

MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 5th July 2010 in the Village Hall.

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

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Mr Hubner (work commitments) and Mrs Grange (family illness). District Councillor Charles Tilbury had also sent his apologies

The Chairman reminded Councillors that they had a responsibility to act in an honest and open manner at all times. This had been prompted by concerns that some members knew about a proposed meeting between ORAC and Mid Suffolk District Council officers when the Parish Council offered to host an Open Meeting about noise restriction issues at the Village Hall (see Item 10(1) 7.6.10) but had not shared this with the rest of the Council. In fact the date of that meeting had not been fixed at the time of the Parish Council meeting and moreover full discussion of the issue had not been possible as it was not an Agenda item

Councillors were also reminded to give due care to the question of whether or not they should be declaring an interest at meetings

2. Reports from Community Police Officer and County Councillor

2(1) Community Police Officer's report

Reported Crimes

There has been one reported crime in the Parish of Occold since the last report on 7th June 2010. During the evening of 26th June a portable satellite navigation system was stolen from a motor vehicle in Ash Tree Close.

Suffolk Street a Week Initiative

This Initiative is focused on SNT officers knocking on doors and get talking to local residents, to find out the issues that are worrying them.

Working with partners such as Parish Councils it is intended to target one street in a village every week. Every household will be visited and the residents spoken to and provided with a Suffolk Street a Week Questionnaire in the hope that it will spark engagement /discussion between Residents and Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, about levels of Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Public confidence issues.

After the questionnaires have been delivered a further visit will be carried out to collect them when householders will have a further opportunity to engage with officers.

The decision as to which streets should be visited will come from local SNT Priority/ Problem solving meetings where our partners and the public are already invited to attend.

Your Parish Council can play a vital role in assisting with the above process and we will

contact you again in the near future to discuss this initiative further.

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

Neighbourhood Watch

We are always seeking additional coordinators for Neighbourhood Watch and ask that if anyone is interested in becoming involved they contact one of us at Debenham.

Have Your Say

The Neighbourhood Police Meeting is now open to the public and is where our priorities for the following month will be set, please come along and raise any issues.

The next meeting is on **21st July at:** The Bull Inn, Church Road, Bacton. IP14 4LJ.

This meeting starts at 7.00pm and finishes at 8pm. All members of the Parish Council as well as the public are invited to attend when they can bring any issues/concerns to the meetings attention.

Please contact us to find out when later meetings are, alternatively the information is on our website.

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: 01473 613500 & ask to speak to the Mid Suffolk Central Team

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

Website: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral - please visit our website which is updated regularly

At the Clerk's request PCSO Stephen Johnson stated that the priorities set at the last Neighbourhood Police Meeting were speeding in Bacton, Pettaugh and Old Newton; parking issues in Debenham and travellers at Creting St Mary

The new PCSO to replace Emma Cowell who would eventually be covering Occold is Sally Fray and she would be starting her probation time in Debenham soon

As a result of the budget cuts imposed by central government all recruitment would be frozen with effect from Septemebr. The monthly Newsletter and the Policing Pledge were to be scrapped and there was a possibility that the monthly Neighbourhood Police Meetings and priorities would be changed to quarterly

It was noted that a group of travellers had taken up residence on Mellis green. This observation led to PCSO Johnson asking members to be on the lookout for two transit vans that had been seen in the area, one red and one mustard coloured. The latter was

thought to have been using false plates and might be linked to a theft at Bacton

Six arrests had recently been made at the bungalow on the corner of Park Lane (at the bottom of the hill going into Eye) where squatters had entered the property. Investigations were ongoing

2(2) County Councillor's report

Pow wow with the chief!

As reported verbally at previous meetings. I have now been a County Councillor for over a year and in all that time I had never met the Chief Executive of the council. On the 15th of June I sent Andrea Hill an "Unhappy Anniversary" card to make known my disquiet that for a whole year the chief executive had not met a leader of a political group within a council that is supposed to be inclusive. Surprise surprise within 24 hours Andrea Hill's P.A had invited me to meet Andrea for a chat so I took her up on the offer, on the 22nd of June met the Chief Executive for a frank and honest discussion regarding the way Suffolk county council was run among other issues, following Mrs Hill apologising for ignoring us totally I gained an assurance that we would meet at least every quarter, so if any of you would like me to raise any issue with our great leader including her salary just let me know.

Speeding Pilot Started

The County Council has now begun a pilot study into what strategies are likely to bring about the most effective outcomes in reducing speed in rural villages.

The pilot will run for a year analyzing speed data from villages that have a community speed watch scheme, or a new flashing speed indicator sign, or a greater Police presence. It will be a great help to know the most effective strategy to reduce speeds through our villages and will help us have the most effect with constrained budgets.

Community Speed Watch up and Running

Wickham Skeith Parish Community Speed Watch has now been out on five different occasions, monitoring the speeds on average of 150 cars per hour and already the results are beginning to show. As well as checking speeds the team are also logging the amount of traffic to help with any future transport safety schemes.

The speeds registered are very variable on average one in ten cars are above 37mph with one in twenty over 40 mph. Along the street in Wickham Skeith we have already logged the same car travelling in excess of 37mph on 3 different occasions, one car that stooped to check if we would be giving him points on his license for travelling at 34 mph (he was actually doing 43mph) and the police van stopped to inform us that they knew we were conducting a speed watch because their clearly marked police van had been flashed by a motorist.

Andrew Stringer andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk
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Cllr Stringer also reported to the meeting that the cuts to the school building project just announced by central government would mean that the areas of Suffolk now in a 3-tier system would probably remain so as there would be no funding for the new schools required to change to a 2-tier system in those areas

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 7th June 2010, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

4. Matters Arising

4(1) Item 4(1) 7.6.10: Register of Interests

The Clerk asked for the outstanding information on charity membership from Councillors so that she could add these to the Register of Interests and inform the Monitoring Officer

4(2) Item 4(2) 7.6.10: Community Speed Watch

Clarification had been received from PC Wayman that in fact the 20mph limit in Occold is mandatory but that it could not be enforced by volunteers through the Community Speedwatch Scheme, only by police officers. As this is the case the Parish Council did not think it worthwhile pursuing the CSW scheme at this time

5. Correspondence

5(1) Correspondence for circulation — information from Rural Coffee Caravan Project; LAIS Up2Date; *Vetting and Barring Update* from LAIS; *Clerks & Councils Direct* July 2010; copy of newspaper clipping regarding Suffolk County Council's employment of a "spin doctor"; MSDC Skin Piercing Byelaws; LAIS Emergency Budget briefing.

5(2) Mr Hull declared a personal interest as a trustee of ORAC. Correspondence had been received from ORAC about the bus stop/shelter site on the green and in particular about the removal of the two trees. There is a dead elm on the neighbouring property close to the boundary and the owner has been told that this needs removing or lopping as a matter of urgency. Waveney Tree Specialists had offered to do this at the same time as removing the trees on the green for a combined price that would be cheaper than coming out twice

Nothing had yet been heard from the Quality of Life Board about funding for the bus shelter (although Cllr Stringer informed the meeting that he was assured the money was available) and there was still a small possibility that the project would not go ahead. Nevertheless Councillors agreed that the trees should be removed as soon as possible and that the Parish Council would bear the cost of removing the trees from the green

6. Parish Paths Partnership

6(1) At ORAC's request Mr Hewitson had kindly cut back the hedge and undergrowth along the footpath that leads from The Street to the playing field at the back of the Village Hall in time for the fete on the Saturday preceding the meeting

7. Planning Matters

7(1) PA1473/10 Erection of two and a half storey dwelling, land South of Beaconsfield Arms, Mill Road, Occold

The plans were tabled and discussed. It was noted that the conifer hedge on the southern boundary of the plot had already been removed. The proposed development was considered to be much too large for the size of the plot. Planning permission had previously been granted for a two bedroom bungalow [*Clerk to check this*] on the site which was more appropriate. A four bedroomed house might be expected to have more

than one vehicle and parking would be a problem. The application states that it is a two storey dwelling with rooms in the loft. There is no plan for the loft space. The area is already noise sensitive due to the pub and village hall nearby. The large blank gable end would loom over the pub garden reducing its amenity, and in this respect the Parish Council considers that the “street scene” illustration is not to scale, and that the building would be much closer to the boundary than shown. It was unanimously decided to recommend refusal of the application

7(2) PA0096/10 Three Proposed Wind Turbines, Eye Airfield Industrial Estate

It was noted that this application had been withdrawn

7(3) PA0724/10 Two Wind Turbines, etc on land adjacent A140, Eye

It was noted that this application was considered by the Mid Suffolk Planning Committee on 23rd June 2010. Cllr Stringer reported that it had been granted

7(4) PA1285/10 Listed Buildings Consent application for alterations at Grove Farm, Occold

It was noted that Listed Buildings Consent had been granted

7(5) The Chairman reported that two parishioners had asked him if the new building on land at Church Farm had needed planning permission. Mr Hull declared a prejudicial interest as he is the owner of the land. However, he stated that he had been advised that the building, a mobile chicken shed, did not need planning permission

8. Meetings and Training

8(1) The feedback from the Open Meeting held on Monday 28th June regarding the noise restriction issues at the Village Hall was discussed. Cllr Stringer was thanked for chairing the meeting. A set of notes had been produced by Sharon Jones, Clerk to Mendlesham Parish Council, and these were placed in the bundle for circulation, together with a letter from Andy Andrews on the same subject. The notes can be made public and a copy is to be provided to Barry for publication on the website

It was believed that the meeting had been successful in allowing all views to be heard and to give villagers a better understanding of the various issues involved. It was now up to ORAC and the officers from Mid Suffolk District Council to work towards a solution so that the hall can be fully utilised

Councillors were concerned that it should be made clear that, although the Parish Council had facilitated the Open Meeting, it had no involvement in the arguments on either side of the debate. The only two parties concerned were ORAC and Mid Suffolk District Council who were now working together to find solutions to the problems

9. Finance

9(1) Submitted for payment an invoice from ORAC for hire of hall for Open Meeting on 28th June 2010 - £16.50. It was queried whether ORAC would waive the fee since the meeting had been for the benefit of the whole village. Clerk to check with ORAC's treasurer Mrs Crisp, otherwise cheque to be issued

9(2) Submitted for consideration a request for reimbursement of costs for Danish oil for

noticeboard to Mr Hewitson amounting to £8.58. Approved

9(3) It was noted that a refund of VAT amounting to £372.08 had been received

9(4) It was noted that the papers for Audit had been submitted for 2nd July deadline

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

10(1) ORAC will be holding weekly markets in the village hall on Saturday mornings starting on Saturday 24th July 9.30-11.30am with stalls for local individuals and organisations for the sale of crafts, plants, jams and chutneys, cakes etc. Stalls are free of charge

10(2) Information had been received from a charity called The Debenham Project which is aimed at supporting the carers of those with dementia. Leaflets sent with the letter are to be placed in the pub and Church

11. Date of next meeting is Monday 13th September 2010 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.30pm