

OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2009
at 7.30pm in Offton and Willisham Village hall.

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

County Councillor J Truelove and PCSO V Whitrow were in attendance.
Mr and Mrs G Hitchcock, Mr I Gilson and Mrs R Buckles were present

- 1 Apologies for absence
An apology from Cllr Tingley was accepted DC/AR
- 2 Declaration of Interests, with respect to items on the agenda
Cllr Seddon and Cllr Storey re Linden house planning application
- 3 Public Participation Session with regard to items on the agenda
Mr Gilson and Mrs Buckles reaffirmed their concerns over the validity of the Linden House application and noted a new development viz the lowering of the hedge adjoining Mrs Buckles house to two metres which would accentuate the light intrusion problem. Mr Gilson stated his intention to address the MSDC meeting on 11th November
- 4 Minutes of the previous meeting.
The minutes of meetings on 7th September and 12th October had been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes
National Grid. Details of Parish Council briefings (nearest at Somersham on 4th December) were passed to Councillors. Related CD taken by Cllr Storey
- 6 Correspondence.
MSDC Council Engagement Questionnaire. Agreed could be completed by Chairman and clerk. MB/clk
East of England Plan. Comments invited, letter to be mailed to Councillors. clerk
NATS TCN update advising that any further consultation will not happen until September 2010 at the earliest, but "doing nothing" is not a long term option.
SALC Winter Warmers. Networking seminar dates advised £20 fee. Not pursued by Council.
MSDC Stowmarket Area Action Plan. 3rd stage. Responses required by 30th November. Plan available at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk, On line responses permissible.

- 7 Planning
 3033/07 Ladyfield. Councillors unanimously expressed consternation and
 aggrievance at the apparent unwillingness of MSDC to fully enforce compliance with
 the Planning Condition which requires removal of the caravan (now done) and also
 the 'restoration of the land to its former condition'. Clerk to reply to MSDC 's letter
 which states that the Enforcement Order has been complied with. Restoration has not
 been undertaken, therefore MSDC to be asked to use its further enforcement powers,
 if it fails to do so its credibility is undermined
 1781/09 1 High View Willisham Granted by MSDC
 2046/09 1 Hall Cottages Willisham Refused by MSDC
 2267/09 Land at Castle lane Offton Granted by MSDC
 2358/09 8 Middlewood Cottages Offton Refused by MSDC
 2362/09 Linden House Willisham Referred to Committee on November 11th
 2870/09 Churchs Offton Supported by Council
 2887/09 Tye Barn Willisham Comments made by Council
 2965/09 Valley Farm Offton Granted by MSDC
 clerk
- 8 Footpaths
 Willisham path 2 and Offton 16. The diversion / changes will be fully available for
 the public to use on December 4th. The existing Willisham path 2 will be extinguished
 later in December, Mr Hitchcock advised
 Willisham path 15. The landowner has removed obstructions along the track and
 SCC will waymark the route and pointer the crossfield path (landowner Mrs McCarthy)
 Offton path 41 Further information on the Planning Inspectorate's rejection of
 MSDC's Order to be sought
 clerk
- 9 Parish Property
 Offton phone box. The acceptance of MSDC's grant of £250 was confirmed. The
 clerk was authorised to purchase the necessary materials generally as previously
 determined after and in conjunction with Mr Southall who has agreed to do the
 refurbishment. Proposed Cllr Pinson Roxburgh, seconded Cllr Coleman
 Willisham Notice board. Mr Southall has the work in hand.
 SALC Legal Notices. Proposed Cllr Seddon, seconded Cllr Earl, Council agreed to
 purchase at £28
 clerk
- 10 Highways
 Offton Channel. Clerk to again contact the Environment Agency
 Cllr Earl will contact EDF direct to report a danger to power cables in Tye Lane due to
 tree overhang
 clerk
 KE
- 11 Village Hall
 Council representatives reported on the real prospect of some site preparation work
 commencing soon.
- 12 Parish website
 Nothing to report.
- 13 Representative's reports
 Cllr Truelove spoke to her written report, copied to Councillors

PCSO Whitrow reported 3 crimes since September, also the retirement of PC Dave Clarke

14 Community

Parish Plan. Cllr Coleman reported on a second approach to Awards for All for funding. Whilst total Parish Council financial commitment to the Plan was deemed unwise until funding was assured, it may prove necessary to ask the Council for an increased contribution. Members asked for the preparation of the questionnaire to go ahead, to make it available for immediate printing when approved.

Senior Citizens Lunch. A £50 addition to the agreed £350 was sought and agreed, proposed Cllr Seddon seconded Cllr Storey. Councillors promised to help on the day

The letter from Mrs Maartje Rondeboom proposing the Council's purchase of a marquee would be considered at the next meeting.

NC

clerk

15 Finance

Balances. Cheque £1075.36 Community £4965.93 Deposit £18896.12

Petty cash £(1.07)

NALC pay settlement. Determined at 1% dating from April 2009

Authorisation of cheques. J Crickmore (Citizens lunch) £400 LS/CS, LINK £25

KE/DC, CAB £100 AR/AC, Suffolk Pres. Socy £25 CS/CPR, East Ang. Air Ambulance

£50 CPR/LS, Baldwin Design £947.50 CPR/KE, SALC (legal notes) £28 AC/AR,

MSDC grass cutting £62.10 DC/KE

16 Dates for next meetings

January 4th 2010 then March 1st, May 3rd, July 5th, September 6th and November 1st