

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Cllrs Willshere (Chairman), Taylor, Vile, Copping, Corker, Crissell and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting 9 November 2020.

The minutes were approved.

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

There were none.

4. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7.34 p.m.

Complaints have been received regarding the recent repairs to footways in Northfield Road with damage to residents' driveways by contractor's equipment. This will be reported to SCC. Flooding along Union Road, Starhouse Lane and Finborough Road from the Hopkins Homes development remains a concern. Cllr Crissell will draft a letter with supporting photographs which will be sent to relevant authorities. *Action: Cllr Crissell.*

5. Report from County Cllr Otton.

At Full Council on the 3rd December, the LDGI Group proposed a biodiversity motion. I intended to second this but gave way to the cabinet member which ensured it was voted through. Delivery of an SCC biodiversity strategy, assessment of how SCC can lead partner organisations in this field, adoption of biodiverse land management options on SCC land, a letter to the Secretary of State calling for a clear and ambitious national biodiversity strategy. Following the Government's announcement of a consultation on potential reforms to the law on pavement parking, my group has submitted a response supporting Option 3: a nationwide roll-out of a London-style ban on pavement parking. For too long the rules about parking on pavements have been an unnecessary grey area. People looking to park are confused whether it is better to block the roadway or the pavement and end up parking half on and half off pavements – the worst of both worlds. An initial report has been published by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) looking into the support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial findings of the report suggest that SEND services were maintained during lockdown in Suffolk.

6 Report from District Cllr Matthissen

Mid Suffolk is administering payments of Covid 19 grants to businesses forced to close or suffering a significant loss of income during the current lockdown period. The predicted underspend on the revenue account is £848k, due largely to unfilled staff vacancies and delays in programmed projects. The capital account is also underspent due to delays in commencing projects and making programmed investments. It is predicted that over £13 million will be carried forward to the next financial year. Covid 19 has impacted on the Housing Revenue Account; there has been an additional expenditure of £46k in PPE and a forecast £792k loss of rental income. The Government has not yet announced

any financial support for Housing Revenue Account so the deficit will need to be met from reserves. The budget setting process is under way; this will be a more difficult exercise than usual due to the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. MSDC has made further investments in properties in Luton and Epsom for £10.5 million and plans to spend a further £15 million making a total of £50 million, all paid for on long-term loans. These investments are managed by CIFCO. The property portfolio continues to decrease in value; two of the properties have been without tenants and some 30% of rental income is unpaid or delayed. A report on the major infrastructure projects for Mid Suffolk was presented to Cabinet in November. It will be published on the MSDC website on 11 December. Projects for future funding, partly through Community Infrastructure Levy, include a new bridge and lifts at Stowmarket Rail Station; increase in capacity at Bacton and Mendlesham surgeries and in Stowmarket; phase 2 of the Stowupland High School Masterplan; a new base for Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The meeting reconvened at 7.49 p.m.

7 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.

There were none.

8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 20/029 £327.37 Gipping Press December OHSMag

b) 20/030 £151.33 Suffolk County Council pension payment December to be posted 5 January

Both items above were approved and cheques issued.

c) to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

The Community Account balance at the end of November was £39,710.17 .

Less this month's cheques totalling £478.70 and adjustments of £178.15 for insurance and £1479.00 for adverts the corrected figure is £40,888.62.

9. To consider applications for the post handyman for various jobs around the parish and take any necessary action.

2 applications have been received. Zoom interviews will take place on 23 December 2020 with Cllrs Willshere, Copping and Crissell on the panel.

County Cllr Otton joined the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7.59 p.m.

There has been a bit of a misunderstanding about what was required for a path to the property in Ash Road requiring additional tarmac footway over amenity grass for a disabled resident. The access path to the property has been completed and it is hoped a dropped kerb will be installed in the future. There has been a Home to School transport appeal in the parish but the outcome is not yet known.

The meeting reconvened at 8.09 p.m.

10. Highways

a) To receive an update on the request to SCC for confirmation of locations of speed reduction signs and take any necessary action.

Two of our locations have been approved by SCC on Lower Road near to the Shepherd and Dog and on Forest Road towards the Community Centre. SCC has suggested outside the bungalows 32 & 34 Forest Road for a further site. Cllrs feel this is inappropriate as it would be on the wrong side of the road and with the parked cars and bend would be a distraction. It was agreed to purchase one sign for the two agreed locations at a cost of £2800.00 + VAT and work with SCC to agree at least one further site. It is hoped to receive a grant towards the cost from County Cllr Otton's transport budget. *Action: the Clerk.*

11. To consider the Babergh Mid Suffolk Pre-submission Joint Local Plan (Regulation 19) consultation and take any necessary action.

Cllr Willshere will resubmit comments where appropriate and the Clerk will complete the section to remove the area of field opposite 22 Forest Road from the settlement boundary to keep a strategic gap between Onehouse and Stowmarket. *Action: Cllr Willshere/the Clerk.*

12. To consider Revised CIL Charging Rates Consultation and take any necessary action.

Cllrs Willshere and Crissell will draft a response for consideration at the January meeting. *Action: Cllrs Willshere and Crissell*

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

Working groups are continuing in line with Covid guidelines and weather conditions. The central area is being opened up and a donated horse chestnut tree has been planted. A new member has joined the group.

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

There has been no further information when the application at the lower area of Union Road and Starhouse Lane will go to committee.

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

Letters have been sent to Harleston and Shelland Parish Meetings requesting they make provision for a deficit in their 2021/22 precept. There are 4 invoices for 2019/20 which remain outstanding and final chaser letters have been sent. Invoices have been sent for 2020/21.

16. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters.

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: Rural Services Network Rural Bulletin 10, 17, 24 November, 1, 8 December, Rural Funding Digest December. **Citizens Advice** Merry Christmas ad opening times. **Community Action Suffolk** latest Covid-19 VCSE impact survey November, newsletter 12 November & 10 December, funding network newsletter December. **SALC** Armistice Day update, Mid Suffolk online Area Forum 1 December, ebulletin 16,

23, 30 November, 7, 14 December, play area safety inspection training passed to OHSMC, NALC smaller council committee elections, financial health and wellbeing seminar 2 December, SALC members survey. **SCC** Trading Standards newsletter 12, 27 November, 3, 10 December, Suffolk Pension Fund consultation on Ill Heath Liability Insurance. **Stowmarket Ecofuture** Local Green Space designation. **MSDC** Joint Local Plan pre-submission (Reg19) publication, presentation of Joint Local Plan pre-submission (Reg19), MSDC taxbase 2021/22, JLP virtual meeting invitation, dog and litter bin emptying charges 2021/22, Christmas and New Year waste collection schedule and 2021 calendar, volunteer litter pick. **Field Census** Census 2021. **Penny Otton** Current infection rates and pressure on county's hospitals among reasons for Suffolk entering tier two restrictions, new Covid-19 support grant launched. **Sicon Foundation** tree planting initiative.

17. To receive reports

a)Report from the Clerk

Hedging towards Harleston – this is owned by SCC and will be rectified within 10 working days.

Hedging by the wood, Lower Road – SCC contacting the landowner to get cut

Hedging opposite 24-28 Forest Road – SCC contacting landowner to get cut.

Ditch opposite 28-32 Forest Road – SCC has raised a ditching notice with the enforcement team who will contact landowner.

b)Report from Community Speedwatch Scheme

No sessions taking place due to coronavirus guidance

18. Questions to the Chairman

Has anything further been heard from the resident interested in becoming a Councillor? The Clerk will send them an email.

Action: the Clerk .

19. Items for next agenda

Revised CIL Charging Rates Consultation, budget, handyman, Pauper's Graves, development around the parish, OHSMag, website & Facebook

20. To confirm date and time of the next virtual meeting as Monday 11 January 2021 at 7.30 p.m. noted.

The meeting Closed at 8.51 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....