

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

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

In attendance: County Cllr Otton (in part), District Cllr Matthissen (in part), Mrs Fuller, Clerk, Julia Proctor and David Falk, SCC Highways and 6 members of the public.

Cllr Copping welcomed Cllr Leek to Onehouse PC following his co-option at the meeting 6 November 2023. He duly signed a Confirmation of Acceptance of Office form.

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Corker due to illness.

2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting 9 October 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

It was agreed to bring forward items 6 & 7 so that County Cllr Otton and District Cllr Matthissen can attend another meeting.

6. Report from County Cllr Otton.

The recent flooding was probably the worst we have seen. The clean up will now begin with SCC and MSDC cleaning the roads and debris. Thanks to all of you who helped those in trouble. We now need to have a clear understanding as to the responsibility of different agencies i.e. SCC, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Details of how SCC is dealing with areas worst hit has been circulated and how anyone effected can claim £500 to help the costs. There will now be a review of areas where if work had been done the problem may not have been so bad; Combs Lane as one. Cllr Otton has an extra £3000 for replacing road signs and other highways issues. Cllrs were asked to advise of any that need replacing in the parish. Details of the consultation on Suffolk Libraries has been circulated and Cllr Otton hopes OPC will be able to publicise this as it is essential we keep our libraries and mobile libraries going. 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. 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. Cllr Otton has sent details of the survey of council spending which the electorate can have their say on where the money should be spent and what the priorities should be. 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.

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. The Staying Close programme in Suffolk is currently providing approximately 150 young people with help and support. I am pleased having enquired, that all councils give 100% discount for young care leavers. Cllr Otton has instructed highways to start the process to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on Lower Road. The change over to the west bound contra-flow on A14 is expected later this month. There is a fund for "social benefit" which could be of interest.

7. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

An internal review of requests for changes has recommended no change to the boundary between Onehouse and Stowmarket. All residents will now be consulted before a decision is made by full council. After Storm Babet, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses. Householders are being urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council's reporting tool. The government has announced some financial support and we are waiting to see how this can be distributed. Mid Suffolk District Council will be reviewing their processes that are currently in place for dealing with this type of emergency situation. At Mid Suffolk's Council meeting on 26 October, a position statement on Solar Farms was agreed. This stated that solar farms should not be based on prime agricultural land and the landscape impact on our communities needed to be taken into account. In the absence of clear Government policy, the Council cannot make planning policy regarding renewable energy such as solar farms or solar PV on roof tops. We can only provide a statement of intent in terms of how we wish to see developments proceed. In January next year we expect to produce a full Supplementary Planning Document on this which takes longer to put together as it has to be consulted on and provide relevant evidence. The Council currently provides a very poor level of service for maintaining our housing stock and have a very low level of tenant satisfaction. The new Administration at Mid Suffolk is focusing on the backlog of housing repairs that are needed. This backlog will be dealt with via a separate contractor allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs. We are also investing heavily in the repairs and maintenance service for our Council stock. We have engaged external partners to monitor our service moving forward. The Council currently provides a very poor level of service for maintaining our housing stock and have a very low level of tenant satisfaction. The Cosy Homes initiative is being launched on 15 November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented.

Residents are concerned that the deadline for the boundary review is 22 December 2023. They feel this is too short and a difficult period just before Christmas. Cllr Matthissen will see if he can get the consultation date extended into January 2024.

Cllr Matthissen was made aware of the scathing letter from Taylor Wimpey regarding communication from MSDC regarding the SHELF project. OPC hopes

that this issue will not have consequences regarding the progress of Onehouse Meadow. Cllr Copping advised that James Bailey, on behalf of Taylor Wimpey is prepared to attend a meeting with OPC to discuss and progress Onehouse Meadow.

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

There were none.

4. To receive an update from Julia Proctor, Suffolk County Council Project Manager-Transport Scheme Delivery on the current position regarding the extension of the footway from 22 Forest Road to Chilton Leys.

The new telegraph pole is in but there is some connection work to do, trial holes and topographical survey has been carried out. Milestone are now checking the design which was drawn up by Keir and pricing the scheme. Some trees will need to be removed and some replanting nearby will be needed to compensate. These could be in Onehouse Meadow in due course. SCC will start the process to extend the 30 mph to the Union Road junction. £16,000 has been spent to date on the project. £243,317 is due for Public Rights of Way but only £128,000 has been received so far. The balance is part of the Section 106 agreement to be released on occupation of 350 dwelling of the Taylor Wimpey development which could be another year. Once costings are known SCC will see what can be done with the current £128,000. It may be possible to get a loan from other projects or TW may be prepared to bring funds forward. Lighting of the path may be by solar studs, reflective bollards or some other suggestion from Milestone. The project will take 14 weeks to deliver and there will be a need for the road to be closed at some point. Once the costings have been received Julia Prior will arrange a public event. It is hoped to commence work Spring 2024.

David Falk, Green Access Manger was also in attendance and the Clerk read out the report to and response from SCC regarding footpath 28. **Report** "Following installation of adjacent fence, the ground now slopes steeply towards the ditch on the opposite side. This is now covered in nettles The steeply sloping side of the path is too slippery to use when wet and muddy and pitches a walker into the nettles and ditch. This leaves about a foot to walk on and It's difficult to see where the ditch is." **Response** "Thank you for your report. We have inspected the route. The route is already on our cutting schedule for 2 cuts per year so we are not really in a position to increase the level of cutting on it. There has been an unprecedented level of growth this year and hopefully now that the weather has turned the vegetation will start to die back. Alternatively is there not someone within the parish that has access to a strimmer that could do a bit of clearance perhaps." Councillors are appalled that SCC expects parishioners to intervene and do the work with what could a dangerous machine as it would need to be a brushcutter not a strimmer. The Clerk explained that it is not just a matter of cutting vegetation but dangerous because of the slope caused by the new fencing that has been erected. Mr Falk apologised for the response and asked for the email response to be sent to him. He will then arrange another inspection with a Parish Councillor to see what improvements can be made.

Action: the Clerk

5. Public comment.

Resident of Mill Grove concerned regarding the ponds near the pedestrian crossing. There are also open ditches to the front of the development which are

currently full of water with no drainage systems. Photos will be provided so the matter can be taken up with the relevant authority.

A resident advised that he would like to see better cycling provision in the UK and is happy to get involved.

8. Planning Matters

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

RE_CONSULTATION

23/01323 HYBRID APPLICATION - The Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities Project (SHELF). ELEMENT 1 (FULL). Works of demolition and construction to provide a new shared sports pavilion to replace the existing building, a new sports hall, enhance existing /deliver new outdoor recreational facilities , and relocated play area along with the provision of associated parking, amended vehicular access, lighting, means of enclosure, landscaping, highway improvements and other associated works. ELEMENT 2 (OUTLINE)

Construction of a mixed-use community wellbeing hub building. Chilton Sports Club Chilton Way Stowmarket Part In The Parish Of Onehouse. – no comments to add.

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

23/03143 Application for non-material amendment relating to appl 4455/16 relocation of bin/cycle stores. Land South of Union Road – approved.

23/03827 Discharge of conditions appl 20/01110 Condition 10 (Travel Plan) and Condition 11 (Residents Travel Pack). Land South of union Road – acceptable.

9. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 23/046 £260.00 J R Landscapes playing field grass cutting/edges and of October and 1 November

b) 23/047 £489.00 Gipping Press November OHSMag

c) 23/048 £18.00 SALC conference 29 November Cllr Crissell

d) 23/049 £69.57 Mr D Boulter reimbursement for batteries and clips for SIDs

e) 23/050 £157.78 Suffolk County Council pension payment November to be posted 5 December

Items a) – e) were approved and cheques issued.

f) to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

The balance of the Community Account at the end of October was £34,427.79.

Less this month's cheques totalling £994.35 and adjustments of £250.00 for insurance and £275.00 for adverts, the corrected figure is £33,408.44.

g) To consider changes to banking arrangements and take any necessary action.

Due to issues with lack of customer service, difficulties when making changes to mandates, problems with getting identification verified, it was unanimously agreed to transfer our current account from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank.

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

Cllr Copping has had a conversation with Jo Wood and Elizabeth Ling MSDC who are happy to help produce this. Cllrs Leek, Crissell and Copping will form a working group.

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

The board for Forest Road has been ordered and we await delivery. Cllr Boulter will arrange for the board to be installed when received. Copies of drawings of the board and possible site have been sent to Hopkins Homes for agreement. No response has been received to date.

12. To discuss SCC Funding for local bus network improvements and take any necessary action.

It was agreed to contact Harleston and Shelland to discuss a joint project.

Action: the Clerk

13. Environmental issues.

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

Cllr Crissell has spoken to Mr Smith who has received SCC training and he is qualified for most items on the list. The contract with SCC will be completed and signed and returned to SCC.

Action: Cllr Copping/the Clerk

b) to discuss flower boxes and take any necessary action

Mr Goodwin will supply the additional barrels in due course.

c) to discuss SCC response to a request to maintain footpaths and take any necessary action.

Referred to Mr Falk, SCC Green Access Manager.

14. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves, including the discovery of names of who is buried there between 1813-1835, a monument and take any necessary action.

Working parties continue every two weeks to keep the area in good order. 350 names have been discovered for those buried in the Pauper's Graves between 1813-1835. The working group would like a memorial to be erected with all the names on. Costs will be looked into. Whilst Cllrs are initially positive about the project, the Clerk was asked to find out in the ground is consecrated and whether planning permission would be required before taking the matter further.

Action: the Clerk

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

The contract for the Editor has been revised and will be put to the OHSMag Committee for agreement at the meeting in December. Cllr Copping will circulate to Cllrs for approval.

The quote from Suffolk.cloud for a new website was accepted by Cllrs. £200.00 to set up, annual fee of £120.00 for hosting and support, £85.00 for gov.uk domain name and £65.00 mail boxes per year.

Action: the Clerk

Whilst the Clerk is happy to update the Parish Council pages, someone will need to manage the rest of the website. Mrs Cross OHSMag Editor will be approached.

The Parish Council Facebook page needs to be updated. It was agreed that all Cllrs would be able to update once rules and regulations are established.

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

Nothing to discuss this month.

17. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. **Cllr Matthissen** to let Mr Taylor know who is our history recorder. At present we do not have one. Mrs Llewellyn did keep records before she passed away and the Clerk will try to ascertain where these records are now. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs:** **SALC** training bulletin 10, 31 October 7 November, news bulletin 23,30 October, 6 November, Getting to Grips with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) 6 November, Storm Babet communication from SCC, SALC Conference 29 November, The Local Councillor magazine Autumn 2023, do you have a question or issue to put to SCC Highways? staffing update. **SCC** Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Passenger Interest Group meeting 14 November agenda, Trading Standard news 13, 24, 26 October, 2 November, Suffolk Recycles October update, funding for bus network improvements, Temporary Closure extension Footpath 22, Pension – employers newsletter Autumn 2023. **MSDC** October half term activity programme, free trees, hedging and wildflowers scheme, Town & Parish Liaison meeting 19 October priorities for corporate plan workshop, Mid Suffolk Town & Parish briefing update, Pride in your Place funding deadline extended to 30 November, Town & Parish update for Mid Suffolk November, Community Governance Review Consultation – Onehouse & Stowmarket, invitation to participate in consultation of Local Listed Buildings Consent Order. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 10, 17, 24, 31 October, 7 November, Rural Funding Digest November. **Suffolk Police** PCC and Chief Constable host meeting to discuss Community Policing in Suffolk 17 October, No Hate in Suffolk Campaign, Suffolk Police & CC November update. **National Highways** A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme contra flow switch, temporary speed limits, October newsletter, emergency closures update, emergency repairs. **Jo Churchill MP** Dementia Awareness event 27 October. **Penny Otton** SCC seeks your views for next budget, social benefits for A14 work, Storm Babet Cllr update 27 October, additional capital funding for road sign maintenance, libraries public consultation, Suffolk Community Foundation/SCC household support funding webinar 23 November, financial aid for flood affected properties in Suffolk. **Groundwork East** Net Zero & Energy Efficiency support in your area. **London Hearts** The Department for Health £1 million Defibrillator Fund Now Open. **John Matthissen** flooding information and support. **Mid Suffolk CAB** update and request for a donation.

18. To receive reports

a)Report from the Clerk

Dog bin outside Community Centre – MSDC asked for this to be lowered to 3 ft from the ground. Cllr Boulter has completed this.

Dog bins Mill Grove development – an email has been sent to Hopkins Homes to see if they will provide these but no response has been received.

SALC request for questions to Suffolk Highways – the Clerk completed the form to ask how they intend to improve pot hole and repairs to side roads following increased usage due to A14 roadworks.

Community Governance Review – MSDC working group draft recommendation

Is to leave the boundary between Onehouse and Stowmarket as it is. This recommendation is now out for consultation with affected residents and businesses.

19. Questions to the Chairman

There were none.

20. 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.

21. To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.30 p.m. Noted – this will be the precept meeting for 2024/5.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....