

# OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

## **Present:**

Clerk: Mr Treloar

Chairman: Mr Smith

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

Mr Moss & PC Dave Burrell.

## **1. Apologies -**

## **2. Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 -** Approved and signed.

**3. Matters arising- Highways** – Keith Mayo (SCC Traffic Management) is to look into the parking problems outside the Village Stores. He requires photo's and Councillors' are to provide the digital evidence and forward to the Clerk. **A.O.B.** Clerk has spoken with Flagship Housing re possible affordable housing development in Chapel Road and is awaiting a response.

## **4. Finance -**

Community Account £ 753.42\*

Instant Saver Account £ 7,210.13

(\* Includes £582.00 in respect of collection for Village Postman)

Payments requested:-	Printer cartridge	£ 16.31
	SCDC – Newlands Rent	37.02
	Community Council – Rent	49.50
	Collection for D Taylor	582.00

Payments proposed by Mrs Vaughan & Seconded by Mrs Lincoln

Our Precept request of £4,000 has been lodged with SCDC.

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

- Walnut Tree Farm, Ashbocking      Retrospective planning      Retention of extension and feed silo

(Peter Bellfield advised that the owner of adjacent property is objecting to the proposal – Planning Committee had no objection to the request)

- East View, Church Road      Detached Garage

**6. Highways** Mr R Ling drew attention to the poor state of the verges on the Helmingham Road. Clerk advised that this road is regularly inspected by SCC Highways and remedial action is taken when considered necessary. Mr Cant complained that container lorries are regularly using Charity Lane as a cut through. It was believed that they were travelling from Grundisburgh up Stony Road. The Clerk has checked with the Clerk at Grundisburgh who confirmed he has no reports of problems. More likely they are cutting through from Tuddenham. Mr Cant is to obtain details of the lorries involved and advise the Clerk. Problems remain with the drainage on the B1078 at Otley Bottom. The Clerk contacted Highways during the recent wet spell and asked them to investigate. Steve Aldis, the engineer, is to come back to us. Mr A Ling has spoken with the Facilities Manager at the College who confirms that the attenuation tanks are operating correctly.

**7. Rights of Way** – Mr R Ling reported that he had received complementary reports on the guided walks leaflet that has been produced by the Parish Council. Mrs Vaughan advised that the field ditch adjacent to the footpath behind the Church was flooded. The Clerk is to contact Mr Haig and ask him to clear.

**8. District & County Councillor's report** – SCC - Mr Bellfield advised that the proposed budget cuts are to be put before the Council this Thursday for their approval. These are designed to save between £110 - £130 million over the next three years. First year savings are scheduled to amount to £40m and are severe, with the majority of the savings in the following years coming from the new Strategic Direction through the privatisation of services.

The cuts have been well publicised in the press. £17m will come from a reduction in salaries and wages with the loss of a good number of senior posts. Council Tax is to remain unchanged in the coming year.

The District Council is to save £2.1million this year, much of the savings emanating from the merging of services with Waveney D C. The Council has asked for voluntary redundancies and 25 staff have applied representing 10% of staff. Again there is to be no increase in Council Tax this year. Mr Bellfield noted that the Pension Fund deficit for SCDC is significantly higher than that for the County Council and will need addressing over time. Following concerns aired last month, Mr Bellfield was pleased to confirm the 118 Bus service will continue much as now with only the Sunday and Bank Holiday services being dropped. Mr Jay asked what services are to be outsourced? 80% of Adult Care Services are already outsourced. Highways, particularly in-house, are likely to be totally outsourced. Vehicle maintenance, catering and trade services already have in-house staff wanting to take them over.

**9. Police Report** - PC Dave Burrell was unable to attend but submitted his report. There have been four offences recorded since the last report. A domestic incident, a theft of a mobile phone at the College, the theft of scrap metal and the attempted theft of fuel from Soames Coaches (investigation on-going). During the same period last year, five crimes were recorded.

**10. Community Council Report** – Mr Cant reported that funds presently held amount to £26,895. The cost of the new access amounted to £13,317 against which a grant of £10,000 had been received. The Christmas Dance was very successful realising a profit of £1,505. The Council are planning an event for the Royal Wedding and details will be announced in due course. The Parish Council have pledged their support if this is required. The Community Council are presently looking for a new Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

**11. Otley Green – proposed wind turbine** – Councillor's had been circulated with details of discussions that had taken place between the Chairman of the Parish Council and Mr Barrett of Otley Green. The proposal is to erect a wind turbine on land at Hall Farm. Hall Lane. This would provide power to the owners of the farm with excess energy being fed into the grid, with money from this source being handed back to the community. Full detail is to be provided at a public meeting that is being called by Otley Green on 9<sup>th</sup> March. On the information provided, a number of Councillor's were sceptical on the merit of the scheme and would wait for the outcome of the public meeting to assess the support of the village. However they were supportive of further investigative work being undertaken. There was a suggestion that the finance could be directed through the Parish Council and the Clerk indicated as RFO, that only funds on property or assets specifically belonging to the Council could be channelled through the accounts.

**12. Correspondence** – Notification on the forthcoming elections has been received. Nominations for Parish Councillors' will be received early in March and nomination papers are to be completed and handed to SCDC by 4<sup>th</sup> April. To date we have not been advised of anyone wishing to stand other than those existing Councillors' who are seeking re election. SCDC are to remove the paper and can bank from the Village Hall. This is part of the efficiency savings and has been decided because the collection of these items is already covered by the blue bin service. The Chairman of the Community Council asked if we could make representations for the service to be retained but Councillor's felt there was no good basis for appealing the decision. A letter has been received from the Treasurer of the Baptist Chapel thanking us for the donation of £100 towards the cost of maintaining the graveyard. Correspondence has been received concerning the Localism Bill. This represents the most radical shift in planning legislation in over 60 years. Parish Councils will have the right to produce Neighbourhood Plans which will shape development of the Village at the parish level. SALC are in the process of providing guidance which will be provided to us in due course.

**13. Any other business** – There was none

**15. Date of next meeting** – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011.