

## MINUTES

of the Meeting of Occold Parish Council held at 8pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr K Chittock, Mr C Cripps, Mrs M Grange, Mr S Hubner,  
Mr J Hewitson, Mr A Miller, Mr R Owen

Also District Councillor Charles Tilbury and PC Clare Wayman to give her report

### **1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies had been received from Mr Burnett (family commitments) and Mr Hull (on holiday). Also from County Councillor Andrew Stringer

Mr Chittock declared an interest in Item 7(3)

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

#### **2(1) PC Wayman gave her report to the meeting**

##### Reported Crimes

There have been no reported crimes in the Parish of Occold since our last report.

##### Theft of Trailers

There have been a number of trailers stolen across Suffolk recently and we would urge all owners of such equipment to ensure they are secured when not in use. The marking of such equipment and the recording of identification numbers are essential in assisting recovery.

##### Bogus Callers/Distracted Burglaries

Since week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> August there has been a number of distraction burglaries in the Sudbury, Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Newmarket, Halesworth and Hitcham areas.

Although previously mentioned a recent incident in Debenham makes this type of crime worthwhile bringing this to your attention once again.

##### Crime Prevention

###### Buildings

With the onset of longer evenings please be vigilant and secure your property, we recommend leaving a light on if you go out preferably on a timer or with a light sensor also leaving a radio playing on a speech channel will give the impression of the property being occupied. Alarms where fitted should be activated when the premises are empty and keys stored out of view.

Garages and outbuildings are easy targets for thieves especially if not secure. There have been a number of burglaries recently in the Mid Suffolk area, from outbuildings and the surrounds of property and it should be stressed that outbuildings should where possible be fitted with an alarm

###### Vehicles

Please even in your driveway remember to make sure your vehicle is locked and remove items of value and do not leave anything on display. If you are out and about shopping do not leave items on show but lock them in the boot out of sight.

If you are out and about on foot, be seen, wear something reflective and light clothing if

possible.

#### Oil Tanks

Wherever possible screen tanks and install security lighting, alarms are becoming more sophisticated and more details can be obtained from ourselves.

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

### **Below are some facts and figures relating to SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY.**

#### Performance

Suffolk remains one of the safest counties in the country. The current crime rate for the county is at its lowest for a decade.

88% of people in Suffolk feel safe where they live (year end 2009/2010)

Figures for the first five months of this year show that reports of criminal damage are down 8%, sexual offences are down 7% and drug offences are down 26%.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour are down 11.8% so far this year, with rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour down 15.4%

Although domestic burglary has risen by more than 100 crimes this year, we are keeping on top of detections, which have increased by 72. The detection rate is up by more than 5%.

Violence in public places is slightly down this year (5 crimes), but the number of detections has gone up to 25, giving a detection rate of 42%

Community resolutions have made a significant contribution to the number of crimes we 'solve'. So far, 1356 crimes have been community resolved, giving an overall solved rate of 31%.

#### Priorities

Along with our partners, we are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across the county. Together we have developed Minimum Standards of service for victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour, ensuring a high level of service is provided across the county.

The current Priorities for Mid Suffolk Central are:-

Carry out speed checks in Stonham Aspal and Thorndon. - We are involving the community in educating motorists through work with schools, Parish and District Councils.

Resolve Anti Social behaviour at Wells Way play area, Debenham, - We are working with the community, Parish Council and Lawrence Homes to resolve issues. We are also working to identify a site for the provision of a Youth Shelter for older youths.

Investigate improving road safety in the area of Stonham Aspal Primary School – together with other agencies we are looking at road/pavement layouts and other possibilities.

#### Efficiency.

We have made changes to the opening hours of public enquiry desks at police stations across the county to better suit local needs. The opening hours will now reflect the demand they face, making better use of our resources. Police stations will remain open as operational bases for officers. This will not affect the availability of police officers to respond to emergency incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nor the continued presence

of Safer Neighbourhood Teams to engage with the public on local concerns and to deal with community issues on a daily basis.

#### Have Your Say

The Community Priority Setting 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 **26<sup>th</sup> January 2011**, at Dove Cottage, High Street, Debenham, IP14 6QN.

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](mailto:midsuffcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

Website: [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral)

PC Wayman asked if she knew how many police man hours had been spent in Occold over the past month. It was felt that it might be helpful to know this in the future to answer questions from parishioners

#### **2(2) County Councillor's report**

The Clerk read out the following report provided by County Councillor Stringer: -

##### New Strategic Direction

I reported to your last meeting that the County Council was looking into how we might save huge sums of money, and that the county council is looking to "divest" most services within a decade. Attempts to explain this process are at last being communicated to the wider public, workshops are being set up for councillors to investigate the different areas that will be effected by this process. These are Democracy, Divestment, and Strategic council & community capacity.

##### Park And Ride Axed

The County Council has taken the decision to close the Bury Road Park And Ride in an attempt to save money, One of the reasons given for this move is that the Borough Council has allowed derelict land to be used as temporary car parking. The problem with this is that these car parks are at the west and south of the town, not the west. One proposal not acted upon was to charge those with concessionary travel passes to use the service.

##### Scrutiny Committees

The Scrutiny Committees that sit at the County Council are being reviewed. All of these panels are chaired by the governing group at the moment, and after serving on one for over a year, I am sceptical as to how much real scrutiny is achieved. Our group's submission to

the powers that be at County Hall is that the present regime should be scrapped in favour of a more open form of scrutiny where “task and finish” Panels are used to actually tackle specific issues, rather than the present arrangement where we are told the parameters of the questions we might ask, hopefully allowing us mere back benchers a more meaningful role in holding the Leaders and Cabinet to account.

#### Light's Out

The last cabinet meeting a vote was taken to adopt a new program of dimming control to the county councils street light's. This will mean that lights will be able to be controlled to the minute, rather than the dawn to dusk regulation at present. It will provide a lamp by lamp control capability. The borrowing needed to achieve this (2.5 million) will be paid for from Energy savings from the network as a whole.

#### John Peel Centre

The John Peel Centre (Corn Exchange Stowmarket) has been selected to be televised on 25<sup>th</sup> of November for a people's millions bid (£50,000.00) so please support us with a phone vote on the day. If you would like to appear in the film come along on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November at 12.00 noon to the market place Stowmarket dressed as an Artist, Dancer, Sculptor etc.

**2(3)** District Councillor Tilbury did not have a report for the meeting as there was nothing new to report since the previous month

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting** held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010, which had previously been circulated to Councillors, were approved

#### **4. Matters Arising**

**4(1)** Item 4(1) 11.10.10: Bus stop

The Clerk reported that funding for the bus stop and shelter had been confirmed by Brian Lomax and Paul Horne at Suffolk County Council. If work is not delayed by bad weather the contractors may be finished by Christmas. Clerk to follow up on the tree stump left on the green – has the fence been removed from it yet?

**4(2)** Item 4(2) 11.10.10: Street lights

The Clerk was still awaiting confirmation of a date and time for a site visit with Suffolk County Council. Mr Cripps would no longer be able to attend a daytime meeting, but Mr Chittock would try to attend with the Clerk and Mr Hewitson

**4(3)** Item 4(3) 11.10.10: Speed on B1077

The Clerk read out a response from Suffolk County Council to the Parish Council's request for speed monitoring outside Occold Hall. The request had been refused. This was regretted by Councillors, it seems that nothing will be done until an accident has occurred

**4(4)** Item 11(2) 11.10.10: Water across B1077 near Eye

Gerald Clarke from Suffolk County Council had agreed to have a look at the problem. Mr Owen reported that there was now a problem with water collecting at the bottom of the hill from Thorndon, near the junction with the B1077

#### **5. Correspondence**

**5(1)** Correspondence for circulation – SALC Annual Report 2009-2010; LAIS Up2Date 101027; LAIS 1310 *Stronger Civil Society* and LAIS 1305.1 *Council Tax Announcement*; information from Suffolk County Council about *The New Strategic Direction*; *The Suffolk Foundation e-bulletin* Autumn 2010; *Clerks & Councils Direct* November 2010; Minutes of SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and SALC Report to the meeting; Dog Fouling end of campaign report from Mid Suffolk District Council

**5(2)** The Clerk read out letters from the Suffolk branch of Unison and SALC about Suffolk County Council's New Strategic Direction. These were placed in the bundle for circulation

**5(3)** A letter had been received from the District Monitoring Officer about possible abolition of the Standards Board regime, with a copy of the letter sent by Mid Suffolk to the Government department responsible

**5(4)** The Clerk read out letters from Mid Suffolk Tenants Forum asking for help in raising its profile, and also asking Parish Councils to ensure that Council tenants are treated with consideration equal to that shown to other residents

**5(5)** A request had been received from Mid Suffolk District Council for a volunteer to become Community Auditor. The information was placed in the bundle for circulation

**5(6)** "Be A Councillor" campaign information had been received from the East of England Local Government Association with a view to recruited more candidates in next May's local elections

## **6. Parish Paths Partnership**

There was nothing to report and no news of a volunteer for the post of Footpaths Warden

## **7. Planning Matters**

**7(1)** PA3226/10 Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extension and front porch (renewal of permission 3257/07); The Firs, Mill Road, Occold

It was noted that the property had apparently been sold and the application for renewal was presumably by the new owner. Council voted to support the renewal of permission

**7(2)** PA3170/10 Erection of detached stables and haybarn (following demolition of two existing Nissan huts); High House Farm, Dublin Road, Occold

Mr Owen declared a personal interest

The plans were tabled and discussed. It was generally felt that the proposed stables and haybarn would be an improvement on the existing Nissan huts, being of an attractive one-storey design. There were no near neighbours to be affected by the development. However, it was noted that the hedges on the front of the property had recently been removed and replaced with fencing, and it was agreed that the planning authority should be requested to ask for reinstatement of the hedge as a condition of planning permission being granted. Response to be copied to David Mitchell, Tree Officer at MSDC

**7(3)** PA3153/10 Demolition of existing house and erection of four bedroom house with detached triple garage. Alteration to existing vehicular access; Willows, Dublin Road, Rishangles

Mr Chittock declared a prejudicial interest and closed the meeting for comments from the public. He left the room

The meeting was re-opened and in the absence of the vice-chair, Mr Hull, Mr Hubner took the chair by consent of the other Councillors. The proposed development was considered to be too large and would dominate the surrounding houses, with the exception of Richmond Lodge next door, itself a modern replacement for a traditional cottage. It was therefore out of character with its surroundings, and the proposed materials out of keeping with local traditional materials. In addition the proposed garage seemed very large in both depth and height for a village house. It was agreed not to support the application. If the application goes to committee it is suggested that a site visit would be helpful.

Mr Chittock returned and took the chair again

### **8. Meetings and Training**

**8(1)** SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at Burgate Village Hall 7-9.30pm

**8(2)** Mid Suffolk District Council Special Parish Liaison Meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at Needham Market. Morning or afternoon session (9.30am or 6pm) Mr Hewitson to attend the morning session

**8(3)** Suffolk County Council event "Understanding Divestment" 6-8pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at Endeavour House, Ipswich

**8(4)** Provisional date for Diss Town Council's conference on Site Specific Policies Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (daytime)

**8(5)** Mid Suffolk/Babergh District Councils Locality Road Shows various locations and dates. Mr Hubner to try to attend one of the sessions

### **9. Finance**

**9(1)** Submitted for payment invoice from external auditors BDO for £158.63 for audit services. Agreed

**9(2)** Appeals for donations had been received from Victim Support, Headway and Eye Volunteer Centre. Clerk to send usual acknowledgment

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

**10(1)** Councillors were reminded that the following Sunday was Remembrance Sunday and a wreath had been obtained for the Parish Council

**10(2)** Information had been received from Mid Suffolk District Council about making arrangements for winter snow clearance using volunteers and offering Parish Councils a discount on equipment if they ordered as part of a bulk order with MSDC. Mr Owen informed the meeting that he and his son would have the use of a snow plough this winter and would

ensure that the village was kept clear

**10(3)** Information had been received from Stowmarket Town Council about the Christmas Festival to be held in the town this year. Poster for notice board, programme leaflet in bundle

**11. Date of next meeting** is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.20pm