

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 8th February 2010 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr R Burnett, Mr C Cripps, Mr J Hewitson,
Mr S Hubner, Mr B Hull (in the Chair), Mr A Miller, Mr R Owen

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Chittock and Mrs Grange. Mr Burnett and Mr Hubner expected to arrive a little late. Apologies had also been received from District Councillor Charles Tilbury and County Councillor Andrew Stringer

2. Reports from Community Police Officer and County Councillor

2(1) PC Clare Wayman gave her report to the meeting: -

Reported Crimes

Since the 12th December, there has been no reported crime in the parish of Occold.

Oil Thefts:

There have been a number of thefts from oil tanks across the area.

We would recommend that wherever possible the following simple steps be followed:

- Screen your tank with hedging or fences.
- Close and secure perimeter gates.
- Conceal any external pipe work.
- Install dusk to dawn lighting.
- Regularly check your fuel levels
- Consider installing a tank alarm/security device(consult your tank supplier)
- Install lockable caps supported by a close shackle padlock.
- Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Thefts from Churches

Lead has been taken or attempted to be taken, from roofs and windows of Churches in the area.

You can help us with this and other thefts by looking out for:

- Anyone behaving suspiciously
- Unfamiliar vans or lorries parked near target buildings, please make a note of their registration number.
- Suspicious sounds or lights coming from a building when it is closed.
- The sounds of vehicles stopping and starting near these buildings, especially at night.
- Any conversations overheard that arouse suspicions

Farmwatch

One of our Priorities for February is to promote Farmwatch, which is operated in a similar

way to the Police Direct scheme. The objective of the priority is to prevent farm related crime by establishing new working relationships with partner agencies sharing information and increasing the feelings of confidence within the farming community. For further details please contact any officer at Debenham.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR ARE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING REPORT IT ON 01473 613500 and IF YOU THINK A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED ALWAYS DIAL 999

Suffolk Safe Key

We will remind you of the Suffolk Safe Key Scheme

By 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. This service is currently offered at a discounted figure of £6.00 for one year

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 will be during the first week in March, it will start at 7pm and finish at 8pm and will take place at a venue to be advised. Please check our website for further details

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

2(2) County Councillor report

The Clerk read out the following report from Cllr Stringer: -

Pylon Consultation

Last Tuesday the Cabinet of the county council met to discuss their response to the consultation regarding the National Grid's 400kv overhead line project from Bramford to Twinstead.

One seemingly overlooked area of this proposal is the building to hold the substations. The "shed" proposed to house this infrastructure is so large it is not measured in square metres it is measured in acres!

New Street Lighting

State of the art new L.E.D street lights are being installed around the recreation ground in Stowmarket, The energy use for these should reduce the cost of running each bulb by at least 1000 % and cut the amount of times Carillion have to attend to change the bulbs as each bulb should last over a decade.

Local Government Review

The old chestnut of reorganising Suffolk's governance has taken yet another twist, with many people suggesting that the whole thing will run out of time because of general election, etc. The Secretary of State has sent a communication that states that

Parliamentary orders may be invoked to put a Suffolk Unitary on the statute book before May, with an election in May 2011 to elect “shadow” members of the new authority following the new authorities’ redrawn boundaries. The suggestion is that the new Divisions will be made up of 2 elected members.

Narrow Broadband Access

One issue that has caused much concern over the last few months is the very poor broadband access we have in some areas. We have secured the best efforts of the County Council Environment Scrutiny Committee to look into the situation, given the fact we have a joint venture company with BT we should be able to get some answers.

2(3) District Councillor

Although Cllr Tilbury was not present there was a planning matter to be advised to him: several potential buyers had recently been shown around the Beaconsfield Arms, the selling price for which had been reduced. It was understood that one of them had indicated that his intention was to purchase and apply for change of use to a dwelling. Clerk to notify Cllr Tilbury

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 11th January 2010, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved
Minutes of the meeting of 7th December 2009 were amended at Item 4(1) to show that Donald Turner and not Di Noller had attended the bus stop site meeting on ORAC’s behalf

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 2(1) 11.1.10: Grit heaps/bins

The Clerk had been sent a list of grit heap locations in Occold by the County Council. These were on Redlingfield Road outside the council houses, at the junction of Redlingfield Road and The Street, at the junction of The Street and the B1077 and at the junction of Barrack Lane and the B1077. Councillors thought that there was also one at the junction of Church Lane and The Street although this was not currently on the SCC list. Clerk to check with them. Grit is distributed free of charge at the beginning of each season and requests for top ups can be made by the Parish Council via CSD. It is only for use on the public highway and as this is the case it was thought that it would not be possible to have a grit heap for use in Old Rectory Gardens as this is a private road, although Clerk would check this with SCC. It was felt that the purchase of grit bins at approximately £100 each was too expensive. There had been issues of liability regarding volunteers spreading the grit but named volunteers can be covered by the County Council insurance if they use the grit in the agreed manner. Clerk to ask for volunteers for next winter

Mr Hubner and Mr Burnett arrived during the above discussion

4(2) Item 4(1) 11.1.10: Bus stop

The Quality of Life Mid Suffolk Area Locality Board meeting had been cancelled due to the bad weather so its members had been put in touch with Cllr Stringer direct to discuss funding for the bus stop. However, although bus stop/shelter funding had been transferred from the Public Transport department to this board, all funding from the board must be used to benefit the whole of the Mid Suffolk area, a criteria which cannot be fulfilled by a

bus stop in Occold. The Parish Council was dismayed to find that having come so close to realising the project it now seemed that funding was not available. Councillor Stringer thought that he could use his own locality budget and local transport funds to provide about £2000 of funding in the next year, the Parish Council has £1000 in reserves but the further £1000 from Jeremy Clover will not be available after the end of March 2010. As the project cost was estimated to be almost £6000 this would leave a substantial shortfall. It was suggested that Parish Council reserves could be used to make up the difference but as the questionnaire had indicated that the provision of a bus shelter would cost very little to parishioners this was probably not wise. The alternative suggestion was to investigate the possibility of funding the hard standing areas immediately with a view to providing the shelter at a later date once other sources of funding could be looked into. The idea of sponsorship by local businesses was also suggested. The Clerk was asked to contact Paul Horne to see if a costing could be obtained for the hardstanding alone and to try to get the project started before the end of the financial year. An additional meeting to be called if necessary

4(3) Item 4(2) 11.1.10: Mary Wade's pictures of Occold

The Clerk reported that the pictures were safely stored in the new village hall and were waiting for a place to be decided on to put them up

4(4) Item 6(1) 11.1.10: Broken Footpath sign

The Clerk had chased this and had been informed that the repair would be carried out in due course. To follow up at March meeting. It was also thought that the signpost for the footpath on Redlingfield Road towards Benningham Green was missing. To be checked

4(5) Item 9 11.1.10: Meeting dates and venues for rest of 2010

The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall was available for all the preferred dates in 2010 except 10th May, for which it had been arranged that the school could be used. The Clerk had been advised by the Bookings Secretary to make bookings for 2011 as well as the calendar was beginning to fill up, and was asked to do this

4(6) Highways matters

Concerns were raised about erosion of the roadsides at various places on the B1077, especially on Castle Hill and between Occold Hall and the junction with The Street, where a heavy vehicle had gone onto the verge and nearly in the ditch. There were also concerns about water running across the road on the hill outside Eye where Cranley Road joins the B1077. Clerk to advise Highways and copy Eye Town Council

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation – Age Concern *Annual Review 2008-9*; MSDC Proposed Budget 2010/11; *Clerks & Councils Direct* January 2010; *The Local Councillor* Issue 1 2010; *Optua News & Views* Autumn 2009

5(2) An offer had been received from the Rural Housing Enabler at Suffolk ACRE to help conduct local housing needs surveys in parishes. Although there was some doubt as to whether building plots could be found in the village if a need was demonstrated it was decided to invite the officer to attend the April meeting to talk about the possibilities

5(3) Suffolk Constabulary had sent a letter asking for responses to questions about “Delivering the Policing Pledge”. Clerk to respond

5(4) Correspondence had been received asking for nominations for two different awards – the Stars of Suffolk Awards (SCC and the Evening Star) and the High Sheriff Awards 2010. It was agreed that ORAC should be nominated for securing funding for the new village hall and successfully completing the project

5(5) Information from Green Suffolk had been received about the “Save money and take up the energy challenge” scheme allowing members of the public to borrow energy monitors from local libraries

5(6) SALC had sent an invitation to nominate the Chairman to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 22nd July. He had agreed for his name to be put forward into the ballot for places

6. Planning Matters

6(1) Councillors had been copied with a letter from Suffolk Preservation Society about the deadline for objecting to the proposed siting of a Residual Waste facility, one of the possible sites being Eye airfield. A meeting had been arranged in Eye for Friday 12th February at 7.30pm at the Town Hall and councillors were invited to attend

7. Meetings and Training

7(1) Suffolk Constabulary had asked the Parish Council to consider nominating a councillor to act as Police Liaison Officer to attend future police neighbourhood tasking meetings. Mr Cripps agreed to fulfil this role. He also volunteered to join the Neighbourhood Watch team

7(2) A representative was needed to attend Mid Suffolk District Council Parish Liaison Meeting on Weds 24th March 2010 at Needham Market either 9.30am or 6pm (refreshments from 5.30pm). No-one present was able to attend. Clerk to ask the Chairman if he would be able to go as he had attended these meetings in the past

7(3) The next Village Forum meeting was taking place on Weds 17th February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Mr Cripps and Mr Hewitson agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Clerk to provide up-to-date information about the bus stop/ grit heaps/ any other issues to be raised before the meeting

8. Finance

8(1) The Parish Council had been asked to consider funding the purchase of two Neighbourhood Watch signs at a cost of £35 + VAT each. All in agreement. Clerk to notify Phil Kemp, the Suffolk Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. The cheque is to be issued as soon as the invoice arrives as the signs will not be supplied until payment has been made

8(2) Payment of invoice from Suffolk County Council for street lighting maintenance and supply for 1/10/09 to 31/3/10 for £351.61 + £52.74VAT = £404.35 was approved

8(3) Reimbursement of Occold PCC for grass cutting costs in the cemetery during 2009 of £468 was approved

8(4) Requests for donations had been received from Optua and NSPCC. Clerk to send usual acknowledgement letter

8(5) It was noted that acknowledgements for recent donations had been received from Age Concern, Eye Volunteer Centre, Marie Curie Cancer Care, EACH, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

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

9(1) Councillors noted that a Medieval Michaelmas event was being planned by the Andrews and Capey families to take place on Saturday 2nd October 2010. A request for assistance with funding to be considered at the March meeting

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

Meeting closed 9.30pm