

OFFTON AND WILLISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2010
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 C Storey	Cllr D Tingley
	Cllr D Cattermole`	P Sands clerk

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

Apologies for absence

Cllr. Pinson Roxburgh, (business commitment). Apology was accepted

LS/DT

Declaratons of Interest, with respect to items on the agenda

None were declared

Public Participation Session with regard to items on the agenda

There were no submissions.

Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman

AR/KE

Matters arising from the minutes

MSDC Street advertising. Confirmation has been received that the advertising signs for the Castle Lane housing development have been removed.

Parish Precept capping. Council's letter objecting to capping have been acknowledged by the Dept for Communities and Daniel Poulter MP

Correspondence.

MSDC Housing Tenant Survey Will be issued to all tenants in November / December to comply with the 2010. Equality Act

. MSDC Merger with Babergh District Council. Proposed for early 2013 with the mandate seeking referendum in May 2011

MSDC District Monitoring officer. Kathryn Seward appointed to jointly serve MSDC and Babergh.

Babergh D C Growth Strategy Document produced through to year 2031, replacing the Local Plan

National Grid The decision due in September 2010 on the Bramford / Twinstead pylon proposal has been deferred.

NATS Stansted aircraft stacking changes will not now be implemented due to traffic turndown, but eventually a new appraisal will be required

Age Concern A dementia help service, known as The View Experience will operate

from Hill View Business Park, a drop in facility for sufferers and carers

Land Registry Offer to register land ownership with a 25% reduction available to Parish Councils. Council does not have any ownership.

SALC Notice of AGM.on 8th November. . . .

Planning

2258/10 2 Castle lane Offton Refused by MSDC

2699/10 4 Middlewood Cottages Supported by Council

Ladyfield. Cllr Seddon declared an Interest, and did not participate in the discussion. A comprehensive assessment of the Complaint against MSDC had been prepared for consideration by councillors prior to the Complaint being formalised and submitted.

Cllrs

Footpaths.

Offton paths 11 and 41 Council awaits a formal notice of changes being considered by Mr Tollemache and SCC. but is generally approving of the interim information it has received A detailed analysis will then be undertaken.

Willisham path 12 The Blocked Path notices have been removed. SCC continue to liaise with Mr and Mrs Wilson to arrive at a solution

Offton path 20/21 SCC will install a finger board at the departure point behind the Cedars.

Cllrs Earl and Cattermole agreed to traverse their paths during the next months to determine the need for more waymarking. Cllr Earl has waymarking discs and SCC will provide more.

clerk

Parish Property

Offton phone box. This project can now be deemed completed, no suggestions for its detailed use have been received and the box will remain locked. Regular cleaning will be undertaken. The next cleaning will be by Cllr Seddon

LS

Highways

SCC have agreed to undertake further SID speed monitoring local to Offton Place Mrs. Searby, The Cedars to be notified

clerk

Cllrs confirmed the locations of salt bins to assist SCC's salt replenishment crews

clerk

SCC to be told of damaged 30mph signs on the C451 road between Barking and Somersham

clerk

Village Hall

The building of the new hall was proceeding apace, but some funding is still required and was being sought.

Parish website

The new website opening page was enthusiastically welcomed, thanks to Cllr Cattermole. Councillors were asked to check the website for errors and outdated information, details then to be given to Cllr Pinson Roxburgh or the clerk, and to submit any pictures which could be of interest.

Cllrs

Representative's reports

Cllr Truelove's presented a written report. She spoke of the likely closure of the Bury Rd Park and Ride and a preliminary assessment of the effect of the Spending Review. The SCC booklet explaining the New Strategic Direction was handed to

Councillors with an invitation to comment, but it was noted that the Council had not been directly consulted on this development.

Councillor Wright reported on the proposed merger with Babergh D C, saying that cuts in services were unavoidable.. Planning enforcement matters had gained prominence .The Baylham Nursing home and the Somersham Community shop developments were progressing well.

The clerk reported on the Parish Liaison meeting re the merger. The merger referendum was planned for May 2011. Both offices would remain in use for at least five years after the merger. Parishes would be encouraged to "cluster". Ward boundaries would change in response to the reduction of Councillors from 88 to 55. Devolvement of services to Parishes would not be imposed. Consultation papers would be sent to Councils in the near future.

Community

Parish Plan Cllr Coleman explained that redrafting of the questionnaire had been necessary to enable the responses to be analysed electronically. Cllr Bolton stressed the importance of the Plan to relations with both District and County Councils

Housing Survey It was not intended to pursue this unless the Plan questionnaire indicated a need for it.

Christmas Party Because of the declining state, particularly of the kitchen at the existing hall, it was not possible to hold the Party this December. The Chairman would discuss with the VHMC Chairman ways in which the Council could assist in plans for the opening of the new hall in early 2011.

Cllr Bolton spoke of difficulties in depositing recycling material at the Blakenham site. Clerk to enquire of SCC whether a risk assessment had been conducted and to obtain a copy

NC

MB

clerk

Finance

Balances. Cheque £1468.49 Community £4413.25 Deposit £1362.11 Petty cash (£3.57)

Authorisation of cheques LINK £25 AR/DT, CAB £100 KE/DC, Suffolk Preservation Socy £25 CS/NC, Air Ambulance £50 AC/LS, MSDC Grass £63.45 AC/AR, Silke Pinson Roxburgh £100 AR/DC, Petty cash £ 30 DT/LS

MSDC had detailed the approximate election costs in May 2011.

Auditors report. Acting upon BDO's report it was recognised that the consideration of the internal auditor's observations submitted back to the Council, though undertaken, was not minuted as is legally required. A template document to enable the clerk and councillors to conduct the Council's finances within a risk limitation discipline will be prepared by the clerk for approval

clerk

Dates for next meeting

January 11th 2011. Budget and Precept setting