

Offton and Willisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th February 2018
in Offton and Willisham Village Hall.

Present	Cllr K Earl Cllr A Cox Cllr I Gilson Cllr M Ratcliffe Cllr D Cattermole District Cllr A Killett	Cllr M Bolton Cllr S Warnes Cllr C Pinson Roxburgh Cllr A Rumsey County Cllr A Whybrow O Holtom (clerk)
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Public present: Kelvin Moody, Guy Osborne (an agent for Phillips family), Lance Spurling, David Jones, Ashley Costin, Anthony Costin, Raymond Day.

Public question time: Members of the public expressed their concerns in regard of the development of land north of Castle Road for the Affordable Housing project (opposite Middlewood Cottages)

1	Meeting administration	
a)	Apologies for absence – Cllr D Parks	
b)	Declarations of interest in respect to agenda items – none	
2	Sign minutes of previous meeting 29th January 2018 as a true records - Agreed and signed.	
3	Matters arising from previous meeting 29th January 2018 minutes - none	
4	Planning applications:	
a)	<u>Planning application DC/18/00603</u> Location: Moles Meadow, Bildeston Road, Offton, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7AR Proposal: Erection of two storey front and rear extensions, single storey front extension, first floor side extension and erection of detached cart lodge and all associated works. Comments: no objections	
a)	<u>Decisions on processed planning applications:</u> DC/17/05798 – Clover Cottage, Bildeston Road, Offton, Ipswich Suffolk IP8 4SE- approved by MSDC on 26/01/2018; DC/17/06072 – Agricultural Buildings At Crow Hall, Strawberries Lane, Willisham, Ipswich Suffolk IP8 – refused by MSDC on 21/02/2018.	clerk
5	Parish administration	
a)	<u>Chairman and representatives reports</u> The Chairman K Earl report: there is nothing new to report except the recent BT road works/road closure in Willisham have caused many people problems, and to request Highways to advise the Clerk about any further road closures in Offton or Willisham by e-mail as before.	KE
b)	County Councillor A Whybrow reported: County council is working to find savings to perform their functions. Consultation is still on regarding the school transport and its funding.	AW
c)	District Councillor A Killett reported about Mid Suffolk Affordable Housing Programme, a boundary review by the Boundary Commission, the new Joint Local Plan update, a budget for 2018/19 and a litter pick around of the Offton channel on Sunday 4 th March 2018. The full report attached.	AK
6	Correspondence	clerk
a)	Survey “Suffolk Highways: Community Self Help” – The council does not have the means and capacities to do any highways maintenance work. The council is not prepared to increase our precept to fund these costs;	
b)	Update for Parish Councillors Register of interests – all councillors confirmed that there are no changes in their respective Registers of interest;	

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c)	A letter "Neighbourhood Watch in Suffolk" – to respond on their request for a donation of £50, that the councillors would like to know how they going to spend this money.	
7	<u>Community</u>	
a)	<u>Affordable Housing project</u> Cllr M Bolton reported that there is no further development on the plot opposite Middle Wood. Mr G Osborne (a representative of Phillips family) reported about the plans for the land opposite Middle wood. It was noted by him that though it is important for MSDC to retain 5 years land supply the site was rejected by MSDC from their Local plan. The AHP group was approached at this stage with an intention to possibly include a few (2/3) houses in addition to the AHP to offset costs of the Affordable Houses but this would be down to Hastoe's to decide with a developer. Mr G Osborne wanted to establish the parish expectations and needs for housing. The councillors reacted negatively to any large housing development in addition to the affordable housing project.	MB
b)	<u>Coffee morning meetings attendance</u> There were 7-8 people attending last meeting on 20/02/2018. Councillors agreed their attendance to the next meetings.	
c)	<u>World War 1 Centenary celebrations, Lighting of the Beacon</u> – we have been listed as a participating parish in the current Guide "To Taking Part in, Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute 11th November 2018". A programme for the event is to be established. Any ideas are welcome.	
d)	<u>Annual Litter Pick in the villages</u> – District Councillor A Killett with Dan Pratt from Offton are organising a litter pick around the channel in Offton on 4/03/18 at 10:30am. A litter pick for Willisham is provisionally planned to be on Saturday 17/03/2018.	
e)	<u>Grant application from Willisham church</u> – A grant application was submitted by the Willisham Parish Church for the amount of £700 to fund acquisition of pew cushions for the church. Councillors approved to provide financial support for these expenses in the sum of £700.00. Councillors approved to make a payment of £700.00 to Willisham Parochial Church Council.	
8	<u>Parish Property</u>	
a)	<u>Willisham phone box</u> – Despite that our defibrillator was registered with the SAD system on 18/01/2018, there was an unfortunate incident on 08/02/2018 which resulted that this defibrillator was not recognised by the emergency services. Clerk to follow up the registration with SAD system. The checking and cleaning the defibrillator site agreed as following: Cllr A Cox on 1/3/18, Cllr S Warnes on 1/4/18, Cllr I Gilson on 1/5/18, Chairman K Earl on 1/6/18.	
b)	<u>Offton phone box</u> - The cleaning rota was confirmed as: Cllr D Cattermole – March, Cllr M Bolton - May.	clerk
9	<u>Highways</u>	
a)	<u>Speeding issues on Castle Road, Offton</u> A response received from the SCC Highway department was that nothing is to be done and there is no way to police the speeding. Councillor S Warnes to make further enquiries.	
b)	<u>Speeding issues at Wallow Lane in Offton</u> The work is still progressing for the speed restriction near Wallow Lane in Offton. It will cost about £12K and it is going to be funded from the Locality Budgets of the two District Councillor's concerned.	
c)	<u>Willisham</u> The Willisham village sign / 30 mph in the direction from Barking to Willisham has fallen down – to be reported.	clerk
d)	<u>Offton</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallow lane potholes are really bad after the cold winter and to be reported again. To be reported that kerb/ barriers and reflector posts to be installed along the channel just pass the BT phone exchange on Bildeston Road Offton for safety reasons. 	clerk
10	<u>Footpaths</u>	

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a)	To contact MSDC about the concerns from parishioners regarding the tree swings arranged on Offton village green and the safety of children who use them.	clerk
11	<u>Training</u> – no further training was requested.	clerk
12	<u>Finance</u>	
a)	<u>Service contract for the Data Protection Officer</u> Councillors approved an agreement with Local Council Public Advisory Services for a “Full service without an annual visit”, for the total of £150 per year.	
b)	<u>Balances at bank and petty cash</u> Reported by clerk that we have the following bank balances: Cheque £1000.00, Community £1144.65, Deposit £8,346.63, Petty Cash £9.31. A refund from the Xmas lunch in the sum of £76.30 was received on 09/01/2018 from the Village Hall committee.	clerk
c)	<u>To approve payments and authorise cheques for signature :</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petty cash top up - £30.00. Approved and authorised for a payment.	clerk
13	<u>To consider any planning applications received after the agenda</u> <u>Planning application DC/18/00448</u> Location: Little Bricett House, Bildeston Road, Offton, Suffolk IP8 4RT. Proposal: Erection of building for use as annexe in association with riding. Comments: No objections. However the councillors were unaware that the riding school business was run from the premises and we would like the planning department to confirm that it is in fact the case. In addition we would like to query the size of this development as it appears to be 87 sq m as per measurement from the plan instead of 47 sq m as stated in the application.	
14	<u>Confirm dates of next meetings:</u> The meeting date for our Annual Parish Council meeting confirmed on Monday 30 th April 2018.	

Meeting concluded at 9:53 pm.

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MSDC Councillor Report to Offton and Willisham Parish Council, 26th February 2018

Mid Suffolk Affordable Housing Programme Update.

The cost of buying a home in Mid Suffolk is 9 times average salary. There are 1,751 households on the register waiting for a social and affordable rented property in Mid Suffolk and Babergh. For the **new build programme 2015-2018** there were 38 new homes built in Mid Suffolk, in partnership with Havebury Housing Association, on five sites in existing Mid Suffolk ownership. Of these 27 were affordable rented homes and 11 were shared ownership.

Review of the 2015-18 programme highlighted the high demand for shared ownership properties, that 68% of properties were let to applicants in Band E (assessed as having no housing need, i.e. adequately housed). Over the same period, the **Right to Buy Reinvestment Programme** purchased 39 market sale homes, of which 63% were let to people with housing need assessed as having a serious housing need (Band B) and 37% either critical or urgent need, or medium need (Band A or C). The **programme for 2018-2021** plans to deliver 98 affordable Mid Suffolk homes using Right to Buy receipts, Housing



Revenue Account funding and Homes England grant, in partnership with Icen Homes Ltd. Sites in Needham Market, Eye and Stowmarket have been acquired and are first in the pipeline. As larger sites they are likely to address housing need in higher bands rather than local connectedness. The strategy for Right to Buy reinvestment is to move away from purchasing street properties to investing in MSDC developments, purchasing new properties directly from developers and bidding for affordable housing contributions as part of planning applications for major developments.

Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission have re-examined the electorate forecasts as a result of some anomalies in the data that were identified during the draft recommendations consultation. The Commission has discussed and now agreed a set of revised electoral figures with the Council. These figures have been used, in conjunction with the evidence received during previous rounds of consultation, to produce a new set of draft recommendations for Mid Suffolk. The Commission will hold a further **eight-week consultation** on these new proposals. This consultation will launch on the **6th March and run until the 30th April**. They will write to all previous respondents to notify them of this consultation and encourage everyone to respond to it. The Commission is aware that Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are in the early stages of a merger discussion themselves but the Council have stated that this is too early to be an issue in this review. The Commission has already taken its mind to decision for a council size of 34 in Mid Suffolk and both the initial draft and the new draft recommendations are based on this council size.

New Joint Local Plan Update

The level of responses to the public consultation was higher than anticipated (13,960 comments from 1,370 respondents) and will take longer to work through than allowed for in the original timetable. Briefings for MSDC Councillors are arranged for March and April with consultation on the next draft expected in summer 2018.

Budget for 2018/19

The budget was agreed at a full council meeting on 22nd February, with an increase in Council Tax of 0.5%. Changes in central government funding mean that the Council's core funding is now predominantly business rates and council tax income, and so is not a fixed guaranteed amount. Business rates and new homes growth are the main sources of additional income in the future. Clfco Capital Ltd could return investment income but remains controversial in some people's eyes – see recent coverage and letters in EADT, including concerns this is not investing locally. Opposition members were pleased that our proposals for support for housing delivery, and occupational therapy support for enabling spending of the Disabled Facilities Grant were accepted in the Budget.

Litter pick around the Channel, Sunday 4th March 10.30

Dan Pratt from Offton and I have been arranging this, with the aim to make a contribution to keeping plastic out of the ocean. The plan is to meet at the village hall.

Anne Killett, MSDC Councillor, Barking and Somersham Ward, 01473 658127 anne.killett@midsuffolk.gov.uk