

OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman Mr A Ling, Clerk Mrs Osborne, Councillor's Messrs Childs, Mr R Ling, Mrs Lincoln, Mrs Vaughan, Mr Hook and Mrs Grant. District & County Councillor Peter Bellfield, Mr J Hall, Community Council, Mrs A Lord, Mr M Liddell and 1 members of the public.

13.1 Nomination for Chairperson – Mr A Ling was proposed by Mrs J Vaughan and seconded Mrs I Lincoln.

13.2 Apologies: Mrs J Hubbard – Otley primary school, Mr I Beaumont – Otley Church Preservation Trust and WSNT PC Sally Chatten-Berry

Anthony welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Cllr Peter Bellfield on being re-elected.

13.3 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2012 – It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting, circulated to all members, be signed as a correct record. Proposed Mr R Ling and seconded Mrs S Grant.

13.4 Matters arising – there were none.

13.5 Chairman's report – Mr A Ling reported that at the last PC meeting in March two Councillors tendered their resignations; the Chairman Malcolm Smith and Geoff Cant. Both have served the PC for many years, Geoff 30 years and Malcolm just over 18 years with 12 years as Chairman and he thanked them for all of their hard work over the years. Consequently there are two vacancies to be filled. Mr Ling thanked our Parish Clerk Vanessa Osborne who again has worked hard this last year with an ever increasing amount of paper work.

We purchased and installed a new Village Sign just in time for the Jubilee celebrations in June and we entered and won SCDC Village of the Year 2012. We won £200, as the winner, and that was spent on a plaque, now fixed to the village sign post.

The PC spent a lot of time dealing with the OtleyGreen wind turbine planning application and the planning sub-committee dealt with 17 planning applications. The PC has also been included in reviewing the plans for the proposed 3rd nuclear reactor at Sizewell and the impact of associated HGV and worker parking sites in and around Woodbridge.

The PC has a new web site where you can keep up to date with what has been happening in the village. The web address is <http://www.otley.onesuffolk.net>.

We continue to monitor the state of the roads and report pot holes or edge subsidence and David Hook has led a separate committee dealing with speeding in Otley. Anthony thanked David for his work on this.

Russell Ling has continued to drive the Rights of Way committee and work parties and was thanked for his efforts over the last year. The PC continues to arrange for the cutting of the footpaths and last year managed two full cuts.

Anthony concluded by asking if there were any questions, either now or after the meeting as the Parish Council are here to reflect your local needs.

(A copy of the Chairman's full report is attached to the minutes book Appendix 1)

13.6 Presentation of draft Parish Council Accounts – Mrs Osborne reported that balances at the start of the year amounted to £6,504.68 and at the end £4,947.73. The precept remained the same at £4,000 but has been increased to £4,680.17 for the present year 2013/14. Within this increase, Otley received a grant of £180.17. SCC continue to reimburse the cost of cutting the village rural paths and we received £965.20 in this respect. £602.42 was received in respect of reclaimed VAT and £200 prize money received for winning Village of the Year.

Payments exceeded receipts by £1,556.95 with capital expenditure on the village sign, jubilee coins and a new litter bin at the playing fields. There was a 33% increase in local community grants with the addition of a new annual donation to the Royal British Legion and smaller one off grants made this year to Otley Under 5's, Alzheimers Society and the Otley Traffic Group. The Clerks salary was up 20% largely due to additional work undertaken by 2 large planning applications and the successful entry for Village of the Year. A year end reserve was budgeted at £5,276. In the end balances amount to £4947.

(A copy of the Finance Officer's full report is attached to the Minutes Appendix 2)

13.7 Otley School Report – Mrs J Vaughan read the report in Mrs Hubbard's absence. Currently we have 55 pupils on roll and maintain 3 mixed age classes.

Our staffing remains stable with the exception of a part time teacher, Mrs. Bell, a science specialist, who has been with us since September. We have a fantastic group of support staff working alongside teachers, making the whole staff in our school a cohesive team who work tremendously hard to make the learning experiences of our children positive and engaging. We continue to wait for the new primary curriculum but early indications show that there will be a certain amount of 'local curriculum'.

At the end of March we celebrated our school centenary which marked the 100th anniversary of the school being in its current location. Celebrations took place over two days and included a 1913 day where all staff and children dressed in costume of the time and we were honoured to share the launch of a book written about the original school by Mr. Lester Hawes.

Children in years 5 and 6 took part in the Farlingaye Choral Concert at the end of March and our children performed to the highest standard as usual. Pupils in classes 2 and 3 are preparing for their summer play which is called 'What a Knight'. All children are involved in assessments at the moment which will contribute to their final school report in July.

We will be starting work soon on our centenary garden which is being part funded by our PTA and sponsorship from Otley College and we are waiting for the final quotation for the refurbishment of the school toilets which ideally will be completed during the summer holidays.

Our PTA have been very supportive once again throughout the year organising various events to raise money for all the 'extras' not covered by our budget. The PTA offer practical help at many school events which is much appreciated.

The children were delighted to see the Drive at 25 posters around the village and like to be involved in village projects.

We will be losing 8 year six pupils this July when they move up to High School and we will be welcoming families of 7 pupils into our new reception class.

My time is still spent between Otley Primary and our collaborated school in Witnesham. I value my position as Headteacher of two schools both in thriving village communities.

(A copy of the Headteacher's full report is attached to the minutes Appendix 3)

13.8 District & County Councillor's report – SCC - I am pleased that the choice of Mark Bee as political leader of the council and Debora Cadman as the executive leader has proved highly successful and we were nominated for the position of the most improved council in the country.

We are again on track to achieve the savings aim for last year of £25 million and you will know for the third year running the council has announced that the council tax will remain unchanged.

All 44 of Suffolk's libraries were transferred to an Industrial and Provident Society together with the mobile, school and prison library services last August making savings of £3 million. The council has also launched an ambitious project, known as "Raising the Bar", to drive up educational standards across the county. 97.4% of the 7,427 students who applied for secondary school places for this September were offered their first choice school, well above the national average.

During the year the County transferred its existing 16 residential homes to a company called Care UK and last September it was announced that the county council would be working in partnership with BT to deliver superfast coverage to 85% of Suffolk and a guaranteed speed of at least 2 megabits per second to the whole county by 2015.

In May last year construction got underway of an energy from waste facility for Suffolk. The site will start operating at the end of 2014, diverting 252,000 tons of waste a year from environmentally damaging and expensive landfill sites.

Talks to merge Suffolk Fire Service with Cambridgeshire were terminated and other means of cooperation will be explored.

At October's Cabinet meeting it was agreed that the partnership between BT, the County and Mid-Suffolk D.C. to run back office services should not be extended or renegotiated after it ends in 2014.

It has become clear that it is necessary for the county to reorganise and re-site its records and heritage functions and we are currently investigating the options available. They include merging the three Record Office sites into either Ipswich or Stowmarket.

I have recently taken a very active interest in the three major construction sites which are likely to have a significant effect on the Carlford Division, namely Offshore One Wind farm electric cables laying, Ipswich Northern Fringe housing development and Sizewell C power station. In particular I have expressed concern about the lack of evidence that every effort is being made to minimise the adverse effect upon the inadequate highways structure.

When asked about highway repair, Cllr Bellfield informed that there had been a 40% increase in teams doing repair work. He also re-iterated that if any member of his constituency had any problems with the County Council to contact him.

SCDC – Currently being consulted by the Boundary Committee to reduce the number of councillors, therefore representing a greater number of people and aim to save costs. It would allow councillors to have more involvement with the District Council.

Cllr Bellfield emphasised that Otley should investigate and undertake a neighbourhood plan, which has to be Parish Council led, as it will become part of the local plan for statutory requirements and the local authority will have to take it into account when discussing planning applications. The LDF has taken a lot of time to agree and currently it is easier for developers to use greenfield sites. SCDC are aiming for the Government and Inspectors to have this agreed by the end of the year.

Cllr Bellfield confirmed that the Spa Pavilion has now closed; a decision by SCDC which was providing subsidies. Currently a £850k subsidy is given to leisure centres and SCDC are looking to reduce this. SCDC are also looking at alternative sites and possibilities for the Melton Hill offices, which are currently underutilised.

Cllr Bellfield was asked whether all plastic was disposed at Gt Blakenham to burn. Anything that would have gone to landfill will be burnt at Gt Blakenham. Currently this will include hard plastics.

Cllr Bellfield was thanked for his support over the year.

(A copy of Mr Bellfield's full report given at the AGM is attached to the Minutes Appendix 4)

13.9 Community Police Report – PC Debbie Howgego, having sent her apologies, submitted a report and the Chair, Mr A Ling, read to the meeting. There were 41 recorded crimes during the last year, 32 for the village and 9 under Otley College. Comparatively, Clopton had 15 reported crimes over the last year, Bredfield 9, Dallinghoo 3 and Wickham Market 83.

The 3 SNT current priorities are to increase road safety by reducing speeding through Sutton village, carry out parking enforcement in Woodbridge Town Centre and tackle anti-social behaviour in Wickham Market. The next community panel meeting is Wednesday 21st August at 7pm Eyke Village Hall.

The mobile police station has now been withdrawn and is no longer in service. Woodbridge Police Station, Grundisburgh Road is still open to the public, seven days a week 9am-5pm.

There were 5 reported incidents of ASB relating to ASB use of vehicles in the village also a suspicious vehicle and personal concerns.

WSNT has carried out regular drop in surgeries at Otley College for students and staff, attended the local youth club throughout the year and held crime reduction information events.

(A copy of the WSNT's full Police Report is attached to the minutes Appendix 5)

13.10 Otley Community Council report – James Hall thanked the pc for hiring the hall for its meetings. James also thanked Christine Gilbert for keeping the hall clean and tidy. He raised particular concerns for the Community Council at the moment as the steps at the entrance of the hall which are in need of repair. The community council intend to refurbish the kitchen by the end of the year and a £10k grant from Awards for All will go towards the kitchen. The Village fete, fireworks and dinner dance events will be repeated this year but there will not be evening event on the day of the fete. Instead, a fortnight after the fete a musical evening is being organised and bands invited to play on playing field. Hall hire charges were increased at the start of the year with no marked reduction in hall use. The balance of accounts at the end of the year amounted to £32,900. Of this reserves are in place for the roof and

kitchen. The committee is now fully staffed and they value the Parish Council contribution. James was asked whether a new roof, once completed, would house solar panels but as there are thoughts of repairing the roof rather than replacing it may not be possible.

(A copy of the Community Council's full report is attached to the Minutes Appendix 6)

13.11 Otley Church Preservation Trust report – Mrs Osborne read the report. The trust has been in existence for 18 years and has raised valuable funds for the restoration and maintenance of the church fabric. The OCPT is grateful for the ongoing stewardship that is provided by the members under the capable chairmanship of Ian Beaumont.

Money received from the Church donation box, sale of guide books, church boxes distributed to households and investment income amounted to £344.83, somewhat down on the previous year. Following last year's introduction the sale of Christmas cards raised a further £270, an increase on last year. Income from standing orders amounted to £1,605 therefore in total the Trust received income of £2,399.83. Total funds presently amount to £7,074.

Following the significant contribution to the restoration of the clock faces in the prior period, there has not been a significant call on the Trust's funds this year. However, it is anticipated that the recent installation of guards to the east and west windows will entail some limited funding from the Trust. The upcoming quinquennial inspection will undoubtedly set out a more detailed schedule of works for the coming years and the Trustees await this report with interest.

(A copy of the full report is attached to the Minutes Appendix 7)

13.12. Any other business – there was none.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and with no further matters to discuss, the meeting ended at 7.55pm

Signed _____ Date _____