

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. IN OHS COMMUNITY CENTRE.

**Present:** Cllrs Copping (Chair), Taylor, Nutman, and Crissell.

**In attendance:** Mrs Fuller (Clerk) and two members of the public.

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

**2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting 14 November 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

Cllrs Taylor as a member of Onehouse PCC and Cllr Crissell as Chair of the refurbishment committee declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.

Cllr Nutman declared a pecuniary interest in the planning applications for Onehouse Hall as a neighbour.

**4. Public comment.** There was none.

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

Grit bins are now beginning to be topped up for winter. Repair work to Burford Bridge has commenced. Any voluntary or professional organisation and CAB can refer anyone in need of extra warm clothing, to website run by East Suffolk council. Cllr Otton has been in contact with the cabinet member to see if the footpath extension in Forest Road can be progressed. She has also contacted highways who say it is for Anglian Water to ask for a road closure to fix water leaks. SCC Highways have been contacted again to look into a speed check on Lower Road. Full Council met on 1 December. A motion calling for an improved Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) was submitted. This Spring, SCC were notified by Government that it would be receiving zero funding from their Bus Back Better bid. The Department for Transport stated the bid was not ambitious enough. The motion looks to prioritise Demand-Responsive & Community Transport for Suffolk rural communities, as well as requesting the Council to provide recommendations to improve the Council's BSIP for the next wave of funding. Cllr Otton also attended a meeting of other parish councils in Woolpit to see what could be done to improve bus services in the area. MSDC is arranging a survey of just what the need is. The Cabinet met 8 December to discuss the Q2 forecasts of the Council's budget. Currently, there is a worry as they have reported a £12.2m budget gap – largely due to inflation and energy prices. The Council will use Reserves to cover this cost. However, this cannot be a long-term solution. There are concerns that the Council will not be fully funded by this Government to deliver the same services to residents. The Cabinet also met to agree a new road enforcement scheme, and to apply for new Government powers to penalise drivers who commit offences affecting buses. The trial for the scheme has selected four sites in Ipswich for a cost of over £200,000. As part of the government's Levelling-up Strategy, Suffolk CC are currently negotiating a deal for more devolved powers. It was announced this month in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement that Suffolk will look to install a directly elected leader, known as a Mayor. There are potential issues with the new mayoral role, as a Mayor

can be elected from outside the majority party and has the power to select a Cabinet that is also outside of the majority – which could create a gridlocked political system. The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group met to update leaders on the progress of the county’s action plan to achieve net zero by 2030. A new Suffolk Climate Emergency Dashboard has been set up to display the latest data and performance measures, as well as other action such as a successful communications campaign, additional match funding, homeowner support services, and a Net Zero knowledge hub to educate businesses. Next steps include investments in EV charging infrastructure and developing a community energy sector. The Leaders Group agreed to release £923,458 of previously allocated funding to further implement actions. The next review will be in Spring 2023.

## **6. Report from District Cllr Matthissen**

At the last Council meeting Cllrs discussed a motion regarding water quality and the prevalence of wastewater discharges into our rivers and waterways. The motion recommended that this issue will be discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and that planning officers will request more information than the standard responses from the water authority. The Chancellor announced a new county deal for Suffolk, which hopes to deliver decades of significant investment for the area. The model is based on having a directly elected Leader for Suffolk County Council (who will not be a mayor) and the current leader/cabinet model will continue. We are still unsure exactly what this will mean for us as a District. Only the council leaders across Suffolk were involved in the negotiations. Various communities have received grants to extend their coffee mornings and meetings to provide opportunities to socialise in a warm building. As the grant budget has been used up I have asked that more is provided from the large projected 2022/23 underspend by MSDC. Please get in touch if your organisation has the capacity to help in this way. Mid Suffolk’s end of term report has been published on the website. Following the tragic death of a toddler in Rochdale, Mid Suffolk and Babergh are undergoing a full diagnostic review of Building Services. This picked up the need to increase our input into resolving issues around mould and damp. We have acted on these recommendations. More officers are now able to deliver damp and mould treatment and council has employed a Damp Specialist Surveyor. The council has put forward proposals for an exemplar housing scheme in Elmswell. The Green and Liberal Democrat Group have called in the decision to go ahead with the scheme because we believe the decision-making process was flawed and not all information was brought before the Cabinet, notably the quite long-standing issue of extra primary school capacity within Elmswell. This means that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will discuss this and may make recommendations for the Cabinet to reconsider. Locality funding is still available.

## **7. Planning Matters**

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

**22/05983 & 22/05984** Erection of a single storey extension. Erection of a detached garage and log store, new gateway, reinstated footbridge, new footbridge and associated external works. Onehouse Hall, Lower Road -support

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

**22/05606** Discharge of Conditions appl 21/06966 Condition 10 (details of retaining walls and edge restraints treatment). Land south of Union Road – acceptable.

**22/01363** Erection of 1 No detached dwelling and garage, including construction of new vehicular access, land at Lower Road has gone to appeal.

## 8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 22/048 £399.00 Gipping Press December OHSMag

b) 22/049 £115.50 Mr Raisey edit, produce and deliver December OHSMag to distributors

c) 22/050 £368.74 Tomlinson Groundcare Ltd Servicing of Pauper's Graves equipment

d) 22/051 £153.82 Suffolk County Council pension payment December to be posted 5 January

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 November was £32,946.40.

Less this month's cheques totalling £1,037.06 and adjustments of £468.00 for adverts and £225.00 for insurance the corrected figure is £31,666.34.

f) To discuss and approve the precept to be raised for 2023/24

The Clerk produced the precept calculations and advised that the tax base has increased by 22.4% due to new properties in the parish. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to increase the precept to £18,600.00. Due to the increase in the tax base there will be a minimal increase of 0.14% to residents. Full details of the precept are shown on folio 3111.

g) To sign precept form for 2023/24

The form was signed by two members and countersigned by the Clerk

## 9. To consider a request for a grant from the Trinity Hall refurbishment Committee and take any necessary action.

As Cllrs Crissell and Taylor had declared a pecuniary interest in this item, leaving only two Cllrs this item was deferred to the January meeting.

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

There appears to be no progress being made on this. SCC are still stating that they have not received all the Set 106 funds. This needs further discussion with SCC. It was agreed to ask residents to advise the Parish Council of any near misses along this stretch of Forest Road so they can be logged.

## 11. Environmental issues.

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

Cllrs Crissell and Willshere need to complete the forms for the agreement with SCC.

*Action: Cllrs Willshere & Crissell*

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

Cllr Willshere has spoken to the last two landowners who have agreed that a dog bin can be installed near to the footbridge over the ditch.

*Action: the Clerk*

**12. To consider the future of the green area of the Taylor Wimpey development at Chilton Leys following the public meeting and take any necessary action.**

Those in attendance at the public meeting were in favour of OPC taking over the area. They had been made aware that there would be a cost commitment. Ideas put forward for the area include allotments, green burial area, wildflower meadow and community orchard. Residents would like to see a footpath to join up with the pavement near the Bloor development in Union Road.

Cllrs unanimously agreed to progress the project and take on the land.

**13. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves and take any necessary action.**

The installation of the bath as a feature has been a great success. The Clerk has looked into the purchase of the bench from Realise Futures but online they state there is a £60 delivery charge. The Clerk is trying to contact them to discuss since they are only at Ipswich and this seems excessive. *Action: the Clerk.*

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

Nothing to discuss.

**15. To discuss OHSMag including to increase numbers to 575 copies a month, Onehouse website and Facebook page and take any necessary action.**

It was agreed to increase copies to 575 to cover the occupied properties on the Hopkins Homes development. The quality of the paper was reduced for the December issue with no discernible difference. Little Foresters have responded that they feel unable to pay for an item in each magazine. The Clerk was asked to get a draft of what they would like to put in to take back to the next OHSMag Committee meeting. *Action: the Clerk*

15. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: **Rural Services Network** The Rural Bulletin 15, 22, 29 November, 5 December, Rural Funding Digest December. **MSDC** Rural England Prosperity Fund engagement, precept information, CIL infrastructure parish briefings, Town & Parish update December, support local businesses virtual high street in your area, Christmas holiday activities, formal consultation of revisions to Babergh Mid Suffolk Planning local validations list, waste collection over the festive period. **SCC** Trading Standards 17, 24 November, 1, 8 December, EP passenger interest group dates for 2023. **SALC** training bulletin 16, 22, 29 November, 6 December, news bulletin 21, 28 November, 5 December, Suffolk Community Foundation East of England Co-op warm hub fund. **Counterculture** Stowmarket wayfinding consultation 5 December subsequently cancelled. **County Cllr Otton** Burford Bridge repairs 28 November-9 December, Keeping Suffolk Warm this Winter, Suffolk Highways gritters prepared for cold snap. **Resident** concerns of water runoff from Bloor development.

**16. To receive reports**

a) Report from the Clerk

**Dog and litter bins emptying 2023/4** – MSDC have increased charges for emptying bins to £39.73 per litter bin from £37.13 and £46.53 for dog bins from \$43.49 and will be conducting a full review of the service during 2023.

**Boundary Review** – the working group are recommending no change for the boundary between Onehouse and Stowmarket. This goes to full council in January.

**External Auditor** – PKF Littlejohn LLP have been appointed for Suffolk until 2027.

**Police incident** – There was a stabbing at flats at Mistletoe Court. The suspect and victim were known to each other. The Police state that this is an isolated incident and no threat to the wider community.

**Stowmarket Wayfinding Consultation** - Cllr Crissell attended the Stowmarket Wayfinding event and made organisers aware that they should be consulting hinterland villages as they are the ones who need to be attracted to Stowmarket to use facilities. An online meeting was arranged for 5 December which was subsequently cancelled. The report from the event will now be sent to MSDC and then further consultation will take place in January.

**17. Questions to the Chairman.** There were none.

**18. Items for next agenda**

Trinity Hall grant request, Footpath to Chilton Leys, OHSMag website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper’s Graves.

**19 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting as Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.30 p.m.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.31 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....