

OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2007
at 7.30 pm in Offton and Willisham Village hall.

Present	Cllr M Bolton (Chairman)	Cllr. A Cox
	Cllr. C Pinson Roxburgh	Cllr. A Rumsey
	Cllr. D Tingley	Cllr. C Storey
	Cllr. K Earl	P Sands Clerk

Mr and Mrs Double, North Acres attended.

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr. Seddon was unable to be present, and her apology was accepted. AR/DT
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.
The minutes had been circulated, were approved, and signed by the Chairman. CPR/KE
3. Matters arising from the minutes
 - a) Chairman Mike Bolton addressed the Council and warmly praised retiring chairman Cllr. Storey for his outstanding years in office. He thanked councillors for their confidence in proposing his chairmanship. He wished for the Council to be more proactive within the community, and would aim to streamline the meeting procedure to limit its duration to two hours, urging councillors to bring concerns to the notice of the clerk in order for them to be placed on the agenda. He wanted the Council's website to be active as soon as possible and would call for a meeting with Cllr. Cattermole and the clerk. Dates of future meetings would be decided two meetings in advance. MB
 - b) Item 6 The clerk's letter to 'Clerks and Councils Direct' was read and approved.
4. Declaration of Interests and Code of Conduct
There were no declarations.
Councillors had received the Standards Board ' Guide to Code of Conduct 2007' and the pocket sized issue.
5. Cooption of Councillor.
Mr Mike Coleman had informed the clerk of his willingness to serve on the Council. In his absence the chairman welcomed his application and proposed his nomination which was seconded by Councillor Pinson Roxburgh. The nomination was unanimously supported and Mr Coleman was coopted to the Council. Clerk to inform Mr Coleman. Clerk
6. Correspondence
Ipswich Unitary status. Letters opposing the proposal had been received from MSDC, SCC and SALC, and from Ipswich Borough Council in support.
Anglian Water. Programmes for the renewal of the main between Barking and Somersham had been received and posted on notice boards.

Suffolk Preservation Society. Details of the dispute between the Society and the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England concerning membership conditions had been notified.
 SCC. New administration structure proposed, details to follow.
 SCC. Mobile library timetable changes. Details placed on notice boards.
 MSDC. Best Value Performance report. Available on website and libraries.
 R Richardson. Ex District Councillor thanked the Council for its support during his tenure.

7. Planning

1919/06 Ladyfield Offton Refused by MSDC. This refusal by Members against the recommendation of the Planning Officer followed after determined and authoritative statements to Members by Cllr. Pinson Roxburgh representing the Council, and Cllr. Seddon. The issue of confidential information to Members, not available to Council and the public is being pursued by the clerk

Clerk

0408/07 2 Castle Farm cottages. Granted by MSDC.

(0170/07 Castle Farm barns Offton. Opposed by Council.

(LB 1584/07 ditto. Ditto

0755/07 Mon Abri Willisham. Granted by MSDC.

1635/07 Galeden Willisham. The chairman closed the meeting to allow Mr and Mrs Double to voice their concerns. After reopening, Council debated and approved the application.

8. Clerk's Contract of Employment

It was agreed that the chairman and clerk would review the NALC recommended contract before making a submission to Council.

MB

9. Footpaths

Though Mike Carter has moved to the Saxmundham office, the clerk is waiting to review with him the matters outstanding from his time at Gt Blakenham..

Clerk

10. Parish Property

Cllrs. Cox and Earl have positioned the seat in Tye Lane. Clerk to thank Cty. Cllr Truelove and suggest a photograph together with them.

Clerk

Mr Ken Southwell to be asked to repair the vandalised glass door on the Offton noticeboard, PC Dave Clark has been informed of the offence. KS also to be invited to quote for repairing the seat at Bridge cottage after inspection by Cllr Pinson Roxburgh. (The £125 excess clause in the insurance policy is mandatory)

Clerk

11. Highways

Street sign at St Marys Close. To be replaced as it was before being damaged.

Clerk

Street sign at Castle Meadow. Has been assessed by MSDC and will be ordered for replacement in 2/3 weeks.

Street sign Tye Lane New houses. The access is not adopted but residents have agreed to pay for the sign which is now cleared for ordering by MSDC.

12. Village Hall

Nothing to report.

13. Parish Website

Chairman to meet with Cllr Cattermole and the clerk to hasten the launch of the website which is to include Council meeting minutes.

MB/DC/
Clerk

14. Representative's reports
None.

15. Finance

Balances. Cheque £1286.73 Community £3681.70 Deposit. £16946.24 Petty cash £17.89
Authorisation of cheques. Cornhill/Allianz £396.24 AR /DT. Cllr. Cox £58.75 (repayment
for Tye Lane seat Readymix concrete) CPR/ CS.

The 2006/7 Audit of Accounts form has been completed, agreed by internal auditor Mr Nick
Banks and were approved by Council to be submitted to Lubbock Fine. Two bottles of wine to
be given to Nick in appreciation.

DT/AR

Councillors Bolton and Earl named as cheque signatories has been passed to Barclays.
Council confirmed the retention of the clerk as a third signatory when necessary.

CS/CPR

16. Any other business

Future meeting dates. 3rd September and 12th November 2007

Mm/07.07