009. Clerk to review for next meeting

6. Parish Paths Partnership

Footpaths Warden Mr Hewitson reported that he is still chasing the investigation of the flooding at the Barrack Lane end of FP17 and the diversion of FP24 around the lagoon. With regard to the latter problem this land was due to be sold at auction later in the week. It was suggested that the Clerk write to the auctioneers, Gaze, to inform them of the outstanding issue of the footpath and the lagoon and asking for contact details of the eventual purchaser's lawyers so that we can contact them after the sale

7. Planning Matters

7(1) It was noted that application 1738/08 for erection of a dwelling and garage adjacent The Nest, The Causeway was referred to the planning committee sitting on 5th November. The decision was deferred for a site visit on Wednesday 12th November at 10.30am and

representatives of the Parish Council had been invited to attend

7(2) PA3401/08 Installation of solar water panels at Burnt House Farm, Dublin Road, Rishangles. The plans were tabled and considered. All in favour of supporting the application

7(3) PA3562/08 Storage Building, The Cottage, Dublin Road, Rishangles

Mr Chittock, Mr Hull and Mr Owen each declared a personal and prejudicial interest due to their friendship with the applicant and left the room

The plans were tabled and discussed. The application related to a similar one that had been turned down by MSDC. The new proposal was a slightly smaller building and had been moved further from the hedge. All in favour of approval

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Bespoke training for Occold Parish Council was to go ahead on 24th November and 1st December. Clerk to confirm time and program with SALC

9. Finance

9(1) A cheque was issued to Mr Hewitson for £19.02 to cover cost of petrol for grass cutting of the footpaths

9(2) A cheque was issued to the Royal British Legion for £25 as a donation for the Poppy Wreath

9(3) It was noted that the annual insurance premium had been paid and cover renewed

9(4) It was noted that interest of £46.15 had been received on Nationwide account for quarter to end of September 2008

9(5) It was noted that interest of £18.64 had been received on Alliance Leicester account for October 2008

9(6) An appeal for a donation to funds had been received from Eye & District Volunteer Centre. Clerk to acknowledge

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

10(1) Dates were proposed for meetings in 2009: -

January 12th
February 9th
March 9th
April 6th

May 11th
June 8th
July 6th

10(2) The 20mph/30mph sign on Mill Road has sheared off and is lying on the road. Clerk to notify highways department. Also the heavy rain has caused lots of flooding on the roads, particularly on the Eye Road near the cottages and at the Wash in Thorndon. With regard to the latter Clerk to contact Thorndon Parish Clerk as it is within their parish to see if they have any past correspondence with SCC about it

10(3) Daniel Hull had offered to clean the War Memorial and wanted to know if the Parish Council were happy for him to go ahead. There was some concern that the memorial is becoming fragile and pressure washing might damage it. It was suggested that he contact Perfitts the stonemasons to see if they could give any advice about how best to clean it

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

Meeting closed 10.05pm