

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL.

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

In attendance: County Cllr Otton (in part), District Cllr Matthissen (in part), Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting 6 & 13 November 2023. Both sets of minutes were approved and signed.

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

4. Public comment. No comments received.

5. Report from County Cllr Otton.

Following the recent Storm Babet flooding around the county, Suffolk County Council teams have pumped away 4.7m litres of water, cleared 8,412 drains of storm debris and removed over 100 trees blocking roads. In addition to this, as the lead local flood authority, Suffolk County Council has a duty to investigate the causes of flooding and take action to prevent future floods, and have announced that £1m will be spent on investigating the Storm Babet flooding and improving the county's resilience for further storms and excess rainfall. Additionally, it will be administering the funding recently announced by the government whereby owners of flooded properties are able to apply for up to £5,000 to protect their homes and business from future flooding. Details of how to apply will be shared once they are known. There is also financial help for businesses. The problems on Lower Road and the junction of Cutlers Lane have been reported and as nothing has been done Cllr Otton then sent a terse message to the director of highways. Drainage and gulley cleaning information has been sent to Clerks. Cllr Otton has also said it is essential that priority 2 roads such as Lower Road should be given priority 1 as this is now being used as a diversion from the A14. At Cabinet on 7 November, Cllrs heard the details of the council's additional £10m investment in resurfacing urban and residential roads, which was announced in May after the local elections. The council plans to use reporting of poor road surfacing on quieter residential roads and cul de sacs where residents live to plot a programme of repairs from now until the end of March 2025. Some Cllrs also had a recent meeting with the council's new contractor for highways to discuss how works would be undertaken in future. The council's new highways contractor is called Milestone, and the new contract began on 1 October 2023. At Scrutiny Committee on 23 November there was an opportunity to examine the contract with Milestone. The contract promises better communication with councillors and Suffolk residents, and contains incentives for the new contractor to work efficiently – for example, undertaking other works needed in the same geographical area when they are called out. The committee agreed to review the performance of the contract in 12 months. Suffolk County Council's adult social services were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in August and September, and the judgement is that services are good. Areas for improvement

included equity in experiences and outcomes, and gaps in dementia and nursing care provision. Delays in getting through to the Customer First phonenumber – the main first point of contact for social care – were also highlighted for improvement. Cllr Boulter has given Cllr Otton a list of road signs that need repairing or replacing in the parish.

6. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils formally adopted the new Joint Local Plan Part 1, which is the blueprint for future development until 2037. There are a number of updated and new policies relating to housing, economic development, environment and infrastructure. The Councils also agreed the Local Development Scheme which is a schedule for production of several supplementary planning documents (SPD) as well as Part 2 of the Joint Local Plan, which will include the strategic site allocations and settlement hierarchy. MSDC are now working with The Woodland Trust. There is a call for land which could be planted or improved for nature. Of particular interest is land of low agricultural value which is near or close to existing natural habitats, or can help provide green corridors to link them up. MSDC currently has low tree cover so the Council is already actively planting more trees and changing the way that public open spaces are to be managed. County and District councils are considering how to lessen the impact of future flood events, and particularly how to alleviate flooding by delaying the flow of ditches and streams across the catchments. Our villages comprise much of the catchment of the River Rat, and I hope to hear from landowners willing to play a part in this work, which may qualify for grant aid. The large building at Gateway 14 has been completed and handed over to The Range, for their main distribution warehouse. It is a high specification building, with a number of sustainability features. Gateway 14 is part of Freeport East, which provides businesses with a range of benefits including tax relief. Gateway 14 innovation and skills centre will be developed in association with the Freeport designation of the site; a multi-purpose building for education, start-up businesses, large and small spaces for rent. There is currently a consultation about applications for energy saving improvements in listed buildings across the district. The councils are considering the relaxation of the current requirement to apply for listed building consent. This would hopefully reduce the bureaucracy and time it takes for owners of listed buildings to make improvements to their properties. The Badley solar farm proposal was refused at planning committee recently for heritage impact and lack of a noise report. Assuming this report is produced, there may be a difficult balance between the public interest in more renewable interest and the impact on the listed buildings around Badley Hall and Church. A small part of the land is in the parish of Combs, so I am not allowed to take part in the decision. Cllr Crissell thanked Cllr Matthissen for arranging for an extension of time to 10 January for the Community Governance review response.

7. Planning Matters

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

23/04927 Erection of garage with room over (replacing existing cartlodge and outbuildings. Meadow Cottage, Purple Hill, Buxhall – no comment

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

23/05051 Discharge of Conditions application for 20/01110 Condition 25 Post excavation archaeology. Land south of Union Road – satisfied.

22/01397 Outline Planning Permission for a single detached dwelling. 2 Star Cottages, Union Road. Appeal dismissed, unacceptable impact on highways safety.

23/00236 Discharge of Condition application 21/06966 Condition 4 (landscaping). Land south of Union Road – acceptable.

8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 23/051 £1199.99 Realise Futures CIC noticeboard for Forest Road

b) 23/052 £474.00 Gipping Press December OHSMag

c) 23/053 £157.78 Suffolk County Council pension payment December to be posted 5 January

Items a) to c) + h) were approved and cheques issued.

d) to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

The balance of the Community Account at the end of November was £32,900.79.

Less this month's cheques totalling £2,091.77 and adjustments of £225.00 for insurance and £144.00 for adverts, the corrected figure is £30,890.02.

e) To discuss a donation of £100.00 to The Mix Christmas Shoe Box appeal for items for The Lighthouse Woman's Refuge and Homelessness Appeal Suffolk and take any necessary action.

This was unanimously approved and Cllr Copping volunteered to purchase items up to this amount from the list provided by The Mix.

f) To discuss and approve the precept to be raised for 2024/25

The Clerk has written to the Chair advising that she will be retiring in May 2024, therefore provision needs to be included within the budget for an overlap period of two clerks' salaries. The Clerk produced the precept calculations and advised that the tax base has increased by 19.6% due to new properties in the parish.

Discussion ensued regarding the amounts included to the four charities and the disparity of the amounts. It was agreed to include a total figure of £1,500.00 and discuss how this will be proportioned at a later meeting. It was proposed, seconded and carried to increase the precept to £23,028.00. This will result in an increase of 3.53% to residents. Full details of the precept are shown on folio 3175.

g) To sign precept form for 2024/25

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

h) 23/054 £260.00 J R Landscapes hedge cutting around the playing field

9. To receive an update on the production a People and Places Plan and take any necessary action.

Cllr Copping has contacted Jo Wood and Elizabeth Ling and a meeting will be arranged shortly.

10. To receive an update on the new noticeboards in Forest Road and Mill Grove and take any necessary action.

The noticeboard for Forest Road has been delivered and Cllr Boulter will dismantle the current one before getting a team together to install the new noticeboard

Action: Cllr Boulter

Hopkins Homes has advised that the footpath parallel Union Road is to be adopted by SCC. Subject to OPC having agreement from the LPA and

County Highways to the positioning, Hopkins Homes would be happy to agree to the installation of a notice board.

Action: the Clerk

11. Environmental issues.

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

Cllr Copping will look at the risk assessment requirements before completing the forms and sending them to SCC.

Action: Cllr Copping.

Once this has been done Cllr Boulter would like to arrange to paint road name signs.

12. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves, including a monument and take any necessary action.

The Paupers Graves working group are very enthused regarding the project to install a memorial to the 350 named as buried there between 1813-1835. The group are to draw up plans and get an idea of costs before applying to MSDC and all the villages involved for funding. Cllrs agreed that this is a worthy project and a great idea to get the area and villages involved. It is felt that all villages involved should be brought together at an event to show them the historical information and documents received. The project needs to focus on the group that looks after the area and prepared in a way to be an asset to the village. It is believed that the workhouse was established in 1825 and it would be very fitting to have the memorial in place by 2025. The Clerk advised that she has contacted MSDC and their officer has advised that planning permission would be required for a memorial.

13. To discuss OHSMag including a contract for the Editor, a new Onehouse website with Suffolk.cloud, Facebook page and take any necessary action.

Cllrs unanimously approved the contract for the Editor. The Clerk advised that currently the deficit for OHSMag was looking to be in the region of £1800.00 at the end of the year which is a concern. The Clerk has been in contact with suffolk.cloud and agreed that the domain will be onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk with a 10Gb email storage package. This has been submitted for registration and once that is received suffolk.cloud will build the new website. The Facebook page has been altered so that Cllrs can post items on it.

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

Nothing to discuss.

15. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs :** SCC Trading Standards 16, 23 November, 7 December, Enhanced Bus Partnership 2024 meetings, E P Passenger Interest Group meeting 14 November minutes. **MSDC** Community Governance Review consultation comms and materials, new winter grant to tackle social isolation, new Cosy Homes initiative, notice of adoption of BMSDC JLP Part 1, Community Governance Review consultation extended to 10 January, update on flood support payments, Town and Parish update December, Christmas holiday activity programme, call for land for nature recovery. **SALC** new social club for young people with dementia, news bulletin 13, 20 November, 4, 11 December, training bulletin 14, 21 November, 5 December, SALC

conference 29 November workshop recordings, Christmas Greetings and office closure over Christmas and the New Year. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 14, 21, 28 November, 5 December, Funding Digest December. **Woodland Trust** collaborative initiative with BMSDC to increase tree coverage. **Highways England** A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme overnight closures. **Headway Suffolk** request for a donation. **Suffolk Police** new Suffolk police model forging closer links with communities. **London Hearts** defibrillator grant funding. **County Cllr Otton** Celebrating environmental excellence: Suffolk awards launched, urgent road closure Lower Road 21 November drainage clearance and investigation, Winter matters, quick guide to drainage.

16. To receive reports

a) Report from the Clerk

Mill Grove dog bins – Hopkins Homes has advised that there were no requirements under Planning Permission to provide dog waste bins on the development. There is just a standard litter bin to be installed by the benches in the play area. HH would be amenable to installing a couple of dog waste bins on site for emptying by others and can review whether a third bin could be added as later pockets of the development are opened up. HH has asked for details of who will empty the bins. The Clerk will contact MSDC to advise that OPC will pay for emptying. *Action: the Clerk*

Footpath 28 – the Clerk and Cllr Boulter met with Kevin Verlander SCC Rights of Way and their contractor to look at the issues of FP28. They will look to level out the slope by the fencing to make the path safer but Mr Verlander is not sure where and when he will be able to get funding for the work. He seems to be under the impression that parishes should do more to maintain footpaths as SCC has no money. The Clerk reiterated that footpaths are the responsibility of SCC. Cllr Leek will have a look and carry out strimming of vegetation and look at what is involved in clearing the ditch. *Action: Cllr Leek*

Unity Trust Bank- the application form to open a current account has been completed and Cllrs now all need to sign the form for submission.

Councillor vacancy – this will be advertised again in the January OHSMag.

17. Questions to the Chairman there were none.

18. Items for next agenda Discussion with Tim Passmore Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner regarding anti-social behaviour, People and Places Plan, noticeboards, footpath to Chilton Leys, OHSMag, new website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper’s Graves.

19. To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 10.06 p.m.

Signed.....Approved

Dated.....8 January 2024.....