

OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2008
at 7.30 pm in Offton and Willisham Village hall.

Present	Cllr. M Bolton (Chairman)	Cllr. A Rumsey
	Cllr. C Storey	Cllr. C Pinson Roxburgh
	Cllr. K Earl	Cllr. L Seddon
	Cllr. A Cox	Cllr. N Coleman
	P Sands Clerk	

County Councillor J Truelove, District Councillor S Wright, PCSO Sian Uttley, Mr and Mrs Hitchcock and ten parishioners were present.

- Apologies for absence
Cllr. Tingley, with family commitments LS/AC
- Declaration of Interests, with respect to items on the agenda
None
- Public Participation Session with regard to items on the agenda
Mr Barry Aldous on behalf of attending parishioners, expressed support for the Hitchcock's proposals re footpath 2 in Willisham. Responding to the Chairman's enquiry he was unconcerned about the retention of the strip of land beyond the seat only that the seat and its location should be safeguarded. Mr Banks and Mr King spoke similarly. Mr Hitchcock, without commitment spoke favourably to Cllr Storey's proposal to retain the strip, suggesting a ten year renewable licence issued to the Parish Council.
Mrs Diane Hill brought forward the names of six parishioners wanting allotments provided locally, and presented a paper supporting the idea, requesting the Council to embrace the concept. The chairman welcomed the suggestion and referred to the 'Landshare' website as parallel scheme for growing vegetables in unwanted domestic garden areas.
- Minutes of the previous meeting.
The minutes had been circulated, were approved with minor typing corrections and signed by the Chairman Clerk CS/LS
- Matters arising from the minutes
Mid Suffolk Locality Project. More nominations had been received and were noted. No action proposed.
Offton payphone. The costs of retention were hesitantly explained eg annual lighting say £17 per annum plus minor setting up costs perhaps up to £50. If the lighting contract was subsequently cancelled, the costs of civil work associated with the termination would be borne by the Council. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase Clerk

6. Correspondence.
 SCC. Unitary Council financial data. Savings associated with the One Suffolk proposal. See www.suffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil. The Review 's final recommendations are expected by the end of the year
 SCC. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). Update on the project's development. The Shaw Trust will facilitate the project from October 2008.
 SALC. Freedom of Information Act. Will be revised to operate from January 2009. Clerk will attend training day on December 5th. Clerk
 SALC. Annual report and Accounts. Noted that members subscriptions comprise 60 % of income.
 Michael Lord MP and NATS. Stansted stacking. Options being considered, decision date uncertain.
 Communities Dept. Making and Enforcement of Byelaws. Noted
 SCC. Draft Fire Action Plan. Response required, future agenda item. Clerk
 Communities Dept. Revised Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees. Council debated the position of the clerk and concluded that the 'employee' status was appropriate, but because of the peculiar relationship of the Clerk with the Council, the Employee's Code of Conduct should exempt Parish Clerks, though be applicable to other Parish Council employees Clerk
 MSDC. Core Strategy Development Plan. This is now adopted by MSDC but certain content of the Local Plan remain relevant. The Local Development Framework positively prohibits commercial housing development in Offton and Willisham.
7. Planning
 1052/01 Willisham Hall Farm Buildings. Possible contravention of Permission re outside storage noted, discussed with tenant and reported to MSDC. Clerk
 2848/06 Linden House Willisham. MSDC have concluded agreements with the applicant.
 2178/08 Barn 2 Castle Farm. Withdrawn
 2179/08 Ditto
 2476/08 Churchs Offton. Refused by MSDC.
 3267/08 5 The Cedars Offton. Withdrawn.
 3333/08 Armigers Offton. Granted by MSDC.
 3463/08 Shortings Cottage Offton. Supported by Council
8. Footpaths
 Willisham path 2. Whilst in no way wishing to compromise the negotiated proposals to extinguish path 2 and identify the concrete track from Tye farm to Holly Road as a bridleway, Council supported Cllr Storey's plan to retain that part of the path extending some 45 metres southwards from the road to the extremity of the hedge, which includes the Council's seat positioned by permission of Hitchcocks Farms which H F is already allowing to remain under the negotiated proposals. The authority and means whereby the strip can be retained would be determined by Cllr. Storey and Hitchcock Farms then brought to Council for consideration. CS
 Offton path 11
 Pending a repositioning by SCC of the gates at Tollemache Hall on to the definitive line, temporary waymarking signs will be placed to facilitate walkers.
 Willisham path 8. Not marked on ground between Willisham hill hard standing and Church, Clerk to contact landowner Clerk
9. Parish Property
 Cllr. Pinson Roxburgh will obtain a price for repainting Offton and Willisham signposts. CPR

10. Highways
Willisham speed limit. SCC's reply still awaited
11. Village Hall
Detailed building plans are nearing completion
12. Parish website
Council agreed material can be deleted by Mrs Pinson Roxburgh when no longer active and that the contacts list should be updated.
13. Representative's reports
Cllr. Truelove spoke to her written report, emphasising that despite the current economic difficulties the Local Government review will not be sidelined. SCC is a consultee on the possible changes to local prescription and pharmacy arrangements. It was considered by Council that it too should have been consulted on such an important factor in parishioner's lives.
Cllr. Wright spoke to his written report. The Snoasis go ahead decision may be legally challenged. The status of MSDC's housing stock is being reviewed against changes anticipated under the Local Government review.
PSCO Sian Uttley presented a written report. No crimes had been recently reported. The mobile police station can be available to attend local events.
14. Community
Parish Plan. The public meeting was poorly attended. Volunteers particularly from Offton are needed to serve on the Steering committee and councillors are urged to seek representatives.
Allotments. Council accepted the representation from parishioners and committed to a public meeting if Ms Tappenden, Hill and others seeking allotments will bring to the next meeting positive agreed locations within the parishes.
15. Finance
Balances. Cheque £914.75 Community £5692.94 Deposit £20645.03 Petty cash (£3.86)
The 2009 estimates and precept will be set at the January meeting
Authorisation of cheques. Janet Crickmore (Xmas lunch) £350 AC/AR. Suffolk Wildlife Trust £30 CPR/KE. LINK £50 CS/LS. Barking Pre School £25 AC/NC. Petty cash £30 AR/KE. S Pinson Roxburgh £100 LS/CS. Willisham PCC £50 KE/CPR. Suffolk Air Ambulance £150KE/AR. SALC £30 + VAT. NC/AC
16. Dates for next meetings.
The Chairman's proposal that meetings be held monthly for a trial period of six months was not endorsed by councillors.
Future meetings will normally be held on the first Monday in the month, except where this clashes with Bank Holidays. A full schedule for 2009 will be agreed and minuted at the next meeting
The January meeting will be held on Monday the 6th.

CPR

All Cllrs

Clerk

Clerk

Highways.

Willisham 30mph speed limit. SCC's reply still awaited.

Village Hall

Cllr Storey reported that the land and cash transfer from MSDC to the VHMC had at last been

completed.

Parish Website

Cllr Cattermole said that a limited link with MSDC's Planning Dept can be established and Mrs Pinson Roxburgh would be asked to undertake this.

Representatives reports

Cllr Truelove spoke to her written report. It detailed the SCC/MSDC Locality Pilot Project (see item 6), the Boundary Committee's timetable and SCC's ongoing work on costing the known options including a possible retention of Lowestoft within the Suffolk boundary.

Cllr Wright presented a written report noting waste recycling developments and litter collection along the A14

PC Clark reported that domestic oil and metal theft is continuing but no crimes reported in our parishes. A Safer Mid Suffolk Public meeting was scheduled at The Hillside Comm. Centre Stowmarket on 3rd October. A transfer of officers from the Safer Neighbourhood teams to the Quick Response groups was planned.

Community

Parish Plan A public meeting, with a representative from ACRE, was planned for 9th October in the village hall to ascertain the extent of local support. Cllr Truelove will contribute towards funding any future Plan.

Finance.

Balances. Cheque £112.28 Community £4630.37 Deposit £17255.28 Petty cash £30.94

Authorisation of cheques. BDO Stoy Hayward £141 CS/LS

The audit of the 2007 accounts had been completed without comment. Completion notices had been posted

Date of next meeting

November 10th 2008. .

