

OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th October 2010

Present:

Clerk: Mr Treloar

Chairman: Mr Smith

Councillors: Mr Jay, Mr R Ling, Mr Childs, Mrs Vaughan & District & County Councillor Mr Bellfield.

1. Apologies - Mr A Ling, Mrs Lincoln & PC Dave Burrell.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 13th September 2010 - Approved and signed.

3. Matters arising- Highways – Traffic calming measures – please see under item 6.

Correspondence – Community Council have been advised of the balance in respect of the Outdoor Playing Space contributions. **Any Other Business** – Fido bin on the Helmingham Road will be ordered once the footpath marker post has been repaired.

4. Finance -

Community Account	£ 678.71
Instant Saver Account	£ 8,059.19

The Clerk reported that the second tranche of the Precept (£2,000) has been received.

5. Planning Applications -

Applications –

- 22, Newlands – Erection of conservatory
- Otley Primary Scholl – Retention of pre-fabricated building.

Withdrawn –

- 1, Rosemary Cottage, Ashbocking – Extension.

Appeal

Burcote – Church Road – against refusal of permission for erection of detached chalet bungalow.

6. Highways The Clerk investigated the possibility of “Dragons teeth” at the Crettingham entrance to the Village. Highways are not keen and prefer the use of “Roundels” in rural locations possibly coupled with other calming measures. There are “Roundels” on the Helmingham Road entrance and the Clerk has been asked to request their installation on the Crettingham Road. The cost is estimated at £400.

The Clerk has been asked to provide a list of existing salt bins and heaps in the Village. This has been done and the question has arisen as to whether bins should be installed on the Ipswich Road – outside Rose Cottage and also outside North Cottage in the existing lay-by. The Clerk is to check with residents before ordering. Cost is estimated at between £150 - £400.

We need a list of people who are willing to spread grit at bin locations’; they will then be covered under the County Council’s public liability insurance. In addition we should provide them with Hi Vis vests at a cost of between £5 - £10 each. Councillors are to report to the next meeting names of people willing to assist. Last winter the public were concerned that if they cleared snow they may have been liable for third party claims. It is confirmed that they would only be liable for an accident if their efforts made the roadway less safe than if it had been left undisturbed.

Notification has been received that the B1079 & B1078 at Otley Bottom will be close for drainage works between the 25th and 29th October. Diversions will be in place.

7. Rights of Way – The footpath map “Walks around Otley” has been prepared and printing costs are now to be determined.

8. District & County Councillor’s report – Mr Bellfield advised that Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils are now sharing the same heads of department; this represents the first stage of their formal amalgamation. He was pleased to report that he presented SORR’s submission to the Planning Scrutiny Committee; they had not been invited to attend. The paper was well received and it is hoped than improvements in planning procedure will be evident.

There remain pressures on the District Council's budget but these are not as severe as those on the County Council's finances. At the forefront of reducing costs are the outsourcing of a number of services and this will involve the private sector, charities and other interested parties. There is a three year timescale to rearrange the organisation but the budget for the coming year will be based on existing procedures. Some implementation will take place during the coming year. The initiatives are fully supported by Central Government. Mr Jay asked if the Council would exercise control over outsourced facilities. Mr Bellfield confirmed that statutory service provisions would be monitored and have to be met. Mr R Ling felt that the coverage of the privatisation of care homes had been badly handled in the press and thanked Mr Bellfield for a clearer explanation of the changes.

Mr Bellfield re-emphasised that he is very willing to become involved in local issues if difficulties are encountered. This particularly includes planning matters if his support is required.

9. Police Report - PC Dave Burrell was unable to attend but submitted his report. There has been one offence committed in the period. This was at the College and is under investigation. During the same period last year there were nine recorded crimes in Otley. The next Community Panel meeting is to take place at the College on 28th October at 7pm. If there is an issue within the community that needs addressing we are asked to attend. PC Burrell has now been posted back to the Woodbridge SNT and will be working more late shifts and hopes to show his presence around the Village in the evenings. Whilst the above crime statistics are excellent we should remain vigilant. Report ALL incidents as soon as possible and always leave outbuildings and cycles secure. The College are keen for the Police to deal with anti social driving around the College and in the Village. Since 4th October, 59 careless driving warnings have been issued to drivers leaving the College. These warnings carry a penalty of having the vehicle seized if a like offence is committed within twelve months and release of the vehicle comes at a high cost. PC Burrell will be starting speed checks in the Village in the near future and it is planned to do this on a regular basis.

10. Community Council Report – There was no report.

11. SORR – Mr Smith attended the Scrutiny Committee meeting at Ufford Park at which Mr Bellfield presented SORR's paper (see above). A number of Parish Councils expressed concern about the District Council's planning department. The SORR paper gave positive guides as to how the planning procedures could be improved. In response the District Council defended their position and record but they are to take on board a number of SORR's suggestions. There was however no mention of enforcement procedures which have been and remain a major area of concern. The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee in acknowledging that enforcement had not been mentioned, said that a number of changes had been introduced and time should be allowed for the benefits to be seen. He thanked SORR for their useful and positive report.

Mr Child's asked if pellets were still being stored at the Debach industrial estate. Mr Smith advised that the situation had not been entirely settled but confirmed there had been a reduction in the number of HGV's visiting the site.

12. Correspondence – The Clerk advised he had received a request from the Disability Advice Service to fund the cost of the work undertaken on behalf of Otley residents. This amounts to £121 (2009 - £60) Mr Childs proposed and Mr R Ling seconded, that the payment should be made. A request from Suffolk Headway seeking a grant to fund their operation has been declined. The Infrastructure Planning Commission is seeking our views on the proposed wind farm off the East Coast. Councillors' considered the only impact as far as Otley is concerned could be the possible need for additional pylons which would be strongly opposed. If new or additional cabling is required this should be placed underground. The Clerk is to write and advise our view.

13. Any other business – As requested the Clerk contacted Henley Parish Council regarding their new sign. This is made of polyurethane and cost £3,200 ex VAT. Mr Jay mentioned that a prison near Sudbury was offering a similar service and felt this may be worth exploring. Renewal will be considered when next year's budget is drawn up.

15. Date of next meeting – Monday 29th November.