

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

Present: Cllrs Willshere (Chair), Nutman, Cook, Copping, Corker, Taylor, Crissell and 55 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meetings 13 September 2021.
The minutes were approved and signed.

3. To receive members Declarations of Interest on agenda items.
There were none.

It was unanimously approved to bring forward items 5 and 6.

5. Report from County Cllr Otton.

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed. The damning report has now been published and has highlighted many failings of the council. There will now have to be a rigorous look at how things must be improved. Cllr Otton has asked that an urgent education scrutiny meeting be convened, but this has been refused so will now have to wait until November. The opposition group has asked that the promise to increase cycling and walking is fulfilled. Cllr Otton is very disappointed that the recommendation is to reduce the number of councillors to 70 from 75 and to therefore increase the Thedwastre South division to take in even more parishes. The consultation on the cycling and walking review for Stowmarket ends 25 October. The review of parking in the district survey has been extended to 15 October. Cllr Otton has asked SCC highways to look again at the development between Union Road and Finborough Road as the land is extending onto the road. With the severe rain this will result in debris coming onto the highway. She has also asked if the council penalises contractors for the many road closures such as those on Lower Road.

6. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

The full Council meeting was on 23 September with a very full agenda due to the cancellation of the July meeting. The senior staff pay review was withdrawn after Babergh District Council voted against it two days earlier. The proposal was to significantly increase senior staff pay without also recommending increases for the majority of staff. At the meeting, Councillors voted for a “No Casino” policy meaning we do not welcome casinos in Mid Suffolk, giving certainty to developers and residents. The business plan for CIFCO, the Council’s investment arm, was discussed. The commercial property portfolio is from an investment of £100 million by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in which each council had £5 million equity. This equity is now at zero although expected to improve over the next 10 years. There is currently a book value of £83 million on this portfolio. The business plan was approved by a margin of six votes. The opposition group has asked that the Council’s Scrutiny committee review the health provision in and around Stowmarket – particularly regarding the current shortage of GPs and lack of dental services. The Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing rural transport such as access to bus services. The public hearing for

the draft Joint Local Plan has re-started and all sessions are online via Microsoft Teams. Once complete, a report from the Planning Inspectors will then be provided to the Council for Mid Suffolk to act on.

4. Public comment.

James Bailey Planning Consultant, Jack Cook of CSA and Rob Evans outlined the plans for the development south of Forest Road on land which is being promoted through the Local Plan. The scheme is for 20 dwellings including some bungalows and affordable housing. The application is for outline permission and if permission is granted the land would be sold on to developer but are looking to secure what is seen on the drawings as the final development. A landscape sensitive study keeps the view to the western side, the footpath is retained and a new footpath up to Forest Road created. The ecology and biodiversity gain achieves 10%. SCC Highways has been consulted on the best option for access to achieve visibility splays and this is to the west of the site. The existing highways flooding issues would be fully resolved within the engineering required. Onehouse residents were able to raise their concerns regarding further development of the field down to Lower Road, access area of land is higher than Forest Road and loss of amenity to current properties from lights shining through windows, road safety with the creation of a staggered crossroad with the junction of Forest Road with Northfield Road causing issue with visibility, lack of safe pedestrian access to Chilton Leys with the construction traffic and later the addition traffic this and the two developments in Union road would create, the loss of the strategic gap between Onehouse and Stowmarket, the loss of prime agricultural land, flooding in the area will not be resolved, that the initial application/enquiry to MSDC was for 10 dwelling not the now proposed 20 at this stage and residents are very concerned at the potential final numbers and the impact on the village. Although the application states that the hedgerow will be retained, it is clear that a significant amount will need to be removed to allow for the necessary visibility splays, this would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife habitat and biodiversity in the area, infrastructure in the area is already under strain and cannot accommodate the current approved developments. Schools, doctors and dentists are oversubscribed before the completion of the three major developments in the area.

Within the presentation James Bailey advised that Taylor Wimpey have paid over their contribution to SCC for the completion of the footway to Chilton Leys corner and suggested that OPC pursue the matter with SCC.

7. Planning Matters

a) To discuss and make recommendation to MSDC on any applications received prior to this meeting

21/05063 Outline Planning application (some matters reserved, access, layout and scale to be considered) Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Erection of 20 houses/bungalows (including 7 affordable) open space; sustainable urban drainage systems and associated infrastructure. Land South of Forest Road – object stating all the reasons raised by residents as above.

21/05469 Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 9 No detached dwellings with garages, including vehicular access. Stowmarket Golf Club Lower Road Onehouse in the Parish of Great Finborough. Since this development will have no effect on the parish no comment will be made.

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.
There were none.

8. To receive reports

a) Report from the Clerk

Resignation of Handyman – regrettably Mr Row has resigned as he is moving from the village. He will finish 31 October 2021. An advert will be put in OHSMag for a new Handyman.

Ditch behind properties in The Limes – SCC Rights of Way has advised they are only responsible for the path and that the ditch is likely the responsibility of the owners of relevant properties in The Limes.

b) Report from Mr Row, OPC Handyman.

The grass has been cut at the junctions of Northfield Road/Forest Road and Ash Road, Birch Road plus the grass area by the village sign has been cut. The community benches have been wiped down, vegetation around village entrance signs and dog bins has been trimmed and batteries replaced on the SID.

There are two flower boxes that require attention.

c) meeting with Tom Barker, MSDC

The LPA has asked the developer of Northfield View to put the MUGA area and leisure space on hold due to MSDC review of leisure and sports facilities. Cllrs Willshire and Copping stated their concerns regarding concerns that there had been no communication to us by MSDC and OPC had only been made aware by a conversation with the developer's representative. Mr Barker was unaware that the developer had been asked to do this and will consult with a leisure officer on this. Mr Barker didn't feel that the site factors into recreational and leisure connectivity.

9. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 21/040 £75.00 R W Palmer playing field grass cutting September

b) 21/041 £327.37 Gipping Press October OHSMag

c) 21/042 £346.20 HM Revenue & Customs tax July-September

d) 21/043 £150.16 Suffolk County Council pension payment to be sent off 5 November

Items a) – d) were approved and cheques issued.

e) to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

The balance of the Community account at the end of September was £41,208.04 which includes the second half precept and VAT refund. Less this month's cheques totalling £1,358.65 and adjustments of £217.74 for insurance and £703.50 adverts paid in advance, the corrected figure is £39,663.63.

10. Highways

a) To receive an update on additional sites for speed reduction signs and take any necessary action.

Cllr Copping has provided the grid reference for the new site which will be sent to SCC for consideration.

Action: the Clerk

b) speed limit on Lower Road

A resident has contacted Cllr Nutman with the suggestion that all of Lower Road is made 30 mph for safety reasons. This will be taken up with Cllr Penny Otton.

Action: Cllr Nutman

11. To consider any action against The Legal Company for its advice and production of papers for the Judicial Review land south of Union Road and take any action.

Nothing has been heard from the court regarding contesting the amount of costs awarded against us. It would appear that our solicitor did not complete and submit the Aarhus certificate with the other papers to the judge. Any redress will be investigated via the Legal ombudsman. *Action the Clerk/Cllr Willshere*

12. To consider purchasing a Scribe accounts package and take any necessary action.

The Clerk advised that this would allow Cllrs to view the accounts at any time and see expenditure against budget. Scribe have sent some information for Cllrs which will be circulated before making a decision at the next meeting.

Action: the Clerk

13. To consider changing to online banking and take any necessary action

The Clerk was asked to look into this further to see if the Clerk can set up payments and then two councillors approve.

Action: the Clerk

14. To consider parking issues around the parish and take any necessary action.

Vehicles from Birch Road are parking in Northfield Road as all parking areas in Birch Road are full. This is causing congestion in Northfield Road. It is believed that the amenity area in Birch Road is owned by MSDC. The Clerk was asked to contact MSDC to see if some of this area can be converted to additional parking.

Action: the Clerk

15. To consider events to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and take any necessary Action.

It was suggested that OPC and OHSMC could arrange a joint event although one group would have to have overall control for insurance purposes. Mr Corker will raise the matter with OHSMC.

Action: Cllr Corker

16. Environmental Issues

A resident has asked what OPC contribution will be to SALC climate forum. They will be invited to the next meeting to discuss and make suggestions.

17. To discuss development of land around the parish and take any necessary action.

This has been covered during previous items.

18. To discuss OHSMag, Onehouse website and Facebook page and take any necessary action.

A full page advert for a group from a different village will need to be invoice. A charity has contacted us for advertising costs. It was agreed to publish an article about the charity free of charge and then adverts would have to be paid for at current rates.

Action: the Clerk

Cllr Copping was thanked for the Facebook page and she will put on all planning applications on the page.

Action: Cllr Copping

19. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves site including to consider quotes for the pollarding trees and take any necessary action.

Five pieces of equipment have gone for servicing and a safety check. Three quotes have been received to pollard the trees and remove two diseased trees, all can carry out the work in December. The quotes are £2140.00, £2,000.00 and £1,944.00. Although the quote is the dearest it was agreed to use Mr Green who has carried out work at the site before and is local. He will be asked to do the work for £2,000.00 but if he is unable to do so Cllrs approved his quote of £2140.00.

Action: Cllr Taylor

20. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. SCC Suffolk Project the final design for the plaque is in for approval and the next step will be for volunteers to be sent Risk Assessments if they which to be involved. There are approx. 20 posts in Onehouse. Cllrs Copping and Corker will complete the Risk Assessment form as volunteers. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 14, 21, 28 September, 5 October, Funding Digest October. **SCC** Trading Standards news 16, 23 September, 9 October, Discovering Suffolk Project update, winter ready 2021. **SALC** ebulletin 13, 20, 27 September, 4, 11 October, Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2 June 2022, Festival od Suffolk 2022, Mid Suffolk area forum summary notes 23 September, Queen’s Green Canopy, using your website as an effective communication tool. **MSDC** recycle week, Mid Suffolk Parking Strategy, BMSDC Local Energy showcase 2021. **Community Action Suffolk** newsletter 23 September, 7 October. **Cllr Penny Otton** public invited to give views on proposals to improve waking and cycling links in Stowmarket.

21. Questions to the Chairman

There were none.

22. Items for next agenda

Handyman, Scribe accounts package, online banking, judicial review to consider action against the Legal Company, OHSMag, website and Facebook, development around the parish.

23. To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 8 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....