

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

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

In attendance: County Cllr Otton (in part), Mrs Fuller, Clerk and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meetings 11 March 2024

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

There were none.

4. Public comment.

OHS Management Committee are upset that they are not being used as the MSDC Polling Station for the next 4 years. They were not notified that there was going to be a change to Trinity Hall and they were not giving the opportunity to state their case for keeping polling at the Community Centre. The decision is made by MSDC Returning Officer and cannot now be changed. The OHSMC is concerned regarding the loss of income. They were reminded that they can apply for grants from MSDC CIL money.

Cllr Leek has concerns regarding the figures on MSDC website for Section 106 and CIL and asked for this to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

5. Report from County Cllr Otton.

At Council on 21 March, the council debated the impact of the various Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) planned for the county and voted that its strategic vision for the county would be to prioritise offshore rather than onshore coordination of schemes, undergrounding of cables rather than pylons, and protection of best quality agricultural land from solar development. On Tuesday 25 March, Cabinet reviewed the results of the recent consultation about the Suffolk library service, which is due to go out to procurement in the summer. Broadly, the members of the public who responded to the survey agreed with what libraries currently provided, including community and digital services, and the mobile library and home library services for people who were housebound. It is also likely that mobile libraries will run from smaller vehicles in future. The successful bidder for the new libraries contract is likely to be announced in November, with the new contract starting from June 2025. Suffolk County Council will be establishing a new Business Board made up of local business owners, representatives from councils and other organizations to take over LEP functions such as deciding how future government funding for growth should be used, to undertake mentoring of small businesses and building skills in the workforce. The council has been advertising for local business owners interested to be part of the new Board in the last few months, and the transition from the LEP to the new arrangements is due to complete in August 2024. At Cabinet at the end of February we heard about the council's new responsibilities for planning and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain (or increase) from April 2024. This means that developers must protect natural habitats or compensate for the loss of it when they build – for example, if a woodland is destroyed by a road, they need to create another

one, either onsite or elsewhere, or enhance the natural habitat onsite so that the effect of the development is to increase nature rather than decrease it. This has been introduced to try and combat the biodiversity crisis in the UK; since 1970 UK wildlife species have declined by 19% on average, with near one in six species threatened with extinction. Cabinet on 27 February also reviewed the new £4.4m investment in SEND services. The new funding will be used to increase capacity and recruit to extra roles in the SEND service, particularly around clearing the back of EHCPs and annual reviews. Since the poor SEND inspection report was published, the council has worked with health to create a priority action plan which was submitted to Ofsted/CQC on 7 March.

There has also been a recent announcement that Suffolk County Council is set to receive an additional £10.9million to create new specialist school places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in the county. At Scrutiny Committee we heard how despite the wet winter this year, East Anglia is considered a Serious Water Stressed Area by the Environment Agency. By 2050, the demand will be 2538Ml/d (mega litres per day) but the amount available will be only 1700Ml/d. This will affect water bill prices - and limit economic growth in the region, as although housing developments are always guaranteed a water supply, this is not the case for commercial/industrial developments. The report included plans to preserve water or generate new supplies, including reducing water company leaks, two new reservoirs in South Lincolnshire and the Cambridgeshire fens, plus a small new reservoir in North Suffolk, and an increase in water transferred around the region. The councillors were very concerned about the likelihood of water becoming scarce in the county in the near future, especially as the public seemed unaware. They talked about how the profile of this issue could be raised to prevent people using too much water. It was noted that Essex and Suffolk Water had already declared a moratorium for new industrial/commercial connections to the supply in the Hartismere area of mid Suffolk. Following an extensive informal engagement period throughout January, February and early March, Suffolk County Council's formal consultation for the proposed Suffolk Devolution Deal was launched on 18 March. Once the consultation has completed, the analysed results will be presented in detail to Cabinet in summer 2024. Then to full council to be agreed or not. Another Suffolk County Council consultation which has recently been launched is for the next version of the Suffolk Local Transport Plan. The LTP sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk and covers key themes such as decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices. Many people's travel habits have changed over the past few years and since the Covid pandemic, so it is an excellent time to refresh the plan. Public feedback will help Suffolk County Council to draft something new, which will be subject to further consultation later in the year. Suffolk County Council has been awarded a £7.3m investment for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure following successful bids to the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which supports local authorities to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents who do not have off-street parking. Suffolk residents without off-street parking will benefit from £5.9 million to support EV charging, and a further £1.4 million will be used to develop the county's existing EV charging network in community locations. Suffolk residents are invited to 'nominate' their street for consideration for on-street charging points.

6. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

Council has now adopted the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy 2024 and the associated delivery plan. Together with Babergh the councils want to aspire to go beyond the minimum required provision, and aim to provide a bespoke person-centred and proactive service. Full council approved the amendments proposed for the Community Infrastructure Levy Expenditure Framework following the sixth review. The main changes include allowing applications for District CIL from sports clubs, community shops and cafes with provisos to ensure that any profit made by such businesses goes back to the community, and allowing more flexibility for community project costs. The County Council has now opened the consultation period on the proposed Level 3 devolution deal for the county. MSDC councillors debated this issue at last week's Council meeting, our views will be fed back but we are not directly involved in the decision to go ahead, which will be made by County Councillors in July. The deal would mean the county council would have some more powers alongside an investment fund of £480M over a 30 year period. If agreed, there would also be a directly elected leader of the County Council, to be elected in May 2025. An election will be held on Thursday 2nd May to elect Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner for the next four years. The position has been held by Tim Passmore since 2012. There will also be a district by-election for the Chilton seat in Stowmarket. There will be a general election sometime in the next few months. Mid Suffolk's elections team oversee all these elections. A reminder that you need to bring approved photo ID if you want to vote in-person at a polling station, or you can apply for a postal vote via the council's website or over the phone. Due to the by election in addition to the police election it was decided to cancel the April full council meeting to ensure no decisions could be seen as seeking to influence voters. This has deferred consideration of the Boundary review between Onehouse and Stowmarket for a further month.

7. Planning Matters

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

24/01562LB Minor amendments app 22/05984 as per revised Heritage, Design and Access Statement Rev B and revised plans. Onehouse Hall, Lower Road – no comment.

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

24/00318 Erection of first floor extension. 35 Ash Road – granted.

24/00699 Discharge of Conditions appl 23/03154 Condition 3 (materials) Lodge Barn South, Forest Road – acceptable.

24/00494 Construction of 14,000m³ drainage reservoir. Stowmarket Golf Club, Lower Road – granted.

24/01277 Discharge of Conditions appl 4455/16 Condition 7 (hard and soft landscaping scheme) - Part discharge for Soft Landscaping of Local Equipment Area for Play (LEAP) area of site only. Land On The North Side Of Finborough Road – acceptable in part discharged.

8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

a) 24/001 £118.80 SALC training for Cllr Copping and Cllr Leek

b) 24/002 £450.00 Gipping Press OHSMag advertising leaflets £87.00, April OHSMag £363.00

- c)24/003 £137.40 Laura Cross editing April OHSMag
 d)24/004 £168.09 Suffolk County Council pension payment April to be posted 5 May
 Items a) – d) and f) – h)
 e)to receive monthly financial report from the Clerk
 The balance of the Community Account at the end of March was £30,069.93. Less this month's cheques totalling £2,034.74 and adjustments of £125.00 for insurance and £165.00 for adverts the corrected figure is £28,325.19.
 f)24/005 £300.00 J E Reynolds grass/hedge cutting playing field
 g)24/006 £447.07 HM Revenue & Customs Tax &N N/I January-March
 h)24/007 £413.38 SALC annual subscription 2024/5

9. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves including a request to hire a digger to clear areas near the pond and take any necessary action.

Due to the weather the team have only met once this month and continued cutting and tidying. The team will meet weekly to clear and clean all areas until the memorial is in place. It was agreed that the group can hire a digger for a maximum hire fee of £200.00.

10. To consider a contribution towards SCC costing for replacement of some road signage and take any necessary action.

Cllr Otton has been advised that the approximate cost is £3,314.93 and asked Cllrs to consider a contribution towards this. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and carried to contribute £500.00. *Action: the Clerk*

11. To discuss the Clerk/RFO vacancy and the Co-option of a Councillor and take any necessary action.

There are three applications for the Clerk/RFO position to date. Applications close 30 April. Dawn Roberts has indicated a willingness to be co-opted to council. This will be confirmed at the next meeting. *Action: The Clerk*

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

The working group has met again and Cllr Leek is to contact Rev Sarah for church input. Cllr Crissell is putting a questionnaire together with input from other groups. Village assets need to be listed.

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

Cllr Boulter will break up the old concrete and chop the other leg to ground level. A working party will meet on 20 April to install the new noticeboard in a different position away from the gas pipe. *Action: Cllr Boulter*

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

No update has been received. The Clerk will contact SCC Officer.

Action: the Clerk

15. Environmental issues.

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

Cllr Copping has completed the forms and will send them to SCC and await training details.

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

The pipe by Quilters Lodge has been cleared and there is no sewage flowing along the road now. Following the recent deluge of rain, the drain is blocked by The Limes. Cllr Leek will report this to SCC. The pipe from the ditch remains blocked.

Finborough Road is flooding due to the Hopkins Homes and Bloor developments but they are adamant that swales and bunds are in place. Cllr Leek advised that NHCC are about to sign off both sites. He is working with residents to sort various matters and trying to sort out the water in the ditches and pursuing with the site managers. Cllr Leek is doing this as an individual and not as a councillor.

16. To consider a response to SCC Devolution consultation and take any necessary action (consultation ends 26 May).

Cllrs do not wish to respond as a corporate body but Cllrs can respond as individuals.

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

OHSMag - The Clerk advised that at the end of the financial year there was one outstanding invoice for £165.00 and this needs to be included in the OHSMag deficit. There has been a complaint from Harleston regarding photos in OHSMag and the OHSMag committee agreed it was up to the editor to decide what is appropriate. The April edition has got a Harleston resident's photo on the front and several inside. The OHSMag Committee now has representatives from all three villages again and they are working on the understanding that each village will put the amount of the deficit for this year in their precept so they have sufficient funds. Advertising leaflets have been distributed. Cllrs are asked to write a profile of 300 words for an issue of OHSMag.

New website – Cllr Copping has sent information to Suffolk.cloud to upload on the website. Suffolk.cloud has offered training an administrator at a cost of £70.00 for two hours.

Facebook – Cllr Copping is trying to sort the password.

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

There has been no contact from MSDC or Taylor Wimpey regarding OPC taking over Onehouse Meadow. Cllr Boulter will contact them for an update.

Action: Cllr Boulter.

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

The following items have been circulated to Cllrs: **SCC** Trading Standards 14, 21 March, Suffolk Recycling Spring News, E P Passenger Interest Group meeting 19 March minutes, BSIP2 update. **MSDC** District CIL alert – Bid round 13, Mid Suffolk Community Governance review for Onehouse and Stowmarket, notice of election for Police and Crime Commissioner 2 May, VCFSE Community Development grant funding in Mid Suffolk, Town & Parish update April. **Rural Services Network** Rural Bulletin 12, 19, 26 arch, 3 April, Funding Digest April. **SALC** Training Bulletin 12, 19, 26 March, 2 April, NSIP bulletin 15 March, News Bulletin 18, 25 March, 8 April, notes from SALC Mid Suffolk Area Forum 19 March, SALC subscription 2024/25. **Suffolk Police** Constable County March, Suffolk introduces digital desk to improve accessibility to the police. **Transport East** Travel Behaviour survey for the east. **National Highways** A14 Haughley to

Tot Hill reconstruction scheme February newsletter. **Mid Suffolk CAB** cost of living forum 2024, review of funding. **County Cllr Otton** A14 J44-J47a and J43-J46 resurfacing and road marking scheme 8pm-6pm from April, Empowering Suffolk’s Future – have your say on proposed devolution deal for Suffolk, Suffolk to benefit from huge £73 million EV investment, Lower Road Shelland three fingerpost to be replaced. **SPS** Suffolk heritage Champion Awards Press Release. Letters of thanks for grants – Headway Suffolk, Mid Suffolk CAB, SARS.

20. To receive reports

a) Report from the Clerk

Flooding Lower Road – SCC has assessed and the ditches need considerable work. This has been referred to enforcement to contact landowners to clear.

Locality Funding – SCC is holding £1,000.00 from Cllr Otton for the memorial and will release 6-8 weeks of spending the money.

Picture of the King – each PC are entitled to a free portrait of the King and this has been ordered.

SALC & NALC subscription 2024/5 – will increase by 3%.

Annual Parish meeting – this will be at 7.00 p.m. on 13 May prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting.

21. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Copping advised she has completed Charing Meetings course.

22. Items for next agenda

Skip for playing field, CIL/Sect 106 figures, People and Places Plan, noticeboards, footpath to Chilton Leys, OHSMag, new website and Facebook, development around the parish, Pauper’s Graves, Clerk vacancy, Councillor vacancy, Self-Help scheme and issues near Footpath 28.

23. To confirm date and time of the annual Parish Council meeting as Monday 13 May 2024 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....