

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2024 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

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

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

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Leek.

2. Discussions with Arthur Charvonía, CEO Mid Suffolk District Council

The recent decision by MSDC not to move the boundary between Onehouse and Stowmarket was discussed. There is no appeal process but that does not stop a further request in time. MSDC will decide which properties on Mill Grove development are in Onehouse and which are in Stowmarket. Cllr Copping advised that the only way to contact MSDC is digitally but not everybody is able to do that. Mr Charvonía advised that digital contact was the preferred method but MSDC does recognise some residents cannot do so therefore there is the customer services telephone line and the front office in Stowmarket where people can visit. MSDC has 28 days to respond to queries and was surprised to learn that this is not always the case. Mr Charvonía is to join councillors for a tour of the village in July. We have been working with MSDC Communities team both on the People and Places Plan and also taking on the area of land beside the Northfield View development. Kate Parum has been very much involved in this but the transfer is on hold until the SHELF project is sorted. Cllr Crissell advised that sometimes Onehouse feels side-lined and that people are having meetings about us with us not there. Mr Charvonía advised that since May there seems to be a shift in how MSDC works.

Mr Charvonía was thanked for coming and was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting

3. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meetings 13 May 2024

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

Cllr Roberts declared a pecuniary interest in item 20 as a trustee of OHS Village hall and Playing Field Trust.

5. Public comment.

Resident asked if we were going to have a picture of the King. The Clerk advised we already have it and are awaiting permission from Onehouse PCC to hang it in Trinity Hall.

6. Report from County Cllr Otton.

A motion was put forward council on 23 May to lobby the government for improved funding for local authorities, which was seconded by the administration and voted through unanimously in the chamber. Politicians of all parties are concerned by the £4 billion funding 'gap' predicted for councils in the next few years, particularly for social care. To balance the books this year, Suffolk County Council had to withdraw £15.9 million from its reserves - the equivalent of council savings accounts – but this is not a sustainable approach. Councils that have become bankrupt have to cut services back to the minimum they have to provide by law, and seek to raise revenue by increasing council tax and other avenues

they have such as charges for parking or social care. Cllrs Otton is desperately disappointed that the request to reduce the speed limit on Lower Road was reject by Cllr Richard Smith and believes it is wrong that this is left to 1 person to make the decision without a meeting of all parties. Cabinet also considered a paper on recommendations for charges for post-16 school transport. Although students now have to be in education or training up to the age of 18, the council receives no funding from the government to pay for their transport. This means the council asks parents and carers to pay for part of the cost with the rest subsidised by the council. In 2023-24, the average cost for a mainstream seat was £1,701 and the average cost for a SEND student seat is £11,819. The proposal approved by Cabinet was for the charge for a mainstream seat to rise to £1,050 a year, which is a steep £90 increase from last year. There will be no increase for SEND students so their seats will remain at £780 a year. The 50% reduction in charge for families on a low income and in receipt of free school meals will continue for another year. The council will continue to signpost families to public transport routes where these may be cheaper and in addition, many schools have bursaries for travel which students can apply for. The council has just received notification that Ofsted will be coming for a two week inspection of its children's services. This inspection is focused on social care, youth justice, corporate parenting, family services and safeguarding. It will also look at partnership working with other council teams and external partners to support children and keep them safe. Suffolk County Council had its last children's services Ofsted inspection five years ago and was rated as Outstanding. Suffolk County Council, NHS partners and adult social care organisations have launched a dementia strategy. - the number of people who develop dementia is likely to be higher, so having a robust and effective strategy to manage this is essential. The strategy has been co-produced with people with dementia and their carers and will look to promote early diagnosis, providing better information about care and treatment options, and focus on improved signposting for people of all ages with dementia, their carers and families, to help them get the support they want and need to enable them to live well with dementia within their own community. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has unveiled a £3.5 million investment in new firefighting vehicles and equipment, including a 32m turntable ladder vehicle, a specialist rescue tender, six new fire engines, a driver trainer vehicle plus a fleet of electric pool cars. The new vehicles will be on the road by summer 2024. The new vehicles are part of a planned replacement programme whereby fire engines are replaced every 15 years, and include the latest technology to help keep Suffolk residents safe. They also support the council's net zero targets as officer and pool cars will now be electric vehicles. Fire engines are generally diesel vehicles, although there are some electric-hybrid vehicles currently being trialed in London. In order to prepare Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the council has launched a public survey so residents can share their favourite nature spots and which habitats they think should be protected. Farmers, landowners and land managers are also encouraged to submit practical, achievable proposals to support nature conservation, as well as sharing how land is currently managed and any challenges faced applying for government funding schemes. The strategy will form a plan to help reverse the decline in nature

across the county, and to connect and expand existing areas that are important for wildlife and the landscape.

7. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

The next parliamentary general election will take place on 4 July. The next scheduled MSDC Council meeting on 27 June has been cancelled due to the pre-election period. The Cabinet has challenged the cancellations as too wide-ranging, and some decisions considered non-political are going ahead. The Annual Council meeting was held on 22 May. The new Chair is Cllr Dan Pratt and his chosen charity for the forthcoming year will be The Food Museum in Stowmarket. Cllr Keith Scarff was appointed as Vice Chair. There were very few other changes to committees. The Neighbourhood CIL payout of over £500k was distributed last month. The Neighbourhood CIL funds are for parishes to spend on infrastructure within their parishes, but they are still able to apply for further funds from the developer contribution. The next bid round for applications to the district for CIL funds opened on 31 May. The decisions will be taken to the Cabinet meeting in the autumn. Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded funding to improve the carbon footprint of the swimming pools. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre received £180k to fund pool covers, and micro filtration units. Funding to begin food waste collections in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed. The service will launch in 2026 as part of a national requirement from central government. There is approximately £250k shortfall in the funding allocated from central government. The plan will be for every household to receive a new 23-litre food waste bin, as well as a smaller 5-litre caddy for use in the kitchen. The food waste will be collected on a weekly basis. Funding of £18.8m has been agreed to create a Skills & Innovation Centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket – the latest development there to support business, create jobs, and boost the local economy. Much of the money will come from the Freeport funds, and some from MSDC. Cllr Matthissen will be attending the follow up meeting regarding flooding on 17 June.

8. Nomination of representative to OHS Village Hall & Playing Field Trust Management Committee.

Cllr Copping was proposed, seconded and elected.

9. Nomination of Tree and Footpath Warden

In his absence Cllr Leek was nominated and duly elected subject to his confirmation he is willing to take on the role.

10. 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.

24/01562LB Minor amendments app 22/05984 as per revised Heritage, Design and Access Statement Rev B and revised plans. Onehouse Hall, Lower Road – granted

24/01581 Application under S73 for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/22/05983 dated 27/01/2023 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) -Erection of a single storey extension: Erection of a detached garage and log store, new gateway, reinstated footbridge, new footbridge and associated external works. To vary condition 2 (Approved Plans

and Documents) in order to allow changes to design and materials as detailed within the Heritage and Design and Access Statement Rev B and revised drawings – granted.

11. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

- a)24/015 £300.00 J E Reynolds grass cutting playing field May/June
 - b)24/016 £365.00 Gipping Press June OHSMag
 - c)24/017 £215.00 Bryan Jones Electrical new pads for defibrillator & fitting
 - d)24/018 £15.00 Mr D Boulter reimbursement for plants for the flower boxes
 - e)24/019 £161.98 Suffolk County Council pension payment June to send 5 July
- Items a) - e) and g) – j) were approved and cheques issued.

f)to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

The balance of the Unity Trust current account at the end of May was £35,004.43 less this month's cheques totalling £1545.06 and adjustment of £75.00 for insurance, the corrected figure is £33,534.37. The Community Account with Barclays stands at £729.43. The letter has been sent to close the Barclays account.

- g)24/020 £248.80 Laura Cross editing OHSMag May and June
- h)24/021 £90.00 Sandra Brown internal audit of accounts 2023/4
- i)24/022 £164.28 Mrs J Copping reimbursement for SPS tickets for Pauper's Group award

12. To consider a donation to the Pauper's Graves Memorial and take any necessary action.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried to make a grant of £1,000.00. It is noted that SCC Locality Funding is currently on hold due to the moratorium and it may be that OPC funds any invoices before the grant funding is received.

Cllr Boulter will look into a grant funding project for the Pauper's Graves upkeep.

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

The working group continues to meet weekly, weather permitting. All the grass has been cut and will be kept in good order for the unveiling of the memorial on 19 July. There is currently not date for the footings to be built.

14. To compete and sign the Annual Governance Statement and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The forms were completed and duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.

15. To consider the CIL/Section 106 figures for Onehouse on MSDC website and take any necessary action.

In the absence of Cllr Leek, this item was carried forward to the next meeting.

16. To consider the introduction of a village mascot and take any necessary action.

This could be used in many projects, community cohesion, get children involved, there could be a cartoon strip in OHSMag. An owl has been suggested. It was agreed to put an item in OHSMag to gauge interest. *Action: Cllrs Boulter/Copping*

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

Cllr Boulter will remove the last metal section of the old leg and on a dry day will gild the lettering to make it stand out.

Action: Cllr Boulter

18. To consider the purchase of a notice board for Union Road and take any necessary action.

Now that it has been decided not to change the boundary between Onehouse and Stowmarket, it was agreed to purchase a notice board between the Hopkins Homes development and Bloor Homes. This will be from Realise Futures and they will be asked to use stainless steel hinges as some on the Forest Road notice board have rusted.

Action: the Clerk

19. To discuss the reinstatement of the Onehouse sign on Union Road and take any necessary action.

This has been gone since the pedestrian crossing was installed as part of the Mill Grove development. It should be replaced by Hopkins Homes and MSDC have been chasing this. Mr Charvonia will look into this and advise.

20. To consider a request that the playing field grass is cut three times a month instead of two and take any necessary action.

Due to the current wet and warm conditions the grass is growing very quickly and really needs cutting three times per month rather than two. It was agreed to increase cuts to three from June to August if required.

21. To consider a response to BMSDC JLP Supplementary Documents consultation and take any necessary action. (ends 19 June)

Cllrs do not wish to comment.

22. To consider a response to National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Statutory consultation and take any necessary action. (ends 24 July)

Cllrs do not wish to comment.

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

There has not been a subsequent meeting. Cllr Copping suggested that the working group works on suitable questions and then puts the proposal of the questions to full council at the end of the year for consultation of residents early 2025. This was unanimously agreed.

24. To receive an update regarding the extension of the footway from 22 Forest Road to Chilton Leys and take any necessary action.

SCC has advised that the design will be available 14 July. This is very frustrating as we have been told and given a date which has not been met for the last few months. It was agreed that Cllr Copping will draft a letter to SCC officer.

Action: Cllr Copping

25. Environmental issues.

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

Cllr Copping has sent completed forms to SCC. Training dates will be advised by SCC as soon as possible. SCC Officer didn't think that we would be able to put the temporary flooding signs out as he thought that part of the road was 60 mph.

This will be checked as some Cllrs felt this was 40 mph. We could send a letter to SCC requesting permanent flood signs for consideration.

b)To receive an update on the flooding in Forest Road and the ditch beside Footpath 28 towards Forest Road and take any necessary action.

There has not been much flooding in Forest Road recently as some work has been done to the ditches. Water samples have not been taken as we were advised that they could not provide conclusive evidence as we have not clear samples previously. There is a further meeting regarding flooding at Pettward Hall 17 June. Mrs Roberts and either Mr Boulter or Mrs Copping will attend.

c)to discuss flower boxes and take any necessary action.

All barrels are now in place.

An additional barrel is required under the village sign opposite 22 Forest Road which will be adopted. Some in Birch Road have not been adopted and Cllr Boulter will look after these. Although most boxes are adopted, some people who originally agreed to look after them have left the village or are no longer able to do so. Cllr Boulter will write a piece for OHSMag to see if residents will come forward to adopt these.

Action: Cllr Boulter

26. To discuss OHSMag, new Onehouse website with Suffolk.cloud, old website, Facebook page and take any necessary action.

OHSMag - The OHSMag committee has met again. They are looking at fund raising events. There is to be a chilli evening in July, a Christmas event and Burns Night. Bob Caley will be hosting a sourdough event but no date has been set yet. The outstanding invoice for 2023/4 has been paid and all Parish meetings and Parish Council have agreed to pay their proportion of the deficit. The additional 50 copies have now been ordered monthly to cover Union Road developments. Two distributors have come forward for Mill Grove but a further one is required to cover all occupied housing. Photos are needed of the growing pumpkins to keep interest in the biggest pumpkin competition in October. A set of questions will be sent to all councillors and other organisations for an interest piece and also to anyone with interesting hobbies. The invoices for adverts for 2024/5 have not yet been issued.

New website – Suffolk.cloud will provide training for Cllrs Copping and Boulter to be able to add pages and update the website.

Facebook – Cllr Copping still has been unable to set up a secondary page due to the problem of not having the password for the first page.

27.To discuss development of land around the parish and take any necessary action. Nothing to report or discuss.

28 To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters. **The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: MSDC** May holiday activities programme, BMSDC JLP draft supplementary documents consultation, Norwich-Tilbury NSIP statutory consultation deadline extended to 24 July, Town & Parish update June, BMSD Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople call for sites 2024, UK Parliamentary Notice of Election & statement of persons nominated, notice of agents and polling stations. **SCC** Trading Standards news 16, 26, 30 May & 6 June. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 14, 21, 29 May and 4 June. **SALC** Training Bulletin 14, 15, 21 May, 4 June, News Bulletin 20 May 7 3 June, Mid Suffolk Area Forum 4 June and speaker confirmed, notes from Mid Suffolk Area Forum, SALC AGM 1 July. **Suffolk Police** Constable County May. **Jupiter Play** webinar 4 June rewilding spaces and sustainability.

County Cllr Otton election moratorium, Suffolk community Awards 2024, Suffolk archives update including provisional timetable of closures, National Highways update A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction. **SISK** A14 closure information. **Mid Suffolk CAB** helping people in your community with cost of living problems. Suffolk Wildlife **Trust** stag beetle workshop for Parish Councils and wildlife groups.

29. To receive reports

a)Report from the Clerk

Onehouse Village Tour - this is with Arthur Charvonja and Cllr Matthissen on 18 July, meeting at the car park.

Boundary Review – MSDC voted not to change the boundary between Onehouse and Stowmarket. Thanks go to Cllr Copping for her representation at the meeting.

40 mph Lower Road –SCC formal decision has been received and our request is not supported

Defibrillator – an urgent field safety notice was actioned by Bryan Jones 6 June 2024.

30. Questions to the Chairman

Can the defibrillator code be given out? Absolutely not, this is only given out by the ambulance service during an emergency.

31. Items for next agenda

Appointment of Tree and Footpath Warden - confirmation that Cllr Leek will accept the post, CIL/Sect 106 figures, footpath to Chilton Leys, mascot, OHSMag, new website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper’s Graves, Self-Help scheme and issues near Footpath 28 and flower boxes.

32. To confirm date and time of the annual Parish Council meeting as Monday 8 July 2024 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed to the public at 9.53 p.m.

33. To receive a recommendation from the interview panel for the post of Parish Clerk/RFO and take any necessary action. (In Camera)

The interview panel gave a precis of their discussions and made their recommendation to full council which was accepted. The Clerk will contact the successful applicant.

The meeting closed at 10.07 p.m.

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

Dated.....8 July 2024.....