

## OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2011  
at 7.30pm in Offton and Willisham Village hall.

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Present	Cllr M Bolton (Chairman)	Cllr K Earl
	Cllr L Seddon	Cllr A Rumsey
	Cllr A Cox	Cllr N Coleman
	Cllr C Storey	Cllr D Tingley
	Cllr D Cattermole	Cllr C Pinson Roxburgh
	P Sands clerk	

District Councillor Stephen Wright attended.

Mrs G Hitchcock was present, with Mr Sabin and Mr & Mrs Double from Willisham

### Apologies for absence

County Cllr. J Truelove

### Declarations of Interest, with respect to items on the agenda

Cllrs Storey and Earl, Dog barking. Cllr Seddon, Ladyfield

### Public Participation Session with regard to items on the agenda

Willisham residents presented a petition seeking a salt bin to be placed the junction of Tye Lane and North Acres, and detailed their concerns following recent snow and ice conditions

### Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman

AC/DC

### Matters arising from the minutes

Waste Recycling. The Waste Recycling Group acting for SCC, replying to Council's letter, supported the practices at the Blakenham site but would raise the Council's concerns at their regular management meeting..

### Correspondence.

National Grid. The preferred route will be released in Spring 2011 with a subsequent Stage 2 consultation to determine the means to be adopted ie overland, undersea or underground.

.MSDC / Babergh Newsletter No 1 outlining progress on the merger negotiations and notifying a resident's ballot in May 2011 to seek approval

.Babergh D C Map exercise. Not pursued by Council.

SCC Open Weekend 22/24 July2011. Grant money could be available for cultural or sporting events.

SCC Trading Standards. Volunteers sought to be trained as Consumer Champions.  
Place in LINK

clerk

SALC Notified SCC's specific details of cuts to youth clubs, country parks, subsidised bus routes and school crossing patrols. These will not directly our parishes but there are cuts to the broader services provided by SCC.

MSDC Private Hire vehicle licensing. A public consultation / review is being undertaken. No action by Council. Place on notice boards.

MSDC Register of Electors. Cllrs completed application forms to receive 2011 registers.

MSDC Stowmarket Area Action Plan. Submitted to Sec of State in November 2010. Details available at MSDC or on MSDC's website. 2000 homes planned Note in LINK

UK Power Networks. New Company operating as EDF Energy from November 2010

British Legion. 'Poppy Parties' envisaged for 10/12 June 2011. To be promoted in LINK

clerk

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### Planning

2688/10 4 Middlewood Cottages Offton Granted by MSDC

3357/10 Well farm Offton . Supported by Council

Ladyfield. Council rejected MSDC's (Mr Gowrley) response to its formal Complaint regarding the non Enforcement, deeming it 'dissatisfying'. An independent assessment by the Complaints Officer will be sought in accordance with the Complaints procedure.

clerk

### Footpaths.

Offton paths 11 and 41 The suggested changes involving SCC and Mr Tollemache remain under negotiation, but the routes may be walked and appraised by Councillors at a date to be determined. Clerk will acknowledge SCC's letter pending a formal consultation when the proposals are agreed

clerk

Willisham path 1 Mr Hitchcock was thanked for marking the path behind Fiske Pightle

### Parish Property

Offton phone box. There was praise for the continuing bright appearance of the phone box, with thanks to Cllr Seddon for cleaning it. The Chairman volunteered to undertake the next clean.

MB

The condition of the seat in Castle rd will be discussed at the next meeting.

clerk

### Highways

SCC are to be reminded that the collapsed verge in Offton and the damaged 30mph signs in Willisham have not been attended to.

clerk

Responding to the Willisham resident's petition for a salt bin it was agreed (proposed Cllr Storey seconded Cllr Earl) that expenditure not exceeding £150 + VAT be authorised. Clerk to obtain SCC's agreement to a location near to the notice board in Tye lane

clerk

SCC to be informed of the pothole opposite School House Offton and the Environment Agency of tree branches endangering overhead wires on Bildeston Rd, Offton

clerk

### Village Hall

Approval of payments to Baldwin and Brett Design totalling £1273.61 was authorised. The total now paid to the VHMC is £10006 and, proposed Cllr Seddon seconded Cllr Rumsey, further invoices up to a total of £1000 would be considered.

A subsidiary Planning Application by the VHMC would receive Council's support, expected to cost about £160.

### Parish website

The revamped site would be launched by Cllr Cattermole. Details of the site to be placed on notice boards and included in reports in the LINK.

clerk

### Representative's reports

Police support officer Matt Browne reported that no crimes had been notified since the November meeting. Inspector Tristan Pepper is appointed to replace Inspector Duncan. PC Amy Yeldham has moved but there is no replacement appointed. Items for the Priority Setting meeting on 27th January can be submitted through him. Significant staffing cuts were to be introduced. The clerk asked for personnel details to be provided for the notice boards.

Cllr Truelove's presented a written report. Regional Fire control rooms are to be abolished leaving Suffolk as the only Eastern County not to have one. Additional to the £4000 already given, £600 Locality Budget money was intended for the Village Hall cooker..

Cllr Wright reported that money could be available to help with the cost of the Councils' merger. The restrictions on the building of new houses in 'secondary villages' were in the process of being lifted after a change in Government policy.

### Community

Parish Plan Cllr Coleman explained that the questionnaire was still in preparation prior to testing, but would be ready by May 2011. The clerk noted that expenditure to date exceeded income by £200 but £500 can still be expected from MSDC.

Cllr Cox will explain to residents annoyed by dog barking that a direct approach has to be made by them to MSDC Environmental Health Department

AC

### Finance

Balances. Cheque £19.80, Community £5489.17, Deposit £14663.71, Petty cash £2.49

Estimates were agreed and the Precept set at £8037 for 2011/12

The Financial Risk Protocol prepared by the clerk was agreed and accepted by Council, will be signed by the Chairman and be distributed to Councillors.

Authorisation of cheques Petty cash £30 DT/CPR, VHMC £500 CS/AR, Offton PCC £625 NC/KE, Willisham PCC £625 LS/CS, P Sands £2900 CPR/AC, P Sands £190 AR/DT, M Bolton £250 AC/LS, Brett Design £126.90 CS/CPR, Baldwin £1146.71 CPR/AC

clerk

MB

### Dates for next meetings

March 7th, May 9th 2011