

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

Present: Cllrs Willshere (Chair), Corker, Nutman, Copping and Crissell.

In attendance: Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Boulter and Taylor.

2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting 13 February 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

There were none

4. Public comment.

A resident asked for the Onehouse sign to be replaced in Union Road. Cllr Willshere advised she has already contacted SCC for this to be reinstated and just has to advise where it is to be sited.

A resident asked if there were any restrictions on the height of a side fence as it now hinders visibility getting out of his driveway. The Clerk was asked to contact MSDC Building Regulations.

5. Report from County Cllr Otton.

The 24 February marked the one-year anniversary since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Suffolk continues to do its part through the Homes for Ukraine programme – hosting refugees fleeing the war. In total, 1256 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Suffolk through the programme. Currently, we have around 330 host families, supporting 750 Ukrainians – with others in private accommodation. Suffolk is in need of new hosts, to continue to offer a safe haven for Ukrainian refugees who are not yet ready to enter private accommodation. Based on numbers, Suffolk needs 50 new hosts in the coming months. Hosts are entitled to £350 per month, which increases to £500 after 12 months. At the beginning of February, the Council's budget for 2023/24 was voted in, confirming an increase in council tax by 3.99% - broken down into a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept and a 1.99% increase in general tax. In addition, the Council is not on track to achieve Carbon Net Zero by 2030, as they have promised to do so. The Cabinet agreed to move the West Suffolk Archives in Bury St Edmunds to a new location in the town on Western Way. The Cabinet also discussed the Fire & Rescue Service's new risk management plan. The plan outlines all foreseeable risks in Suffolk and indicates the service's priorities and proposals to improve the service. Currently, the service suffers from low recruitment, poor retainment of officers, unmet response targets, and an increase in demand through extreme heatwaves caused by climate change. Our Group support the plan, hoping more investment can now be provided to the essential and increasingly ever-needed service. Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded SCC's new highways services contract. The contract will last over 20 years and will be worth between £800m-£1bn, will begin 1 October 2023. The service will provide maintenance of roads, pavements, Rights of Way, drainage, hedges, construction of new roads, and snow clearing – this is not an exhaustive list. The Government has agreed to extend the Household Support Fund, meaning local authorities will continue to receive funding to help residents through the current cost-of-living crisis. The grant is distributed through small payments to support vulnerable household meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.

More work is scheduled for Combs Lane needing a closure. From 27 February to 3 March there was a short delay but preparations have started for the major work on the A14. I hope you have the Highways England phone number and contact details. I have asked if the plans for the Forest Road footpath extension to be ready to be seen at the next meeting of OPC.

6. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

Mid Suffolk District Council will not be raising Council Tax for 2023/24. Within the 2023/24 budget, the Conservative Administration is proposing a £3.5 million surplus, most of which will be put into a “strategic transformation infrastructure fund”. This may be put towards the Stowmarket sports and leisure project and an innovation centre at Gateway 14 if plans are agreed. Total reserves are just under £21 million. A proposal that £2 million of this is allocated towards energy efficiency measures was agreed and will be used to provide better insulation to housing across the district to help with the energy and cost of living crises as well as climate change. A 7% increase in council house rents is being proposed – just over £6 for social rents and £9 for affordable rents. Also, a 10% increase in garage rents – in line with the increase in CPI – and increases in sheltered housing service and utility charges. A reminder that of your Council Tax bill, approximately 77% goes to Suffolk County Council, 13% to the Police and 9% to Mid Suffolk District Council (as well as the precept for each Parish). Council also approved funding for the development of a detailed design and planning application for the Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF) project. A full business case will then be prepared and bids made for external funding. Members approved a capital expenditure of £6 million to deliver improved depot facilities, primarily for the waste collection service. This could result in a new depot for Mid Suffolk to replace the Creting Road, Stowmarket depot or a new site to serve both districts. Cabinet approved a Private Sector Housing and Civil Penalties Policy which empowers the council to use civil penalties as an alternative to prosecution in cases of unsatisfactory conditions in private sector housing. Civil penalties would be a last resort if all attempts to persuade the landlord to make good deficiencies within the rented property had failed. Cabinet also received an update on recent changes to the regulation of social housing and the outcome of the Council’s recent referral to the Regulator of Social Housing. Cabinet adopted a new Culture, Heritage and Visitor Strategy; one of its aims is to encourage development of the Visitor and Tourism Sector and to encourage residents to enjoy what Mid Suffolk has to offer, as well as encouraging tourism. Cabinet will receive an update on progress towards developing proposals for a Skills and Innovation Centre on Gateway 14. The Centre could include a space for high-tech start-up businesses, opportunities for training and advice, meeting rooms and flexible working spaces. Cabinet agreed to consult on revised taxi fares: an overall increase of just over 10% is proposed. All parish councils are on the list of consultees. Further to my discussion with the Enforcement manager, I have now also seen the Chief Planning Officer. His position is that not all problems can be addressed through the planning system, and with the resources (people) he has, going beyond their remit takes time from the basics. Of course, our group has asked, many times, that we employ more people, but recruitment is difficult and the private sector often tempt them away. Of the organisations around the periphery of planning, I do know that the Environment Agency have only a third of the staffing compared to a few years ago, and that Health & Safety Executive have also suffered cuts. That said, pressure from councillors and parishes is part of prioritising enforcement work, so

please all continue to raise issues and copy me in. And evidence such as photos is often helpful, along with planning references.

7. Planning Matters

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

23/00763 Erection of single storey rear extension (following demolition of conservatory). 17 Stearn Drive – no comment

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

21/05063 Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access, layout and scale to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 20 No houses/bungalows (including 7 affordable) open space; sustainable urban drainage systems; and associated infrastructure. Land South Of Forest Road Onehouse – gone to appeal (ref 22/00070) to be determined on the basis of written representations.

8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 22/067 £373.00 Gipping Press February OHSMag

b) 22/068 £105.00 Mr Raisey edit, produce and deliver March OHSMag to distributors

c) 22/069 £163.52 Suffolk County Council pension payment February to be posted 5 April

To approve payments under Section 137

e) 22/070 £200.00 Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

f) 22/071 £350.00 East Anglian Air Ambulance

g) 22/072 £100.00 East Suffolk Headway

h) 22/073 £700.00 Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau

All items 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 £27,027.46.

Less this month's cheques totalling £1991.52 and adjustments of £198.00 for adverts and £150.00 for insurance the corrected figure is £25,383.94.

9 To discuss the format of our accounts and take any necessary action

Scribe Accounts recommend that as our annual income and expenditure are well below the £200,000 we should produce our accounts as receipt and payment rather than income and expenditure. After discussion it was agreed to prepare 2022/23 in I & E format with the Scribe package. This could then be reconsidered next year. It was agreed to remove the £200.00 in Capital Reserve to general reserve at the end of the financial year.

10. To review Standing Orders and Financial regulations and take any necessary action.

Both were reviewed and no changes are necessary. They will be reviewed again next year.

11. To consider policies that Onehouse Parish Council should have in place and take any necessary action.

To comply with General Data Protection Regulations, we need to have Procedures for dealing with Subject Access Requests, Procedures for dealing with data breaches and Data Retention and Disposal Polies. Drafts of these have

been circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to adopt all three.

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

This is at the design stage and Cllr Wilshere has asked that SCC brings the design to OPC for consideration.

13. Environmental issues.

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

Cllrs Willshere and Crissell still to complete forms

Action: Cllrs Willshere & Crissell

b) To discuss dog litter bins around the parish and take any necessary action. The bin and pole have been ordered and should be delivered this week.

14. To receive an update on the future of the green area of the Taylor Wimpey development at Chilton Leys and take any necessary action.

Cllr Willshere has contacted MSDC again for an update. A meeting has been arranged with James Bailey Taylor Wimpey Planning Agent to understand what their offer is for maintenance of the area. This should be held within the next 10 days. MSDC is putting together a planning application for all of the SHELF project for change of use of the land. MSDC has advised that it wishes to give OPC some trees for the site but this cannot be decided until our plans for the area are in place. Cllr Willshere will be meeting Jo Churchill MP on site on the rearranged date in April.

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

All the paths have had chippings. The fencing remains intact and the daffodils are now being to bloom. Working party days are continuing twice a month.

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

a) extension of 30 mph in Forest Road

This is being proposed as a safety measure for the new access on the bend at Chilton Leys to the Taylor Wimpey site which should only be for buses. Cllrs Support this extension but would like to see it extended further to at the least the junction with Union Road.

b) Local Government Review

It has become clear that the review would interfere with a parliamentary boundary and cannot be decided without further consultation with the Stowmarket Town Council, Onehouse Parish Council, the Boundary Commission and residents.

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

The Clerk asked that Cllrs write off the £33.00 outstanding for the advert for Woolpit Farm Shop as this has stopped trading. This was unanimously agreed. With more residents moving into the Hopkins Homes development the print run for OHSMag will be increased to 600 from April. An OHSMag Committee meeting has been arranged for 22 March. Cllrs feel that there should be a signed written

agreement with the editor as OHSMag is the intellectual property of the community. This will be discussed at the meeting 22 March.

The Clerk will contact Matthew Ball webhost to ensure that the website accessibility statement is on the website .Policies will also be accessible to view on the website.

18. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: SALC** news bulletin 13, 20, 27 February, 6 March, training bulletin 14, 21, 28 February, 7 March, area forum dates 2023, Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects SALC focus group. **MSDC** Town & Parish Council liaison meeting 7 February slides, CIL funding bid window May 2023, Spring litter picks 2023, looking for school holiday activities providers, Town & Parish update March, elections & nomination information, Sustainable Travel event Needham Lakes 15 April. **SCC** Trading Standards 16, 24 February, 2, 9 March, New Greenest County Community Network, Suffolk Highways **update** upcoming works B1115 Finborough Road Onehouse 11-14 April, Suffolk EP Passenger group meeting. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 14, 21, 28 February, 7 March, fantastic response to rural cost of living survey, Rural Funding Digest March. **SARS** grant request. SISK A14 Haughley to Tothill roadworks information. **Stowmarket & District Scouts** looking for 2 people to join board of trustees. **Jo Churchill MP** alternative fuel payment information. District Cllr Otton Suffolk Highways upcoming work C439 Combs Lane, Stowmarket/Gt Finborough 27 February, new highways services contract announcement of new partners Milestone, fees waived for communities to celebrate HM the King's coronation.

19. To receive reports

a)Report from the Clerk

Barclays Bank – the update of business details required by Barclays should now be complete. The bank mandate update is still to be completed and sent off.

20. Questions to the Chairman

There were none.

21. Items for next agenda

Footpath to Chilton Leys, OHSMag website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper's Graves.

22 To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 17 April 2023 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....