

OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2011
at 7.30pm in Offton and Willisham Village hall.

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

District Councillor S Wright and County Councillor J Truelove attended
Mrs G Hitchcock, Miss LI Cornforth and Mrs J Mitchell were present.

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr D Tingley, absent on holiday. Accepted

LS/AC

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

None were made.

3 Minutes of the previous meetings.

The minutes of the meetings on 10th January and 18th February had been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

Waste Recycling. The closure of the recycling centres was deplored, particularly Bramford. Cllr Pinson Roxburgh stressed the added cost to the public had not been considered when assessing the savings to SCC resulting from the closures, and the costs of clearing the probable increase in fly tipping which will result, very predictably on the concrete pad at the foot of Willisham hill.

National Grid. The selected route for the imposition of pylons will be declared this Spring, but responding to public outcry, a consultation and review of the underground alternative will be undertaken.

5 Correspondence.

SCC. Consultation. Fire and Rescue services. Staffing will be reduced and reshaped, with some closures. Needham Market station will remain open. Cllr Pinson Roxburgh will complete the questionnaire.

SCC. School Reorganisation Review.. Government funding arrangements beyond 2011/12 are awaited. Where funding is in place, redevelopment will continue unaffected, but consultation on options for the review of Stowmarket and Stowupland schools will not now go ahead.

SCC Bus Passes. Unless there is no service during daytime middle hours, passes will not be accepted for journeys before 9.30 am or after 11pm on Monday to Friday, with unrestricted use at weekends and Bank holidays.

SCC. Revised bus service 111/111A. The new schedule has been posted on notice boards.

CPR

MSDC. Closure of Stowmarket Service Bureau. The bureau is now closed, but a PC is to be installed at the Tourist Information Centre in Wilkes Way to enable access to the CSD website, make payments etc, in addition to those already in Needham Market and Stowmarket libraries.

MSDC. Dog Fouling. Feedback from the Campaign showed it to have been successful, with instances of fouling down by up to 50%.

MSDC. Spring Clean Fortnight 20 March to 10 April. Cllrs. were made aware that the clerk holds cleaning equipment which is available. MSDC contact is Sarah Carter on 01449 742946.

Cllrs

MSDC. Olympics 2012. To embrace the anticipated interest and enthusiasm locally, a free workshop to assist organise involvement will be held at MSDC's offices on 23 March, 6.30 to 7.30 pm. Limeburner's to be informed. (post meeting. Done)

clerk

6 Planning

3357/10 Well farm Offton Granted by MSDC

3519/10 2 Hall Cottages Willisham Granted by MSDC

3639/10 15 Fiske Pightle Granted by MSDC

3645/10 17 Fiske Pightle Granted by MSDC

3648/10 19 Fiske Pightle Granted by MSDC

0316/11 Upton Cottage Offton. Supported by Council

Ladyfield. It was agreed that the complaint against MSDC should be referred to the Ombudsman. Cllrs are to inform the clerk of their detailed objections for him to bring to the notice of the Ombudsman for consideration

Cllrs

7 Footpaths.

Offton paths Nos.29,31 and 50. Mr and Mrs Luxmore have entered into discussions with MSDC to reposition paths 29 and 31

8 Parish Property

Castle lane seat. After examination it was not deemed to be in need of early repair.

9 Highways

30mph signs Willisham These have been restored with the exception of that approaching the Offton junction

The salt bin for Tye lane has been ordered for early delivery. (post meeting. Now delivered). SCC to be informed

clerk

Tree overhang. Council had been informed by the Environment Agency that its concerns for the overhead cabling along Bildeston Rd had been referred to UK Power Networks. The clerk was instructed to refer back to the Agency the matter of debris in the Channel in the light of its response to Council's letter in August 2009, and ascertain whether the Agency is responsible for tree maintenance along the banks of the Channel, if not who is. Cllr Truelove will ask SCC to intercede.

clerk

The depression in the road at Willow Tree Bungalow Offton referred to SCC on May 17 2010 remains uncorrected. Clerk to refer again to SCC.

clerk

Cllr Earl asked for concerns brought to him by the occupier of Holly tree Cottage, Derrick Hill Willisham regarding the need for roadside curbing to his property, to be passed to SCC

clerk

- 10 Village Hall
Cllr Pinson Roxburgh reported that the handover by the builders was expected this month, but there would be finishing work to be undertaken
- 11 Parish website
Cllr Bolton would prepare a notice promoting the website to be placed on notice boards, and Mrs Silke Pinson Roxburgh would compile an entry for the LINK. It was asked whether it was possible to determine the number of 'hits' received by the site. MB
- 12 Representative's reports
Cllr Truelove's presented a written report. Because of the likely withdrawal of the mobile library service, Council would express its opposition, added to its dismay at the suggested closure of the Needham library. The Stowmarket /Hadleigh bus service was to be withdrawn. Cllrs were asked for ideas for improvements to be considered under the Quality of Life Highways Budget clerk
Cllr Wright reported the salary of a newly appointed Chief Executive to the merged Councils would be in the range £99 to £115 K, the current post holders had not applied. The differing approaches to Business rate relief followed by the two Councils was queried. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wright for his work on the Parish Council's behalf, this being the last meeting before the District elections in May. Cllrs
Cllr Bolton reported on the SALC meeting held to discuss post merger practices.. The issues raised were more appropriate to larger Councils, but opposition to the 'clustering' of parishes was evident
- 13 Community
Parish Plan Cllr Coleman thanked Councillors for their comments on the draft questionnaire, now with ACRE for assessing the suitability of the completed questionnaires to be analysed by computer . The clerk will seek assurances from Tom Barker that the donation grant remains still available. (post meeting.Done) clerk
Beating the Bounds. Cllr Cattermole agreed again to organise this, probably for a date in late May DC
Parish Council elections May 5th. The clerk gave nomination papers to Councillors Cllrs
- 14 Finance
Balances. Cheque £1258.86, Community £3969.17, Deposit £8463.71, Petty cash £4.21
Authorisation of cheques Brett Design £64.63 KE/DC
The clerk presented the balanced accounts for the current year up to the 7th March date and it was accepted that allowing for a small bank interest payment due of about £2, the accounts finalised to 31st March 2011 could be submitted to the internal auditor without further consideration by the Council. clerk
- 15 Dates for next meetings
May 16th, preceded by the Annual Parish meeting. July 4th