

# OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Present:**

Clerk: Mr Treloar

Chairman: Mr Smith

Councillors: Mr Jay, Mr R Ling, Mr A Ling, Mr Childs, Mr Moss,  
Mrs Lincoln, Mrs Vaughan, PCSO Chatten-Berry & five members of  
the public.

**1. Apologies** - Mr Cant & District & County Councillor Mr Bellfield

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011** - Approved and signed.

**3. Matters arising- Planning** – The Clerk at Ashbocking has been advised that Mr Smith, whose property is adjacent to Walnut Tree Farm, is seeking a judicial review of the planning decision. **Highways** – The Grundisburgh Clerk confirmed they have no problems with HGV's using Stony Road.

**4. Finance** -

Community Account	£ 902.79
Instant Saver Account	£ 7,211.09

Payment requested:- Clerk's salary £ 283.56

(Payment proposed by Mrs Lincoln & seconded by Mr R Ling)

**Finance sub-committee report** – The committee had met to review the effectiveness of the internal audit under the framework of the Heelis & Lodge review plan. They found that the scope of the internal audit, the independence of the auditors along with their competence coupled with the Clerk's awareness of their responsibilities, were all satisfactory. The audit plan was approved by the council and takes account of the Councils risks and responsibilities. The audit report had been fully discussed at an earlier council meeting (June 2010) and recommendations actioned. In addition the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been reviewed and found to be of continuing relevance.

**5. Planning Applications** -  
**Applications** –

- Grange Farm Helmingham Road Extension to hay barn  
(Both Mr A Ling and Mr Moss declared an interest)

**6. Highways** – Nothing to report

**7. Rights of Way** – The Clerk had received notification that the grant for two cuts of the footpaths will be received this year. The sleeper bridge on the leaseland path has still not been repaired the Clerk to chase again.

**8. District & County Councillor's report** – Mr Bellfield having tendered his apologies, there was no report.

**9. Police Report** – PCSO Chatten-Berry reported that two crimes had been committed since their last report. An attempted theft of diesel and the theft of heating oil which is an ongoing investigation. During the same period last year, three crimes were recorded. The Police are undertaking speed checks on a monthly basis in various areas and the next visit of the Mobile Police Station to Otley will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. A Community Panel Meeting had been held in Woodbridge in February and focussed on problems in the Woodbridge and Hasketon areas. The next panel meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> May and will be held in Orford. The Police emphasise the need to remain vigilant and secure cycles and outbuildings. These provide easy pickings for opportunists.

**10. Community Council Report** – Mr Cant having tendered his apologies, there was no report.

**11. Election** – A number of people have expressed an interest in becoming Councillors and therefore an election will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk read out a list of do's and don'ts and advised that nomination papers must be returned to SCDC by noon on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Any forms returned after that time would be void. All outgoing councillors will retire on 9<sup>th</sup> May and incoming councillors will take up their duties on that day. The Annual Parish Meeting has been rescheduled to take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, when new Councillors will be presented to the electorate.

**12. Correspondence** – There was none.

**13. Any other business** – The Clerk and Mr Smith had attended a meeting at SCDC, chaired by the Chief Executive, Stephen Baker which provided an update on the "New Direction" initiative. Presentations were given by the departmental heads and covered a wide range of subjects including the Localism Bill and the Big Society, health and policing reforms, the forthcoming elections and the AV referendum. Disappointingly on the planning front, we were advised that SCDC's Core Strategy which encompasses the Local Development Framework, had not been signed off due to the Council having failed to quantify the impact of tourism on the region. This will leave the District Council exposed to judicial appeals particularly with regard to the proposed large development schemes at Martlesham and Felixstowe.

The Clerk reported that there had been a number of people interested in the Clerks job and he was hopeful that within the next ten days his replacement would be found.

**Wind turbine** – A meeting had been held in the Village Hall by Otley Green on the previous Wednesday which had been attended by about eighty members of the community. This was to present proposals on the possible installation of a Community Wind Turbine on land at Hall Farm that could provide funds for green projects in the village for the next 20 years. The case for the proposal was presented by Mr Barrett supported by representatives from the manufacturer and Suffolk County Council. There were a number of objections raised and a straw poll was taken which revealed 55% in favour with 45% against. Sixty seven people voted.

The Chairman closed the meeting and members of the public were invited to raise issues for the council to consider. After a number of people spoke the Chairman thanked them for their comments and re-opened the meeting.

Having considered the position, councillors agreed that it was difficult to assess the level of support for the erection of a wind turbine in Otley from these results.

The following was decided:-

- a) For Otley Green to assess the feasibility of other sites (such as Otley College) as there was some doubt over whether the existing proposed site was the best location both for exposure to wind and affect on nearby residents.
- b) To carry out a full survey of the residents by way of a questionnaire to judge the level of support for a turbine on a specified site. This survey not to be undertaken until after 5<sup>th</sup> May, given the forthcoming elections. It was pointed out that a question in the Parish Plan of 2009 about support for a wind turbine (Q9 page 78) resulted in only 76 people supporting out of a total of 172 responses. The 76 only equates to about 10% of the electorate.
- c) To set up a sub-committee from members of Otley Green and the Parish Council to agree the format of a questionnaire.
- d) On taking advice from SALC - Otley Green to fund the survey with the Parish Council managing the results. If more than ten people requested a full blown referendum (poll - organised by SCDC) the cost would be £600 plus the cost of providing information to voters to enable them make an informed decision. If we went down the survey route then the only cost would be production of the questionnaire.

Mr Jay and Mr Childs expressed an interest in sitting on the sub- committee.

**15. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11 'May. This is the Annual Parish Meeting held in the main Village Hall commencing at 7pm followed by the AGM.**