

OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th May 2011
at 8.00pm in Offton and Willisham New Village hall.

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

District Councillor S Wright and County Councillor J Truelove attended
Mrs G Hitchcock was present

1 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Pinson Roxburgh proposed that Cllr Bolton be reelected as Chairman and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Coleman. Cllr Bolton graciously responded to the nomination and signified his acceptance. The proposal was unanimously endorsed and the Chairman signed his Acceptance of Office. Cllr Bolton said that after four years in office a new Chairman would be desirable and he would not continue after 2011. For the position of Vice Chairman, Cllr Seddon proposed that Cllr Earl be reelected, seconded by Cllr Rumsey. This also was unanimously agreed.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Tingley and Cox. Absent on holiday, apology accepted

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

None were made. Cllrs being newly elected are required to reRegister their Interests. The clerk gave out forms and asked for these together with their Acceptances of Office, be returned to him at the next Council meeting or before.

Cllrs

4 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda.

No matters were raised

5 Minutes of the previous meetings.

The minutes of the meetings had been circulated and were approved with minor corrections

6 Matters arising from the minutes

Waste Recycling. The closure of the Bramford recycling centre had been reprieved until the end of July 2011 pending further investigation

7 Correspondence.

MSDC Village of the Year competition. Noted but declined.

MSDC / Babergh. Facing the Future. Ongoing discussions will be held with Parishes to develop locality working arrangements. If the vote to amalgamate is positive, a review of current boundaries would be undertaken by the Boundaries Commission, leading to a new joint Council to operate from April 2013.

Andrew Good. Letter of resignation

MSDC / Babergh. Chief Executive Charlotte Adam appointed.

Dr Poulter MP. Seeking to improve Broadband provision in Suffolk.
Scot. Power Renewables Consultation proposed for offshore wind farm
SALC Precept analysis National PC average is £45.88 against O and W circa
£31.49

IPC. National Grid applying for Development Consent
MSDC Stowmarket area Action Plan Sec of State requires more information before
proceeding with the Examination
Stowmarket Council Festival details provided.
SCC Information on street lighting changes dimming and turn off.

8 Planning

- 3841/10 2 Castle lane Offton Granted by MSDC
- 3872/10 The old Vicarage Offton granted by MSDC
- 0088/11 Rook Hill farm Offton Granted by MSDC
- 1204/11 Rook hill farm Offton Granted by MSDC
- 0143/11 Maltings House Offton Refused by MSDC
- 0316/11 Upton cottage Offton Granted by MSDC
- 0809/11 15 North Acres Willisham Granted by MSDC
- 0905/11 Antlers Ridge Willisham MSDC will submit to committee. Papers with MB
- 0809/11 15 North Acres Willisham Granted by MSDC
- 1004/11 Wallow farm Offton Parish Council to consider
- 11091/11 Wallow farm Offton Parish Council to consider
- 1302/11 Yew tree cottage Offton Parish Council to consider

Ladyfield. Though angered by the woeful reluctance and failure of MSDC Planning Dept to correct its mistake in allowing the Enforcement Order not to be complied with, Council recognised that an appeal to the Ombudsman was not supportable since no financial penalty has resulted. No further action on Ladyfield would be undertaken by the Council. Cllrs Pinson Roxburgh and Earl disagreed with this decision.

MB

9 Footpaths.

Nothing to report

10 Parish Property

Whilst the surplus Willisham salt bin remains uncollected, no action by the Council is required.

11 Highways

The verge at the Somersham / Offton road junction had been repaired
Tree overhang / Channel debris. Though reminded, no reply from the Environment Agency had been received. Clerk to pursue

clerk

Willisham road resurfacing.. Planned for Tye Lane and North Acres

Potholes reported in Castle road Offton and near Linden House Willisham

The verge between the telephone exchange and Mount Pleasant farm Offton needs rebuilding.

clerk

Replacement rails are required at Bridge cottage Offton and at the concrete pad in Willisham

clerk

12 Village Hall

There may be further professional costs submitted to the Council for considered payment associated with the access road.

The Council was delighted and impressed by the new Hall at its first meeting held there. The enterprise and success demonstrated by the Village hall committee was most praiseworthy.

13 Parish website

Pictures, photos and material for inclusion on the website would be welcomed by Silke Pinson Roxburgh.

Cllrs

14 Representative's reports

Cllr Truelove indicated that uncertainty over the future of the Chief Executive and the appointment of a replacement Council Leader queries the continuation of the Strategic Direction Policy in its present form.

Cllr Wright questioned the validity of the developer's assurances regarding the Snoasis project

The following representative appointments were confirmed. Wattisham liaison Cllr Bolton, SALC Cllr Seddon, Transport Cllr Rumsey, Tree warden Cllr Pinson Roxburgh, Footpaths:- Offton Cllr Cattermole and Willisham Cllr Earl.

15 Community

Parish Plan. Distribution of the questionnaire will soon take place

District and Parish Council elections. Stephen Wright was reelected as District Councillor, congratulations were offered and a continuing welcome to attend Council meetings.

Council noted with regret the decision of Chris Storey not to continue as a Councillor for Willisham. After many years on the Council, several as Chairman, his enthusiasm and knowledge, particularly on planning and land matters will be missed. The Council is pleased to acknowledge his loyal contribution and service to the community.

Resulting from his leaving, Council is required to coopt a Councillor for the Willisham Ward within the next six months

Beating the Bounds. The proliferation of Bank and Royal Wedding holidays has militated against arranging the event this year, but Cllr Cattermole will ensure it for next year.

NC

DC

16 Finance

Balances. Cheque £2043.26, Community £4269.74, Deposit £8465.07, Petty cash (£3.78)

Authorisation of cheques Suffolk ACRE £25 KE/AR, SALC £280 LS/DC, SALC £24 CPR/LS,. AON £527.27 KE/CPR, Petty cash £30 AR/DC.

Annual Audit. In considering its response to the pro forma question, Council concluded that its procedures for ensuring correctness were appropriate and recorded its approval to the completion of Section 2 of the Return- Annual Governance Statement. The Accounting Statement Section 1 was determined, noting that the External Auditor now requires assets to be valued at cost which has always been the Council's practice. The Return will now be passed to Mr Nick Banks for internal auditing. Notices inviting public inspection of the accounts had been placed on the notice boards

17 Date for next meeting July 4th 2011

mm/my11