

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 9th February 2009 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr R Burnett, Mr C Cripps, Mr B Dyla, Mr J Hewitson,
Mr B Hull, Mr A Miller, Mr R Owen
Also for part of the meeting District Councillor Tilbury

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Hubner who was away from home on business, and also from the police of the Mid Suffolk SNT who had no-one available to attend

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

2(1) District Councillor Tilbury's report to the meeting

Effect of the recession on recycling

At the MRF, and the Suffolk Recycling Consortium contract with Viridor, we are benefitting from fixed gate fee for the next financial year, based upon contracts Viridor has in place with its end users.

Thereafter market conditions will have an impact upon the level of gate fee paid in 2010-2011, yet to be determined.

The MRF benefits from having a 'quality assurance' system in place, which enables Viridor to market recovered materials at a higher spot price due to the quality of the materials recovered.

The recovered glass market is relatively buoyant which obviously assists in maintaining demand for materials collected at bring centres.

Main area of concern immediately is the impact upon costs of dealing with abandoned vehicles. However, with the End of Life Vehicle Directive now requiring manufacturers to put in place collection points for scrap vehicles, and from conversation with our AV current collection contractor, we are unlikely to experience similar situation we underwent when we had 60 + vehicles abandoned in the district each month on average.

Suffolk Waste Core Strategy

Under the Suffolk Waste Core Strategy, a total of 14 original sites has been reduced to a shortlist of 5, for the location of strategic residual waste treatment facilities. This is to cope with the estimated 550,000 tonnes per annum of non-hazardous waste from municipal and commercial sources which will require handling once landfill sites have been exhausted. The development of the Strategy is at an early stage, but of the five shortlisted sites, three have been identified in Mid Suffolk:

Eye Airfield Industrial Estate
Masons Quarry, Great Blakenham
SCC Highways Depot, Great Blakenham

Regional Spatial Strategies

One of the opposition political parties has stated that if elected it will abolish what it describes as the undemocratic and unwieldy tier of regional planning across England. This would include changing the law to scrap the Regional Spatial Strategies and Regional Planning Bodies (currently the regional assemblies, soon to be RDAs). The powers would be returned to elected local councils.

As a logical consequence of scrapping the regional plans, if the RSSs have already been implemented, councils would be allowed to revise their local plans ('Local Development Frameworks') to undo the changes that the Regional Spatial Strategy forced on them. This would allow local communities to protect their local environment, and decide themselves the most appropriate level of development for their area.

2(2) Community Police Officer's report

Reported Crimes

Since the 1st January 2009, there have been no reported crimes in Occold.

Team News

PC 905 John Gibbs retired on 2nd January 2009 after completing 30 years service as a Police Constable. Many of you will have come into contact with PC Gibbs during his time based at Debenham Police Station. We wish him well in his retirement & his future endeavours.

Heating Oil Thefts

Heating Oil theft is on the rise in the rural Areas of Suffolk, due to the rise in the cost of petrol. All the offenders need to do is add a chemical to the oil & it can be used in diesel cars.

If you have a Heating Oil tank on your premises, here are a couple of suggestions to make your Tank less likely to be targeted:

1. Screen your Tanks with fencing or Hedges
2. Makes sure gates to your rear garden is locked
3. Security lighting – will activate when someone walks past
4. Regularly check your Fuel Levels

Police Direct

We are currently aiming to get as many of residents within our SNT to sign up to Police Direct. Below explains what it is & how residents can sign up to it.

What is it?

Police Direct is *free* service provided by Suffolk Constabulary. This allows you to know what's going on in your area. We notify you of Crimes that have taken place in your area, suspicious vehicles that we need your help with, any road closures or accidents that are on the main roads & when your SNT are having a Community Engagement in your village.

How do I get the information?

Police Direct can send you Text Messages to your Mobile, e-mails to your home or work address & leave voice messages on your home phone if you do not have Internet access or a mobile phone.

Where can I sign up?

You can visit the Mid Suffolk Central Website below or the main Suffolk Constabulary Website: www.suffolk.police.uk. You can contact us by e-mail or phone asking for a leaflet for you to complete with your contact details & send it back to us. If you have any further questions about Police Direct, please contact us.

Garden & Shed Security Month – 1st – 31st March 2009

Mid Suffolk Central Team will be running a Garden & Shed initiative throughout the month of March. We will be at Laws Garden Centre in Bacton on the 28th March 2009 & at Stonham Barns on 29th March 2009, should anyone wish to come & purchase Shed Alarms, UV Pens, Security Code property or would like some crime prevention advice.

We will be going into all of our primary schools to teach the pupils about security & setting them a competition to design posters for their local allotments or Gardens.

Further information will be given to all Parish Council Clerks & Neighbourhood Watch within the next few weeks.

Have your say

Suffolk Constabulary's Public Survey is there for you to tell us how we're doing & how we can go about improving our service to you.

You can go to our website & follow the link to the electronic public survey or you can have a paper version & pop it back to us in the pre paid envelope provided. If you would like a paper version, please let 1 of us know & we will get one out to you.

Upcoming Event

Tuesday 24th March 2009 - Equestrian Crime Prevention and Road Safety Evening at Tophorn Equestrian Centre, Grove Farm, Debenham. All Horse owners are invited to the evening to get their Equestrian equipment stamped, to sign up to Horse Watch if they have not already done so & to find out more information about road safety. For further information please contact the Horse Watch officer - *PC 1330 Amy Yeldham* via the telephone number below.

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: 01284 774100 & ask to speak to Debenham Officer

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

The Clerk was asked to contact the Community Police Officers about Neighbourhood Watch and the use of the speed gun in the village. With regard to the former there had been no progress since new co-ordinators had been found. Councillors felt that the speed gun needed to be used in the village again as very occasional use was not going to be

enough to act as a deterrent to speeding motorists. Mr Cripps offered to pass registration details of speeding cars to the Clerk for forwarding to the police

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12th January 2009, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were unanimously approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 12/1/09: Street lights

The Clerk read out an email from Shona Bendix at SALC. They were trying to set up a meeting with all parties to discuss the issue of the G39 regulations and their impact on Parish Councils and would let us know of any further progress. They were also looking into the possibility of grant funding for replacement lights. It was not felt to be a very positive message. Andy Andrews had forwarded information about the G39 issues to those Councillors on email, but the Clerk had not yet seen a copy. It was agreed that all should give this information some consideration before the next meeting and meanwhile he should be thanked for his contribution

The Clerk had prepared a draft of a piece to appear in Oracle and on the website explaining the substantial rise in the Parish Council's budget to pay for a street light. Councillors approved it and suggested the cost per household should be added

4(2) Item 4(2) 12/1/09: Bus Stop

SCC had responded to the effect that the only suitable site for a new bus stop was the green. This information had been passed to ORAC and would be on the agenda for its meeting on 2nd March. To discuss again at March meeting – Clerk to ask for feedback from ORAC before then and to invite representatives to attend that Parish Council meeting

4(3) Item 4(5) 12/1/09: Maps from SALC

SALC were not yet able to issue maps but would inform the Clerk as soon as the project is launched

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation – *The Local Councillor* Issue 4 2008; SALC Training Courses for early 2009; copy of SALC response to consultation on Codes of Conduct; Suffolk Preservation Society Programme of Events for 2009; *The Town Crier* and *Take a Fresh Look at Stowmarket* leaflet from Stowmarket Town Council

5(2) Mr Dyla had been in correspondence with ORAC about the state of the road due to construction traffic. This had now been resolved as the road had been properly swept

5(3) A joint letter had been received from Waveney, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils concerning the Local Government Review. They believed that a third option, of three unitary councils, should have been consulted on. Councillors were each given one of their publicity leaflets. Local news had reported that the Boundary Commissions recommendation, due by 13th February, had been postponed until July

5(4) A letter had been received from Age Concern about setting up a local Food'n'Friends Club, essentially a mini lunch club, hosted in private homes. They had been put in touch with

Andy Andrews as editor of Oracle so that a piece can appear there asking for volunteers to become hosts

6. Parish Paths Partnership

6(1) Report from Footpaths Warden

Walks booklets had been placed in the Church and there were some posters to go on the Noticeboard

Work had been carried out on FP17, hopefully dealing with the problems there

There had been no further news on the footpath diversion around the lagoon. Footpaths Warden to chase Suffolk County Council

7. Planning Matters

7(1) Agricultural Workers dwelling Poplar Hall Farm

Information about the decision to refuse permission had been passed to District Councillor Charles Tilbury but he explained that once the decision has been taken he cannot act to reverse it. In future any concerns should be made known to him *before* a decision is made so that he can insist that the application goes before the Planning Committee. In this case he had urged the Planning Officer to speak to the applicant's agent and it seemed that a new application would be made with minor adjustments to the proportions of the proposed building and that this should have a reasonable chance of success

7(2) Wind turbine at the Willows, Dublin

The Clerk had checked on the conditions imposed on the grant of permission for this development. They stipulated that the turbine must be removed and the land restored to its original condition within 2 months of it 'no longer being required for energy purposes'. There was therefore no requirement to demonstrate that it was generating a minimum amount of power

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) Following Mr Cripps' attempt to visit the exhibition of plans for the regeneration of the Hartismere Hospital site and finding them closed early, the Parish Council had received an offer of a visit from Martin Royal to present the plans to them and answer any questions. Although grateful for the offer Parish Councillors did not think it was necessary for him to come in this instance. Clerk to reply to offer

8(2) Councillors were informed of a SALC Leadership Skills course to be held on Sat 21st/Sat 28th Feb 9.30am-3pm for Chairmen, vice chairmen and aspiring chairmen

8(3) Mr Cripps was now able to attend the SALC Planning Course on Monday 9th March. Clerk to book him a place on it

9. Finance

9(1) Submitted for payment membership fees for Suffolk Preservation Society of £25. Approved

9(2) The signatories for the Alliance Leicester account are Kevin Chittock, Jo Careford and

Mark Underwood. These will need changing before the money can be transferred to ORAC. It was agreed that Mr Dyla and Mr Hewitson should replace Mrs Careford and Mr Underwood. Clerk was waiting for the form from the bank. ORAC had indicated that it would appreciate the donation from the Parish Council to be made towards the capital costs of the project rather than waiting to use it to provide furnishings for the completed hall. The Clerk had checked that this was possible and it seems that it would be under S19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

9(3) An appeal for a donation had been received from Age Concern Suffolk. Clerk to send usual acknowledgement

9(4) It was noted that acknowledgements had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Macmillan in Suffolk, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Eye Volunteer Centre for recent donations

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

10(1) There were several highways matters to report: -

 potholes in the driveway of Church Farm
 lorries cutting into the bank and reducing the width of the verges on the B1077 between Castle Hill Cottages and the turning to HLS – suggest kerb needed
 flooding caused by overflowing ditches at various locations including Bulls Hall Road, Mill Road near The Firs

10(2) ORAC had suggested a village meeting between representatives of all village organisations and had contacted them to canvas opinion. The Parish Council was in favour of trying the idea and suggested that two representatives from each organisation would be a good idea and that the meetings could be held twice a year

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

Meeting closed 9.10pm