

**MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL**

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

**In attendance:** County Cllr Otton (in part), Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 7 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllr Corker.

**2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting 11 September 2023.**  
The minutes were approved and signed.

**3. To consider the co-option of councillors and take any necessary action.**  
Two applications have been received and will be invited to an informal meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair prior to a formal meeting with full council.

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

**5. Public comment.**

Resident requesting dog bins on Mill Grove development, Union Road. The Chair explained that the site is owned by Hopkins Homes and the Clerk has already contacted them to see if they will be supplying dog bins. No response has been received to date. The Clerk will contact them again.

Resident asking if there was any update on the proposed boundary change. The Chair advised that the next stage is for MSDC to consult with residents. It was agreed to print the timetable in the next OHSMag.

Resident requesting if the Onehouse sign, Union Road is any nearer to being reinstated. Cllr Matthissen has a MSDC Planning Enforcement case for Hopkins to replace it.

**6. Report from County Cllr Otton.**

On 7 September councillors from my group attended Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to question council officers from the Schools Infrastructure team about RAAC, the schools in Suffolk affected and the support they are being offered. The agenda also included the process for building new schools in the county and how the council works with the Department for Education and housing developers to make sure there are enough school places for children in the county. The meeting also looked at the school admissions and school transport processes and ways they can be made easy for parents to navigate. The speed check results on Lower Road have been received and sent to OPC. Cllr Otton is surprised they were not higher. It is very difficult to get the speed limit changed but Cllr Otton was asked to pursue a 40 mph from Heron Hill to the junction to Buxhall. 4 schools have a problem with RAAC. Cllr Otton has asked if there are any other schools that will be surveyed to make sure no more have got RAAC. Stowupland was one and work is taking place to rectify issues SCC has received funding for a Bus Service improvement Plan where communities can put forward ideas for better bus service. This is something perhaps to consider with Harleston and Shelland. The A14 contra-flow is due to be reversed at the end of October. SCC is holding a meeting in Stowmarket 12 October 1000 – 1200 hours for people to raise issues with officers on local matters. At Cabinet on 12 September concerns were raised about the overspend predicted for the financial year 2023-24. The council is forecasting a net

overspend of £22.3m, which is 3.2% of the overall budget for the year and will cut into the council's financial reserves with a reduction of £56.9m. Finance officers at the council had suggested a high council tax rise during the budget process to try and lessen the pressures on the council caused by rising inflation, energy costs and increased demands on council services such as placements for children in care, adult care and school transport for children and young people with special educational needs. The Cabinet agreed that senior leaders at the council would look at how money could be saved in each directorate to protect council reserves and prevent cuts to services wherever possible. Officers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) joined Cabinet on 12 September to explain their recommendation that the council leave the current control centre partnership with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and open a new control centre in the county by the end of 2024. This would create significant extra cost, but it was agreed that it was necessary for the safety of Suffolk residents. A vote was held and the recommendations were approved. Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders group have announced a £100k fund to spark net zero innovation across the county. The 'Net Zero Innovation Fund' will provide grants to businesses for innovative solutions that drive the county towards its net zero target. The fund is being coordinated by the Carbon Charter, Suffolk's hub for sustainable business, and is part of a package of work to deliver the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, which sets out the shared ambition of a net zero county by 2030. A Suffolk County Council programme which supports care leavers when they reach the age of 18 has proved so successful, it is now being rolled out across the country by the government. Staying Close, which was launched by Suffolk County Council in 2017, provides a package of support and guidance to young people leaving care. This includes ensuring they have accommodation, resources, and practical and emotional help to help them thrive as independent adults. This support is provided by a staff member who already works with them, so they have a consistent and stable relationship as they move into adulthood. The Staying Close programme in Suffolk is currently providing approximately 150 young people with help and support.

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

This is the first State of the District report produced by Mid Suffolk District Council. It tells the story of our district through data and insight across a range of themes spanning the economy, the environment, resident health and wellbeing, community issues and housing. Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a consultation process to get residents' feedback on the planned priorities for the District. MSDC is hoping to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils. There is an online survey which gives an opportunity to have your say about initial ideas. The Planning Inspectorate have finished the inspection of the Joint Local Plan part 1 and reported that it is sound, so it now needs to be formally adopted by Full Council. Planning policy officers are now able to focus on Part 2 of the plan which will include the housing allocations. MSDC has to carry out a review of Polling every 5 years. Are there any suggestions to change where people vote? Each village is a polling district and Cllr Matthissen sees no reason for that to change. MSDC is supporting Silver Sunday Campaigns to help tackle loneliness for older residents. Events are being held in Eye, Stowmarket and Needham Market over the next few weeks to bring young people into care homes for sing-alongs, games and fun. Dozens of people in temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk

will be helped to break the cycle of homelessness thanks to a new training scheme. This will involve interactive learning sessions to potential tenants, helping to build their confidence and skills around basic domestic maintenance, budgeting and the everyday responsibilities of a home. MSDC has released a ringfenced £820k budget for rural bus services. The plan is to implement a 'grant' scheme for existing transport operators to enhance existing rural transport provision with set routes and use more sustainable transport options where appropriate. MSDC are staging Community Climate Action Roadshows, which will give residents the chance to speak to local groups and organisations regarding climate action. A roadshow will be part of Stowmarket Town Council's Go Green Go Wild event on Tues 24<sup>th</sup> October, from 10.30 – 2.30. at the Scout Hut and in the grounds of Milton House.

## 8. Planning Matters

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

There were none.

### **b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.**

**23/03420** Discharge of Conditions appl 22/05984 Condition 3 (agreement of materials for extension), Condition 4 (Architectural Drawings) and Condition 5 (Architectural Detail on Roof Lantern). Onehouse Hall, Lower Road – acceptable.

**23/03452 & 23/03453 LB** Replacement of window with external door opening onto west elevation (side extension). Onehouse Hall, Lower Road – granted.

## 9. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 23/040 £195.00 J R Landscapes playing field grass cutting half cut 28 September and full cut 9 October

b) 23/041 £411.00 Gipping Press October OHSMag

c) 23/042 £11.98 Mr M Pleasance reimbursement for peat for flower barrels

d) 23/043 £157.78 Suffolk County Council pension payment October to be posted 5 November

Items a) – d) + f) and g) 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 £35,980.09 including the 2<sup>nd</sup> half precept. Less this month's cheques totalling £1,101.16 and adjustments of £275.00 for insurance and £456.00 for adverts, the corrected figure is 34,697.93.

f) 23/044 £325.40 HM Revenue & Customs Tax July-September

g) 23/045 £600.00 Mr M Goodwin 12 half barrels for flowers

### **10. To consider purchasing new batteries for the second-hand SIDS and take any necessary action.**

The batteries which came with the signs are not holding charge and it was agreed to purchase two new batteries at a maximum cost of £100.00. Cllr Boulter has tried a SID on the pole by Elder Cottage and has been unable to get any readings.

*Action: Cllr Boulter*

### **11. To consider production a People and Places Plan and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs agreed to pursue the production of a PPP and Cllr Copping will contact MSDC.

*Action: Cllr Copping*

**12. To discuss supporting a motion on 20's plenty for Suffolk and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs agreed to support the motion to call on SCC to implement a 20 mph in Onehouse and request 20mph on streets throughout Suffolk where vehicles and people mix.

*Action: the Clerk*

**13. To discuss grass cutting and winter maintenance of the playing field and take any necessary action.**

Cllrs agreed to pay for grass cutting of the field as required over the winter months and clearing of weeds/brambles around the edges.

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

SCC Officers will attend the 13 November meeting to update Councillors on how and when they will be able to deliver the path.

**15. To discuss new noticeboards in Forest Road and Mill Grove and take any necessary action.**

It was unanimously agreed to purchase a two-door noticeboard made of recycled plastic from Realise Future for £999.99 + VAT to replace the current noticeboard in Forest Road which is rotting.

*Action: the Clerk*

Cllr Copping has produced a drawing showing a suitable location to send to Hopkins Homes along with a picture of the proposed board from Realise Futures.

*Action: the Clerk*

**16. Environmental issues.**

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

Cllr Crissell will speak with Mr Smith before actioning forms *Action: Cllr Crissell*

**b) To discuss flower boxes and take any necessary action**

Further requests for barrels have been received however we are waiting the additional 11 barrels as and when Mr Goodwin can produce them.

**c) To discuss employing a handyman and take any necessary action**

There has been no response to the advert therefore it was agreed to find a contractor for work as and when required.

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

The working group continues with working parties. Currently all equipment is stored in Mr Taylor's shed. This may need to be reviewed in the future. It was considered that a container can be purchased once Onehouse Meadow is ready for both areas. Drug paraphernalia has been found again and will be reported to the Police.

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

OHSMag is looking great and the competition winner's cover was very well received. A contract for the editor and payments need to be arranged. There had been a couple of issues with adverts in the October issues but these have been sorted.

It was agreed to contact suffolk.cloud to produce a new Onehouse website.

*Action: the Clerk*

OHSMag Facebook page the new group has been set up and is working well.

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

Cllr Boulter contacts Taylor Wimpey every 6 weeks for an update on progress regarding Onehouse Meadow.

20. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. **Barclays Bank** confirmation of mandate changes completed. **MSDC** Dementia Friends sessions information. This will be passed to the church for the Wednesday group, Women’s Guild and OHSMC. **Resident** has reported footpath 28 by Lodge Cottage to SCC Rights of Way as the nettles and slope are making it dangerous. They are requesting that OPC follow up. **Resident** requesting dog bins for the Mill Grove development. The Clerk will contact Hopkins Homes again. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** **SALC** training bulletin 12, 19 September, 3 October, Mid Suffolk Area Forum 14 September notes, training bulletin – all things climate, news bulletin 18 September, 4, 9 October, Getting to Grips with National Strategic Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), SALC conference 29 November, Suffolk Community Awards – winners announced, reminder new policing model, job opportunities at SALC. **MSDC** Waste & recycling education, Blueprint for District development sound, publication of inspector’s report on the examination of BMSDC JLP, MSDC Parish Liaison meeting 19 October, review of polling districts, stations and places 2023/24, Town & Parish update October. **SCC** Suffolk recycles autumn newsletter, Trading Standards 21, 29 September, 5 October, public views sought over improvements to A140. **National Highways** A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme public and Town & Parish Councils information events, September newsletter. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 12, 19, 26 September, 3 October, Funding Digest September & October. **Slow Ways** Get your community properly connected to the Slow Ways national walking network. **Suffolk Police** PCC and Chief Constable host meetings to discuss community policing in Suffolk, launch of Suffolk nighttime safety survey. **County Cllr Otton** Council unite against National Grid pylons proposals, urgent road closure Lower Road 27 September, slides from NSIPs briefing, Lower Road speed survey results, views sought on Suffolk walking, wheeling and cycling routes.

**21. To receive reports**

a) Report from the Clerk – nothing to report

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

**23. Items for next agenda**

People and Places Plan, noticeboards, footpath to Chilton Leys, OHSMag, new website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper’s Graves.

24. **To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 13 November 2023 at 7.30 p.m.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.21 p.m.

Signed.....approved .....

Dated.....13 November 2023.....