

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 12th January 2009 in the Village Hall.

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

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

1(1) Apologies had been received from Mr Miller who was unwell, Mr Burnett who had family commitments and Mr Hubner whose train was delayed. Also unable to attend were District Councillor Tilbury and County Councillor Clover

1(2) Mr Dyla was proposed and seconded as a candidate for the position of Vice-Chair which was currently vacant. Approved

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

No reports had been received

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 8th December 2008, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 8.12.08: Streetlights

It was decided to make provision in next year's Budget for the replacement of one streetlight unit in order to make a start with compliance with the G39 requirements. However, it was hoped that a more favourable solution than the Parish Council having to fund replacement of all the non-compliant units may become apparent as more and more parishes have to deal with this issue

4(2) Item 4(2) 8.12.08: Bus stop

The Clerk had heard from the County Council representative that a visit to Occold was planned for the next week to undertake a review of possible bus stop sites

4(3) Item 4(3) 8.12.08: Beaconsfield Arms

The "Press Release" had appeared on the village website but there was no further news as to the future of the pub at present

4(4) Item 5(1) 8.12.08: Hartismere High School Foundation Status consultation

The document had been circulated in the bundle but Councillors did not wish to make any comments as part of the consultation process

4(5) Correspondence for circulation

SALC had reported in The Local Councillor that they would be able to provide Ordnance Survey maps to Parish Councils. Mr Hewitson asked if the Clerk could look into acquiring a better quality large scale map of the parish than the one he currently had for footpath work

4(6) Item 4(8) 8.12.08: War Memorial

Mr Hull reported that his son Daniel was still looking into the possibility of grant funding for the

cleaning of the memorial. Three quotes were required for the grant application form and they were endeavouring to find three companies that could give a quote for the work

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation – Mid Suffolk District Council *Countryside Events 2009* leaflet and *Events at Thornham 2009* leaflet; *Wingfield Barns Newsletter* Issue 1 Dec 2008; *Charter for Older People in Suffolk* and *Year of Opportunity News* Issue 2 Winter 2008; copy of planning decision (see 7(1) below); letter from Leader of SCC about unitary authority financial assessment by Boundary Committee (deadline for comments has unfortunately passed); leaflets from Whitehouse Enterprises about products made from recycled plastics; consultation document on “Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity”; *Mid Suffolk Discovery Project Newsletter* Nov 2008; *Suffolk View* Winter 2008; *Clerks & Councils Direct* January 2009; *Clerks & Councils Direct 2009 Councils Suppliers Guide and Yearbook*

5(2) The clerk read out a letter from ORAC about the commencement of work on the new village hall and the lack of car parking whilst work was being carried out

6. Parish Paths Partnership

6(1) Report from Footpaths Warden

There had been nothing further heard from either SCC or MSDC about FP24 (the lagoon). They were waiting for confirmation from Mr Starke that he would accept the diverted footpath on his land

FP17 (Mill Road to Barrack Lane) – Mr Hull reported that he thought the drainage problem at the Barrack Lane end could be rectified by opening up the trench across the path to allow water to flow into the ditch. The offer of hardcore would probably cause a problem by preventing the water from getting away and creating a boggy area. He volunteered to do the necessary work to the trench

The works at the playing field for the new village hall had temporarily blocked the footpath alongside the hedge whilst the fencing was being erected around the site, but this was now clear again and the hedge had been trimmed back a bit further

Some walks booklets were now available and copies were distributed. Some to be left in the Church

Mr Hubner arrived

7. Planning Matters

7(1) PA 3474/08 Agricultural Worker’s dwelling and garage, Poplar Hall Farm, Benningham Green, Occold

It was noted that permission had been refused and the Clerk read out the reasons for refusal (A copy of the decision had been placed in the bundle). Councillors were extremely dismayed that the planning officer should be able to veto something so important to the success of someone’s new business and livelihood. Redlingfield Parish Council had copied their comments to the Clerk – they were also disappointed by the decision. It was decided to ask District Councillor Tilbury to make enquiries about the basis for the decision and find out just what needs to be demonstrated in order to justify a new agricultural dwelling

7(2) The Parish Council had been invited to take part in the consultation on potential sites for Residual Waste Treatment Facilities as part of SCC’s Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

Five potential sites are listed, including Eye airfield industrial estate. The RWTF's will treat rubbish which cannot be extracted for recycling and cannot continue to go to landfill. This will presumably involve incineration but the consultation does not specify the technology to be used. It was agreed that in principle the size of the proposed facility is critical to the suitability of the site. The Parish Council would not be in favour of a structure that would have an adverse impact on the character of the surrounding landscape. Even though the proposed site is an industrial estate a large chimney, for example, would have a visual impact over a much wider area than the immediate surroundings. It would also be beneficial for the heat and power generated by the incineration process to be harnessed.

7(3) The wind turbine at Dublin was discussed. Mr Chittock declared a personal interest in the matter. Councillors remembered that a condition of the planning permission was that it should continue to produce a sufficient amount of power. The Clerk was asked to determine whether this was the case and to find out if MSDC had taken any measures to monitor the amount of power being generated and if so whether the turbine was meeting the minimum requirements.

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Councillors were informed of the following meetings and events: -

- Councillor Briefing – Maximising Opportunities for Suffolk from London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. To be held at The Cedars Hotel, Needham Market on Monday 9th Feb 2009 5pm-6.30pm (free of charge)
- Planning Training at SALC – next session is Monday 9th March 9.30am -12.30pm and costs £25 + VAT (Mr Cripps to notify Clerk if he is able to attend)
- Life of a Lorry Driver Event run by SCC at Endeavour House, Ipswich - 19th February 2009 10am-2pm

8(2) Mr Cripps had attempted to visit the exhibition of future plans for the Hartismere Hospital site which had been advertised as being open until 6pm. However, when he arrived at 5.40pm the Town Hall was all closed up. Clerk to contact the organisers to complain.

9. Finance

9(1) The 2008/9 Budget and Expenditure figures were reviewed. It was decided to include an additional £1500 to cover the cost of replacing one street lighting unit. After some discussion the following Budget for 2009/10 was agreed: -

Administration	£2750
Training	£ 200
Chairman's allowance	£ 50
S137 Donations	£ 400
Church & Chapel	£1000
Cemetery grasscutting	£ 700
Water rate	£ 100
Street Lights	£2250 (to include 1 new light)
TOTAL	£7450

It was proposed that the precept should be £6500, which would be £1500 more than last year, the amount needed to pay for the street light. All in favour. A piece should appear in Oracle and on the

website explaining this reason for the large percentage increase in the Parish Council precept

9(2) Submitted for payment an invoice from SALC for bespoke training for £270 + £40.50 VAT = £310.50. Approved

9(3) Submitted for consideration a request from Occold PCC for reimbursement of cemetery grass cutting and hedge trimming to cost of £176. Mr Hubner declared a personal interest. Approved

9(4) The receipt of a cheque for £85.89 from Henman's Charity was noted. It was agreed to pay this into the Alliance Leicester account again this year, but as the village hall would be finished by this time next year, this would be the last time

Clerk to check with Alliance Leicester who are the signatories for this account

9(5) It was noted that interest of £47.81 had accrued on the Nationwide account for the quarter to end December 2008. Also that £11.27 for November 2008, £5.86 for December 2008 had been received on the Alliance Leicester account

9(6) The charitable donations to be made under S137 for 2008/9 were discussed. £25 had already been spent on the Poppy Wreath from a Budget of £300. It was agreed to make the following donations: -

Debenham Leisure Centre	£30
Macmillan Cancer Support Suffolk	£50
Eye & District Volunteer Centre	£30
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	£40
East Anglian Air Ambulance	£40
Rural Coffee Caravan	£25
Occold Pre-School	£60

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

10(1) The Clerk apologised that when the dates had been set for 2009's meetings she had forgotten that she would be on holiday on 6th April. As the next Monday would be Easter Monday it was agreed to hold the April meeting on **Tuesday** 14th April 2009

10(2) One of the signs prohibiting HGV's from entering the village has been damaged and is loose. It is the sign on the left hand side when approaching the village from Bedingfield, just before the sharp left hand corner. Clerk to notify SCC

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 9th February 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.50pm