

OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th June 2011

Present:

Clerk: Mrs Osborne

Chairman: Mr Smith

Councillors: Mr R Ling, Mr A Ling, Mr Childs, Mr D Hook, Mrs Grant,
District & County Councillor Mr Bellfield, & 17 members of the public.

1. Apologies - Mrs Lincoln, Mrs Vaughan, Mr Cant & PSCO Chatten-Berry

2. Minutes of meeting held on 11th May 2011 - Approved and signed (proposed by R Ling, seconded by B Childs).

3. Matters arising- Housing Needs Survey – The Clerk to chase Flagship Housing regarding the build of 3 units on the site in Chapel Road. Speeding – the Clerk to continue to check with WSNT that speeding checks are still being conducted on a regular basis, having been informed that PC Gilmore is arranging regular speed enforcement days in Otley.

4. Finance -

Community Account	£ 211.86
Instant Saver Account	£ 8,711.09

Payment requested:- Heelis & Lodge (Internal Audit) £35.00

(Payment proposed by A Ling & seconded by R Ling)

The audit plan was approved by the council and takes account of the Councils risks and responsibilities. The audit report was discussed and recommendations by Heelis & Lodge regarding Fidelity Cover will be reviewed at the renewal date end September.

The Parish Council initially offered £500 to the Otley Church Preservation Trust towards the cost of refurbishing the church clock. A letter was received from Mr N Crowley, churchwarden, asking the Parish Council to increase this offer to £1000 to enable essential work to proceed.

(increased payment proposed by R Ling & seconded by B Childs).

It was felt a small crystal gift for the previous treasurer and 2 councillors, who have all served for a considerable time, be given in gratitude for their work on the Parish Council.

(proposed £150 spend across 3 gifts by S Grant & seconded by A Ling).

5. Planning Applications -

Applications –

- Wood Farm Helmingham Road Change of Use – Barn to office/display/kitchen area
(Mr Hook declared an interest)
- 1 North Cottages Ipswich Road Erection of Orangery

Approvals –

- Hall Farm Cottage Chapel Road Single Storey Rear Extension

6. Highways – Re-surfacing works between Ipswich Road and B1077 due 14/15th June. Road closure Market Hill, Clopton with the diversion along Charity Lane to Otley Bottom for 5 days between 1st-29th July.

Mr R Ling to confirm pothole at the junction of Ipswich Road & Thomsons Lane.

Mr Hook raised concerns regarding speeding within the village and would like to work with the County Council to implement permanent speed indicator displays within the village.

7. Rights of Way – Robert Carlton has undertaken the first footpath cuts. Phil Quinnan will be cutting footpath 30 (high house to B1078). Invoice from R Carlton will be submitted after second cut later in the year.

Direction sign on Ipswich road, opposite Wood Farm indicating a stile footpath is leaning and needs reporting.

8. District & County Councillor's report – Mr Bellfield reported on the new County Council cabinet that has now been set up, and the quality of which he feels has improved. There was no further information to report regarding complaints against the Chief Executive other than the expense claims which need further investigation. Mr Bellfield reported that SCC has found £10m to support broadband over the next 3 years and offered his assistance with any planning meetings that might arise with regards to the community wind turbine project.

Mr Bellfield has a locality grant and is willing to fund, to a reasonable degree, village gates along Helmingham Road and Cretingham Road to support the Parish Council in road safety and speed management within the village.

9. Police Report – PCSO Chatten-Berry having tendered her apologies, sent through a report. There have been 8 reported crimes committed since 1st May – 12th June (in comparison to Wickham Market 6 and Clopton 7). The SNT carried out speed checks in Otley on 17th May between 9.29-10.19am and 3 offences were issued a fixed penalty notice. As the price of heating oil rises so theft of it also rises and the police would like to raise awareness to oil tank owners to discourage passing thieves. They are also asking people to keep vigilant with rogue traders knocking on the door to offer a service regarding digital switch over. They have asked the Parish Council to remind anyone who is vulnerable in the area to check callers ID and call 999 if they feel it is suspicious. The Mobile Police Station is next in Otley on 27th July 1.30-3pm. The Community Panel Meeting held in May focussed on problems in Rendlesham, Woodbridge and anti social behaviour in Wickham Market. The next meeting will be on 10th August 7pm at Rock Barracks, Sutton Heath. The WSNT have Otley's summer fete in their diary.

One member of the public, who had been the target of burglary, felt the police response time was not good enough, since it had taken 2 hours to respond to their call.

10. Community Council Report – Mr Taylor, having tendered his apologies, sent a report. The Community Council are currently doing some drainage work behind the bottle bank and once completed hope to install some more play equipment for under 8's. The Village Fete is the next fund raising event on Saturday 2nd July and they are looking for volunteers to help with the event and also help with the running of the village hall.

R Ling has been involved in advising on the drainage work and recommended burying old pipes and covering with stones, since old tin cans were found in outlet pipes.

11. Correspondence – A letter was received from SCDC and Waveney DC regarding the celebrations for the Olympic torch relay visiting Ipswich 5th July 2012, asking for nominations of local people to become torch bearers via the 'moment to shine' campaign.

An email was received from Dan Wheals, East of England Community Environmental Action Advisor, regarding a new fund aimed at communities that support projects about climate change and carbon reduction. Mr Tony Barrett, OtleyGreen, advised he had also received a copy of the letter.

12. Any Other Business - Wind Turbine - Mr M Smith reported on the collection of questionnaires and results.

74% of surveys distributed were collected. Of the 206 surveys collected 68% were in favour of a community wind turbine, 31% against and 6% not concerned. As some questionnaires collected contained only ticked boxes and others had numbers, including primary school age children or less, only votes per household were recorded, except where there was split voting within the household.

65% of collected questionnaires voted in favour of Otley College as the preferred site and 48% of collected questionnaires voted in favour of more wind turbines.

The Parish Council felt that the leaflet distributed by OtleyGreen, without Parish Council knowledge, just prior to the questionnaire going out may have affected the vote. Feedback received from some residents was they thought the Parish Council worked jointly with OtleyGreen to produce the leaflet.

Mr R Ling felt strongly that only benefits have been provided on the wind turbine questionnaire and within the leaflet produced by OtleyGreen. He felt the main disadvantage to a community wind turbine was the effect on the tourism industry. He believed that the £6k FIT paid by energy companies would ultimately be subsidised by the general public via rising energy bills. His biggest concern was should the Parish Council support the planning application for a community wind turbine there may be difficulty opposing any future applications. There is also no information regarding the grant aiding body or conditions contained therein so the Parish Council may be accepting any conditions by default which would be unacceptable. Mr Ling proposed that Otley Parish Council will not oppose a planning application for the erection of a community wind turbine at Otley College, but will oppose any further planning applications for wind turbines in the parish of Otley.

Mr Childs agreed with Mr Ling's comments regarding information contained with the leaflet and had also received comments from residents who believed the Parish Council supported the OtleyGreen leaflet. Mr Childs had received an apology from Mr C Dix, OtleyGreen, about not giving prior notice on the distribution of the leaflet. Mr Childs felt there was a division in the village regarding the community wind turbine and whilst previous projects by OtleyGreen have united the village he felt the Parish Council could not support this project because of the division. Mr Childs proposed an amendment that the Parish Council should not support any wind turbine within the parish of Otley and that a letter should go to OtleyGreen regarding the division and welfare of the village when the project seems to be driven on a financial basis.

The Parish Councillors agreed that the community wind turbine project is dividing the village and that the Parish Council should not support the project.

The meeting closed temporarily at 20.06.

OtleyGreen were asked to respond to the above comments.

OtleyGreen distributed the pamphlet as they felt it necessary to send out unbiased information to residents to dispel the mis-information they had heard within the village. OtleyGreen were disappointed that the Parish Council had not taken into consideration the village vote and overwhelming support of residents towards the community wind turbine project. It was pointed out that the community wind turbine would raise a significant amount of fundraising that could be ploughed back into the village, which could only be beneficial.

Without the Parish Council support OtleyGreen will not be able to pursue the Otley College site as it would be more difficult to obtain funding grants. OtleyGreen felt that even without financial gain the village would receive from the project, the community wind turbine is environmentally friendly.

Members of the public felt very strongly that the output from the community wind turbine was not significant enough in comparison to the significant impact it would have on village unity. Denmark was cited as a country with a large number of wind turbines which have now blighted the countryside affecting tourism and whilst they produce 16% of the electricity in the grid the country has high electricity charges to help offset government subsidies.

There was also strong public opinion that information provided to residents was one sided in favour of a community wind turbine.

The meeting re-opened at 20.21.

Mr M Smith had noted a lot of recent publicity on wind turbines and whether they are the future route to take. He also pointed out that on a technical point wind turbines were only efficient at a certain wind speed.

The proposal by Mr R Ling that Otley Parish Council will not oppose a planning application for a wind turbine at Otley College but will oppose any further planning applications was seconded by Mr D Hook.

The amendments proposed by Mr B Childs that the Parish Council has a duty of care to the spirit of community and that Otley Parish Council will oppose all planning applications for wind turbines in the Parish of Otley was seconded by Mrs S Grant.

The Parish Council voted unanimously and will not support any application for a wind turbine in the parish of Otley. This vote was based on the spirit of the community rather than the survey results.

13. Any other business –

The Parish Council has a metal filing cabinet available to anyone who wishes to collect it from Mr R Treloar.

14. Date of next meeting – Monday 4th July at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 20.35.