

OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021

The meeting was held in Otley Village Hall following Government guidelines in relation to Covid 19 rules and regulations.

Present:

Clerk: Mrs Rachel Green and Mrs M Hunt.

Chairman: Mr A Ling

Councillors: Mr M Liddell, Mr M Hunt, Mrs S Courteney, Mrs S Grant.

Attempts were made to try and link Mrs A Lord up via Teams.

The Meeting opened at 7.40pm.

21.050 Item 1 Chairman's Welcome and Apologises for Absence – Apologises were received from Mrs J Vaughan. Welcome to Mrs M Hunt who is taking over as Parish Council Clerk from 1st October 2021.

21.051 Item 2 Declarations of interest to items on agenda – There were no declarations of interest. Minutes signed from previous meeting.

21.052 Item 3 Public Forum – None.

21.053 Item 4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th July 2021 – It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting, circulated to all members, be signed as correct. All in favour.

Councillor T Fryatt joined the meeting at 7.45pm and gave his report see 21.059 Item 10.

21.054 Item 5 Matters arising -

a) Neighbourhood Plan – Any further update since last meeting. Mr Liddell is hoping to have another draft available soon. Charsfield clerk has sent an e-mail regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and would like to liaise. Mr Liddell is happy to make contact with them.

b) Electric car point – any further update? None at present.

c) Countryside Code of Conduct Poster – Mrs Lord has created a poster, which was distributed among the counsellors. If anyone has any comments please e-mail Mrs Lord.

d) Complaint about VAS sign (Speed Sign) – The VAS Sign has been returned from Mr Hook. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to him, expressing their thanks to him for looking after the sign and the batteries etc.

A member of the public has complained, that they are not happy about the VAS Sign, they feel it is not bright enough. Mr Liddell has now taking over the moving of the sign around the village and looking after the batteries. He has also given it a clean and repainted it. A discussion took place about replacing the batteries, one works well, the other one is not as reliable, but this could be due to the connector needing cleaning. It was agreed that a new batteries maybe required in the near future, and that a PV and date logger should also be considered to be purchased in the future.

e) Defibrillator due new battery – The battery is due for change on the 12th October 2021, the Parish clerk contacted Community Heartbeat to ask about obtaining a new one, we were advised that there is no charge for a new battery as it comes under our maintenance contract and to put the order through on the WebNos governance system once the unit goes to red. We replied to this response to ask “Do we assume that the red light is controlled by a calendar as opposed to actual battery voltage? As yet Community Heartbeat have not responded. Following discussions it was agreed that the clerk should go ahead and order a new battery now, rather than wait until the unit goes red, as we do not want to risk the Defibrillator not being operational.

County Councillor for Carlford Elaine Bryce joined the meeting at 7.50pm and gave her report. Update on Afghan Refugees.

COP26 Climate Conference due to take place in Glasgow Scotland between 31st October to 12th November 2021 and events relating to this that are taking place here in Suffolk. All events in Suffolk are subject to change, visit www.greensuffolk.org for the latests details and information about starting the journey to net zero.

Suffolk County Council addressing Climate Change, and recently approved Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, a document to keep us accountable to make our County carbon neutral by 2030.

Solar Panel Scheme, the solar panel buying scheme has returned. Solar Together Suffolk in conjunction with the County Council, to help homeowners feel confident, they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from the pre-approved installers. Suffolk residents have until 27th September 2021 to register their interest in the Scheme for free with no obligation. For more information about this scheme see www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk

New Suffolk Chief Fire Officer appointed - Jon Lacey was appointed on the 12th August 2021 as Suffolk's Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director for Fire and Public Safety, he is due to take up his post in November 2021. Mr Lacey will also be responsible for Suffolk County Council Trading Standards and emergency planning service.

Easing of restrictions regarding Suffolk's Recycling Centres, the centre's are continuing to work towards full capacity, but appointments still need to be made. A customer survey taken in March 2021 Re the booking system revealed that 91% of people were satisfied or very satisfied with this system.

Suffolk County Council have begun the procurement process for the next Highway Service Contract, as the current contract comes to an end on 30th September 2023.

Suffolk Devolution talks with Government, in August 2021 public sector leaders in Suffolk welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

Following on from Elaine's report the Parish Council raised the issue with her of the traffic lights at B1079, she advises that she has again raised this issue with the Highways Department. Mr Liddell enquired how the Parish Council can officially complain about this matters. Elaine advised to formally put it to her, and she can then raise it with the appropriate Cabinet Minister. As already highlighted in her report the County Council have begun the procurement process for the next Highway Service Contract. Mr Hunt expressed that with cars sitting waiting for the traffic lights to change, this is adding to the carbon emissions, there have also been several times when the traffic lights do not work or get stuck. Mr Liddell requested that a full report with a time scale of when the job can be complete, enough is enough, combined with the cost and considerable inconvenience to everyone in the village. It was acknowledged that the bank has collapsed, and if the area was to flood it could make the road impassable, but in saying that, it was felt that a reasonable request for this work to be completed by the end of October 2021. Elaine agreed that she would make the issue a priority and will be raising it with the Cabinet Minister for Highways.

21.055 Item 6 Finance -

a) To authorise BACS for £1,715.26 to pay for grass cutting Proposed Mrs S Grant Seconded Mr M Hunt.

b) To receive and approve payment since last meeting. Clerks Salary £172.50 (July & August). Proposed Mr S Courtney. Seconded Mrs S Grant.
Clerks reimbursements: None

c) To receive the Financial Report from the RFO including balances at bank -
Balances are as follows: Community Current Account **£352.74 Credit**
Business premium Account **£12,792.16 Credit**

Still some Clerks Salary outstanding for Mrs R Green, authorisation for this payment will be made at next Parish Council meeting.

Bank Balances confirmed as correct. Clerk emailed a copy of bank reconciliation to councillors prior to meeting.

d) Dates for period for exercise of public rights – None

e) Confirmation email received from PK Little John – no external audit required.

f) Insurance renewal due – Cost is the same as last year. It covers public liability, equipment and money. Proposed Mrs S Grant. Seconded Mr M Hunt.

21.056 Item 7 Planning -

a) To receive planning decisions:
Ref. DC/20/3818/Out

Address: Land to the North of Wood Farm Helmingham Road Otley Suffolk IP6 9NS

Proposal: Outline Application (with some matters reserved) for the phased development of 12 self build and custom house building serviced plots, (including 6 starter homes and 3 discount market sale affordable housing plots.

Date for Submission for comments: 28th October 2020.

The Parish Council submitted objection to this application.

Application Refused 06/08/21.

Ref No DC/21/2517/FUL

Address: Willowcroft, Chapel Road, Otley Suffolk IP6 9NU

Proposal: Increase height of double garage by 900mm to accommodate a gym at first floor.

Response required by 18th June 2021.

The Parish Council submitted a response of no objection to this application.

Application Refused. 23/07/21.

Ref No DC/21/2650.FUL

Address: Moat Farm Monewden Road, Otley Suffolk.

Proposal: Extension of existing concrete farm yard to provide improved access to existing agricultural buildings and trackway to access farmland.

Response required by 29th June 2021.

The Parish Council submitted a response of no objection to this application. Application Permitted 12/08/21.

Ref No DC/21/2407/FUL

Address: Land Adjacent, 3 Boundary Cottages Ashbocking Road Otley Suffolk IP6 9NH

Proposal: Construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and associated vehicular access.

Response required by 30th June 2021.

The Parish Council submitted a response of no objection to this application.

Application Permitted 02/08/21

Ref No DC/21/3119/FUL

Address: Moat Farm, Monewden Road, Otley Suffolk

Proposal: Creation of farm habitat lake.

Response required by 30th July 2021

The Parish Council submitted a response of no objection to this application.

Application Permitted 03/09/21.

Ref No DC/21/3055/FUL

Address: 13 Chapel Road, Otley Suffolk IP6 9NT

Proposal: Proposed two storey extension to rear of dwelling and internal alterations.

Response required by 4th August 2021

The Parish Council submitted a response of no objection to this application.

Application Permitted 02/09/21.

Ref No DC/21/3545/FUL

Address: Pheasant Cottage, The Green Otley Suffolk IP6 9PB

Proposal: Extension to incorporate an annexe and associated internal alterations, including three bay cart lodge to replace existing two bay garage.

Response required by 17th August 2021

The Parish Council submitted a response of no objection to this application.

Awaiting Decision.

Ref No DC/21/3806/FUL

Address: Wood Farm, Helmingham Road Otley, Suffolk IP6 9NS

Proposal; Conversion of a redundant building to two semi-detached dwellings.

Response required by 3rd September 2021

The Parish Council submitted response of objection to this application.

Awaiting Decision.

The applicant for planning application Ref No DC/21/3806 FUL has written to the Parish Council expressing their disapproval at the Parish Council not approving their application. From advice received we will respond accordingly and await any response. Although it should be noted that while the Parish Council is consulted on planning, it is the District Council who have the final say on these matters.

21.057 Item 8 Highways Matters

a) Traffic lights past Otley Bottoms – Already discussed under Item 5.

21.058 Item 9 Rights of Way.

a) RC Contracts – Invoice has been received and authorised for payment tonight. See Item 6a

b) Footpath sign requires attention on Gibraltar Road, has been reported to Highways.

21.059 Item 10

To receive the District & County Councillor's Report
Cllr T Fryatt's shared his report with the Parish Council –

Suffolk Councils Supporting Afghan refugees.

On the 18th August, the Government announced its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Full details are yet to be confirmed, it is clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort. All councils in Suffolk are committed to this cause, as already highlighted in Councillor Bryce, the county is already helping a small number of Afghan interpreters and their families to resettle here in Suffolk, in addition to ongoing work to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children and other refugees entering the UK. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough and county councils will continue working with the Government to do what we can to provide assistance to vulnerable refugees. Times like this call for acts of humanity and for Suffolk to pay its part. In East Suffolk, accommodation is being offered under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), supporting interpreters who have worked with the British Armed Forces and those who have worked in the British Embassy.

Under this scheme, three people moved into their accommodation in mid-August and are being supported by the Anglia Care Trust to help them integrate into the community and find employment. Further accommodation, both council and privately owned, is being sourced to help as many people as possible.

Community Partnership

The theme set for the coming year is Road and Traffic safety specifically in the area covered by our group (Carlford and Fynn Valley, Kesgrave and Martlesham)

Our Community Partnership are about to start looking at practical ways to tackle road and traffic safety in our neck of the woods. A note was sent to all Parishes asking for cooperation. Many initiatives have been tried and are being tried. The objective of this drive is to bring together all the local communities to agree a strategy which can then be addressed with all your combined weight behind it. We'd like to hear about 'hotspots' or issues in the local area of which we may not be aware. All our PCs have been asked to submit their views. The idea is to formulate a combined view of the problematic aspects and a possible list of solutions. Andy Jolliffe ESD leader of the Partnerships reports

We have plenty of data, but local knowledge is just as important! The survey below takes a matter of minutes and will draw attention to the right places for us to take action. <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/B8YV8C3>

SzC

After several years of trying to get our concerns addressed there is now a glimmer of light. My main worry is the likely repercussions on our already problematic local road system that could result from the vast increase expected in car movements. We have to face up to 2000 extra car journeys per day resulting from the proposed park and ride scheme planned for Hatcheston. Each time I raised the issue it prompted yet another review of the HGV traffic on the A12. There has now been a paper addressing this issue but it falls way short of what is needed. However, I managed to arrange a ten minute presentation to the Government Inspector which was very valuable (I was listened to!).

I then attended to SALC discussion meeting and was able to put my points to Tom McGarry SzC CEO and their Transport Manager, Richard Bull.

The outcome was that Richard will now participate in our Community Partnership and respond to the local problems.

Tony Fryatt,
Ward Member
8 September 2021

Other matters raised by Tony were - We already have significant levels of data on the most commonly reported sites – Foxhall Road/Bell Lane, A12 junctions, Otley College, etc. We're keen to check that we haven't missed something glaring, considering the size of the road network.

Tony wanted it noted that although the Governments White Paper on Planning was mentioned in the Queen's Speech, it has now been agreed it is not needed. Tony is also no longer on the referrals panel or Planning Committee.

21.060 Item 11

To receive Police Statistics from Suffolk Police website / WSNT Priorities – Since the last meeting the following has been reported

June 2021 One crime took place on or near Otley Collage, crime described as Violence or sexual offence Current status: Under investigation.

July 2021 One crime on or near Newlands Violence or sexual offences. Outcome Unable to prosecute suspect, insufficient evidence.

21.061 Item 12

Speed Watch Results. - From Tony Barrett.

Traffic volumes were very low and the statics can be misleading. The jackets signs and widespread driver warning all noticeably slow the traffic. When we set up we get an initial flurry of speeding drivers and followed by lots of drivers doing 30mph as a result of being flashed.

Birds Mere 8 between 37-45. A van that screeched its brakes when he saw us must have been doing well over 50mph a second earlier.

Pub -10 between 37 and 45

In both cases – 40% doing over 40

21.062 Item 13

To receive Community Council Report -

There is a meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2021. The car park is a problem both the school and GP surgery are using it. This can cause a problem for when people want to hire the hall. A discussion took place at possibility putting a sign up to advise people they could get blocked in. GP surgery could be approach to see if they would contribute to the upkeep of the car park. The Play area needs new bark, Mr A Ling has spoken with Amy Cranfield to get a working party up arranged. It was suggested by Mrs S Courtney that Rendlesham Forest could be approached to ask if they are able to help and assist. The work that needs doing would involve taking out the old bark out and replace with new. The cost involved would be purchasing material / new bark rubber play type and the hiring of a digger to dig out the old bark.

The Parish Council agreed to put some money towards this project. £2,000 was suggested and agreed. Its was Resolved that the Parish Council would give £2,000 to this project. Proposed Mr S Grant. Seconded Mr M Hunt.

21.063 Item 14

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:

Mr S Grant advised that a member of the village has raised concerns about people letting their dogs off the lead, not keeping then close by and not clearing up after them, dispute their being several dog bins around the village. Mrs S Grant asked if she can put a friendly reminder on Facebook regarding this matter. It was agreed this could be done.

Mrs S Grant has also had a phone call from Mrs Amanda Mark who lives at Wood Farm, she is asking if we have a Tree Warden for the Village, she would like to put herself forward for the role. It was agreed that Mrs Mark's would be invited to the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

Mrs S Courtney suggested that a statement of what we do as a Parish Council would be helpful for the village so that people are aware of what areas of responsibility we have. Maybe bullet points to put on Facebook.

Mr M Hunt advised that he is attending the Traffic Survey Workshop Via Teams on Thursday 16th September 2021.

Mr M Liddell requested that the Parish Council write a letter / send a card to The Moss family offering our condolences following the recent passing of Arron

Mr A Ling took the opportunity to thank Mrs R Green for all her hard work as Parish Clerk over the last six years, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Date of next meeting – Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 9.10pm.