

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 P.M IM TRINITY HALL

Present: Cllrs Copping, Taylor, Cook, Nutman and Crissell. In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Copping as Vice-Chair took the meeting

In attendance District Cllr Matthissen (in part), County Cllr Otton (in part) and 3 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Willshere and Corker.

2. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting 14 February 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. **To receive members Declarations of Interest on agenda items.**

There were none.

4. **Public comment.**

Residents were concerned with how much notice will be given of the planning application for Forest Road going to planning committee so they can make arrangements to attend.

5. **Report from County Cllr Otton.**

Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions. Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29 of January. According to The Department for Transport (DfT) the new regulations are about recognising and protecting the most vulnerable road users and making the highway safer for everyone. The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation. A new deal will potentially give local leaders more powers to make decisions for their communities for the first time, but there are concerns this will reduce local decisions. County Councillors met on the 17 of February to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022-23. Ideas for need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis were both rejected. Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm. Cllr Otton has asked why it is taking so long to repair Burford Bridge and has reported the condition of Starhouse Lane to Highways. Councillors are meeting next week to see how the council can help the refugees from the Ukraine.

Cllr Otton was asked about the speed check along Lower Road. Figures have not yet been received from the Police. Parking on Northfield Road is increasingly difficult and Cllr Otton will ask Highways to visit and look at the situation.

6 **Report from District Cllr Matthissen**

Cllr Matthissen is concerned that a review of leisure facilities around Stowmarket is looking to suggest that the recreational ground in the Taylor Wimpey development is used for housing and the recreation area moved next to the

rugby field. This was ruled out in SAAP and the area was designated for recreational area so that a strategic gap between Stowmarket and Onehouse remains. Mid Suffolk Council discussed the budget 2022/23 at the Council meeting held on 24 February. Council tax is to remain at the same rate so annual Mid Suffolk proportion of the council tax bill for a Band D property will be £171.59. Sheltered housing charges and garage rents also remain frozen at 2021/22 levels. The Administration agreed to fund two electric bus services to enable residents to get to and from Stowmarket in a sustainable manner. The funding for this project will be from the Growth and Efficiency fund. Mid Suffolk District Council tenants face an increase of 4.1% to their rents, to cover inflationary pressures and allow investment in improving the quality of council homes. Cllr Matthessen welcomes the decision to quash the approval of 210 new homes in Thurston, which were contrary to the village's Neighbourhood Plan. The District committee decision 2 years ago was approval by 7 votes to 6. It is disappointing that the District has decided to appeal this Judicial Review ruling. A peer review is conducted at least every 5 years, organised by the Local Government Association, at the request of the 2 councils. It is not an inspection but a 'critical friend' looking for strengths and good practice and areas for improvement. Senior officers and councillors from elsewhere spend a week talking with staff, councillors and other community representatives and report in a few weeks' time. Bebergh Mid Suffolk DCs are reducing office space in Endeavour House. Following COVID there is now more hybrid working and less space is needed so the space will be reconfigured at a cost of about £250,000 but should provide longer term net savings in the region of £675,000 over the next 5 years. This decision was made by Cabinets of both Councils. Following the departure of Cllr Wendy Turner there was a by-election for a new district councillor for the Thurston Ward. Green Party candidate Austin Davies gained more than double the number of votes for the Conservative candidate and was duly elected. MSDC remains balanced with 17 members in each of the two groups. Cllr Nutman advised Cllr Matthessen that land in Lower Road is being used for dumping and burning building waste and has been reported to MSDC Environmental Protection officer who has raised the matter with the Environment Agency. Cllr Matthessen will advise the Clerk when the Forest road application is going before MSDC planning committee.

7. Planning Matters

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

21/06966 RECONSULTATION Application for approval of reserved matters following grant of planning permission DC/20/01110 Town and Country Planning - Submission of details for the Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the erection of up to 146 No dwellings (some single storey and affordable) including vehicular and pedestrian accesses, public open space, play space, landscaping, associated highways, drainage and utilities infrastructure. Land to the South of Union Road - Councillors appreciate the resiting of the pumping station to mitigate the impact on current residents and the improvements to the footway to the western boundary of the site

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

There were none.

8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

- a)21/062 £364.00 Gipping Press March OHSMag
- b)21/063 £71.35 Viking Direct ink cartridges For OHSMag editor + ring binder
- c)21/064 £20.00 Mr R Taylor Reimbursement for petrol Paupers Graves mowers
- d)21/065 £150.16 Suffolk County Council pension payment March to be posted 5 April

To approve payments under Section 137

- e)21/066 £200.00 Suffolk Accident Rescue Service
- f)21/067 £350.00 East Anglian Air Ambulance
- g)21/068 £100.00 East Suffolk Headway
- h)21/069 £700.00 Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau

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

i)to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

The balance of the Community Account at the end of February was £29,795.01 which includes £500.00 Locality Funding received towards the cost of pollarding trees at the Pauper's Grave area. Less this month's cheques totalling £1956.51 and adjustments of £118.17 for insurance and £17.00 for adverts the corrected figure is £27,974.27.

9 To consider the purchase of a multifunctional colour printer/copier/scanner and laptop for the Clerk and take any necessary action.

It was unanimously agreed to purchase a Kyocera ecosys M5526cdw printer at a cost of £499.00 + VAT and a Levono idealpad 31516 laptop at a cost of £649.99 including VAT. *Action: the Clerk*

10. To discuss the current position regarding the extension of the footway from 22 Forest Road to Chilton Leys and take any necessary action.

Cllr Otton will contact officers to ensure that the survey work for the footway from Forest Road to Chilton Leys corner is progressing.

11. Environmental issues.

a)To discuss the Suffolk County Council self help scheme and take any necessary action.

Mike Smith has agreed to be trained so that additional grass cutting can take place but doesn't wish to carry out the handyman jobs. The Clerk will let him know when a space is available on the SCC training course. *Action: the Clerk*

b)to discuss the condition of the flower boxes and take any necessary action.

Cllr Copping will evaluate which boxes need replacing in preparation for spring planting *Action: Cllr Copping*

c)To discuss dog litter bins around the parish and take any necessary action.

There is an issue of bagged dog poo being left by the bridge over the ditch in the garage area in Northfield Road. The land is owned by 4 residents with garages in the area. Before contacting them for permission to put a dog litter bin there the Clerk will contact MSDC to check that they will empty it or if there are any restrictions of how far the bin has to be from the roadside. *Action: the Clerk*

12. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves site including to consider the purchase of a wood chipper and take any necessary action.

Cllr Taylor advised that the group no longer require a wood chipper. The pollarding of the trees has been completed and the area cleared following recent storms.

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

This has already been covered in previous agenda items.

14. To discuss OHSMag including paying the editor, Onehouse website and Facebook page and take any necessary action.

Onehouse PC agreed to remunerate the Editor at a rate of minimum wage + £1.00 per hour. Harleston and Shelland PMs have been contacted to see if they will commit to paying their proportion.

More people are following the Onehouse site on facebook

15 To receive correspondence/communications and to deal with any matters. A resident has asked for information of how to help support Ukraine in OHSMag.

OPC has written its own report which will be published. **Information Commissioner** advising that annual subscription renewal is due in April. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network** Rural bulletin 15, 22 February, 1, 8 March, Funding digest March. **SALC** update on national pay negotiations, news ebulletin 14, 21, 28 February, 4. 14 March, training and networking bulletin 17, 22 February, 1, 8 March, The Local Councillor February, climate forum network 7 March, area forum 10 March, Rural Funding Digest March. **UK Power Networks** preparations for storms Dudley and Eunice. **MSDC** forecast of high winds 18 February, independent living grants available, food savvy – use your loaf campaign. **SCC** trading standard news 17, 24 February, 3 March, amber weather warning 18 February, storm Eunice update, storm Eunice power outage update 20 February. **Community Action Suffolk** newsletter 20 February, 10 March. **Festival of Suffolk** get involved in the Torch Rally. **County Cllr Otton** National Highways A14 improvements work, avain flu confirmed in Suffolk. Help to reduce the environmental impact of your home, Stowmarket recycling centre resurfacing completed.

16. To receive reports

a)Report from the Clerk

Festival of Suffolk – A nominee for the Torch Rally is required by 31 March. Mr Raisey will be asked to be our torch bearer.

17. Questions to the Chairman. There were none.

18. Items for next agenda

Dog bins, review of drop in sessions, Footpath to Chilton Leys, flower boxes, OHSMag, website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper’s Graves.

19. To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 11 April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.17 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....