

# OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**Present:**

Clerk: Mr Treloar  
Chairman: Mr Smith  
Councillors: Mr Jay, Mr Cant, Mr A Ling, Mr Moss, Mrs Lincoln & District & County Councillor Mr Bellfield.

**1. Apologies -** Mr R Ling, Mr Childs, Mrs Vaughan & PC Dave Burrell.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 -** Approved and signed.

**3. Matters arising- Highways** – Roundels on the Crettingham Road to be requested. The Clerk has been advised of the names of three people willing to spread grit in icy weather. These are Mr Taylor-Balls, Mr Bassett (both Ipswich Road) and Mr Sunnaway (Village store). They are covered under the District Council's liability insurance scheme. If there are any other volunteers, then please advise the Clerk.

**4. Finance -**

Community Account	£ 878.71
Instant Saver Account	£ 7,859.19

Payments requested:- Clerks salary – June – September	£208.50
Printer cartridge	£ 12.99

Both payments proposed by Mr A ling and seconded by Mrs Lincoln.

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

➤ 1 Rosemary Cottage – Ashbocking Extension

**Approvals -**

➤ 22 Newlands Conservatory  
➤ Otley Primary School Retention of pre-fab building  
➤ Otley Hall Barn extension

A decision on the Burcote appeal is still awaited.

**6. Highways** Concern was expressed about parking on Chapel Road on the opposite side to the Village Stores. This is a safety concern because of the proximity to the junction. The Clerk is to write to Highways and request double yellow lines. This was the subject of an earlier application that was declined because of an inability for it to be policed.

**7. Rights of Way** – The footpath map “Walks around Otley” has been prepared and a quote has been received from Gipping Press for printing 250 copies at a cost of £110.55 ex VAT. This will give a cost per item of 44p. The Clerk has been requested to arrange publication and the guides will be on sale at 50p each.

**8. District & County Councillor's report** – Mr Bellfield reiterated the savings the County Council are to make over the next 3 years. This results from a reduction in Government grant of 28% or £110m out of a budget of £600m (excluding education). The Council are to find savings of £40m in the first year with the balance being spread over the two subsequent years. In reality the major savings that will arise from changed procedures under the new “Strategic Direction”, will not come into effect until year two and three, which means that cuts to services will have to be implemented in year one. At this stage the only cut that has been announced is the closure of the Bury Road Park & Ride, which will save between £150 - £200,000 per year. Other services under consideration are care homes of which there are sixteen. Difficulties arise here because a number are in need of updating and may not be attractive to the private sector. Rural bus services: there is an indication that the 70 and 70a service may not run after 6.30pm and the Sunday service could be curtailed. Consideration is being given to reducing the number of manned fire engines from three to two through the use of “retained” volunteer staff. Mr Bellfield mentioned that implementing reductions to this vital service was difficult because the Suffolk Fire Service is one of the most financially efficient in

the country. A number of Youth Clubs are facing closure, particularly those that are poorly attended. Statistically only 1% of children who are entitled to attend clubs actually do so. The District Council have to make savings of £1.8m over the next four years and they plan to achieve this without dipping into their reserves. Inevitably this will involve cuts particularly to grants and a number of services and responsibilities will be passed to Town and Parish Councils, with others being taken over by the Private Sector. The District Council are looking for the larger Town and Parish Councils to take over such services as "Dial a Ride". Peter Bellfield is a member of the working party that is looking into these areas. Mention was also made of the District Councils "Core Strategy" the framework for the development of Suffolk Coastal over the next twenty years. Following the change of Central Government, there is now a degree of greater flexibility with small scale developments being allowed in the rural areas according to the needs of the individual parishes. Mr Bellfield is insistent that we should not be instructed where development takes place but rather the Council should ask where people want the new housing. To this end he personally finds it difficult to support the District Council's present development policy.

**9. Police Report** - PC Dave Burrell was unable to attend but submitted his report. There have been two offences recorded since the last report. These are a sexual assault (ongoing investigation – subject known) and criminal damage to a vehicle (detected). In comparison with the same period last year there were nine crimes.

A Community Panel Meeting was held at the College in October and one of the subjects discussed was the reduction of speeding and other traffic related issues around Otley College and Charity Lane. The next meeting will be held at the Shire Hall, Woodbridge and we are asked to advise the Police beforehand, if there are any community issues that we would like raised.

The Mobile Police Station will visit Otley (Village Hall Car Park) on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, between 1.30pm and 3pm.

**10. Community Council Report** – Mr Cant reported that the Community Council had received a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of the new entrance steps and doors. There was a design fault on the new doors which meant that extra costs were incurred.

New drains are to be installed along the bottom of the play area.

The firework display was well attended and raised a profit of £575. It has been decided that the Entertainments Committee will concentrate their future efforts on the firework display and annual dinner. This is a reflection on the poorer attendance at a number of the other functions.

**11. SORR** – There has been no meeting but Mr Smith advised that the Bentwaters Park application had been withdrawn by the developers in the light of strong objections from the local community. This reflects the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation that pre consultation with the local community should be undertaken before plans are submitted.

The Chairman of SORR is leaving and they are looking for a replacement.

**12. Correspondence** – Trading Standards SCC, have advised the establishment of a new consumer protection network. The intention is to highlight scams and rogue traders. Apart from looking for local involvement through volunteers, we will be given the opportunity to sign up and receive email alerts about the latest scams and news.

Parish Council Elections are to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, next year and we have been advised that the approximate cost of holding a contested election will be £650.

The Scrutiny Committee have completed their review of the District Planning Service and will review the effectiveness of improvements over the next eight months. We are asked to provide comment on evident improvements, or the reverse by, May next year.

The Disability Advice Service has written thanking the Council for the donation of £121.

**13. Any other business** – Mr Moss has spoken with the Housing Association re the possible development of the Chapel Road property for Affordable Housing. They are to phone the Clerk to convey their views.

**15. Date of next meeting** – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011. A list of meetings in 2011 has been agreed and published.