

OUSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020

Councillors present: John Gale, Alan Johansen, Guy Holland Bosworth, Sylvia Pettitt, Geoff Ingham, Helyn Dudley and Chris Ridge

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk) and District Councillor Mike Chester.

Open Forum

No issues were raised during the Open Forum.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Mary Evans.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests

Guy Holland Bosworth declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda as he is the applicant. No dispensations were requested.

3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 and the planning meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed them.

4. Police issues

No issues were raised.

5. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting

There were three outstanding councillor actions.

6. Finance

a) Approval of any payments and signing of the Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- McGregor Services - Grass cutting – Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9 and 10 - **£60.00**
- Paul Leaves - materials for repairs to the phone box – GPC - **£199.50**

Sylvia Pettitt and Geoffrey Ingham signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman then countersigned it.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

- Community Heartbeat Trust - defibrillator pads – GPC - **£97.20**

c) Statement of receipts and payments (including online payments) made since the last meeting

Receipts

Date	Description	Supplier	Total
09/09/2020	Bank interest received	Lloyds Bank	£0.05

Payments

Date	Description	Supplier	Total
09/09/2020	Scribe accounting software 1/6	Starboard Systems Ltd	£69.40
09/09/2020	Hedge cutting	McGregor Services	£84.00
09/09/2020	Grass cutting	McGregor Services	£60.00
09/09/2020	Print cartridge (1/6)	Risby Parish Council	£7.90
09/09/2020	Clerk's expenses	J Kirk	£20.77
09/09/2020	Phone costs	Risby Parish Council	£24.39
10/09/2020	Insurance	Community Action Suffolk	£338.88
10/09/2020	Phone box refurbishment	Compasses Joinery	£320.00
10/09/2020	Pension payment	Risby Parish Council	£15.00
10/09/2020	Poppy wreath and donation	Royal British Legion	£40.00
30/09/2020	Clerk's salary	J Kirk	£237.12

01/10/2020	Grass cutting	McGregor Services	£60.00
06/10/2020	Defibrillator pads	Community Heartbeat Trust	£97.20
10/10/2020	Pension payment	Risby Parish Council	£15.00
12/10/2020	Website hosting fee	Community Action Suffolk	£60.00
13/10/2020	Electricity St Barnabas	e-on	£29.68
30/10/2020	Clerk's salary	J Kirk	£237.92

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments would be approved.

d) Bank balances as of 1st November 2020 and confirmation of bank reconciliation

Lloyds Bank Current Account	£1,852.49
Lloyds Bank reserve account	£5,710.79
Total in Banks	£7,563.28

Geoffrey Ingham verified and signed the bank statements.

e) Councillor to complete the checklist of internal controls

Sylvia Pettitt and Geoffrey Ingham signed the checklist of internal controls.

f) Budget 2020/21 and budget review

Councillors discussed the first draft of the 2021/22 budget and budget report.

It was resolved that the final budget would be confirmed at the January 2021 meeting.

g) Electricity St Barnabas

The clerk has arranged a new 3-year contract with EDF which is considerably cheaper than the contract with e-on. The standing charge will be 23.25p (e-on 39.3p) and the unit charge 15.9p (e-on 23p). It was resolved that the contract would be improved.

h) Replacement consumables for the defibrillator

It was resolved that the clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman, would be authorised to order replacement consumables for the defibrillator (for example pads and battery) as and when required.

i) Review of clerk's salary following NALC's publication of new salary pay scales

The new NALC pay scale for 2020 has been published. It was resolved that the clerk would be paid the new rate for SCP 22 backdated to 1st April 2020 starting on 1st April 2021.

7. Planning

a) DC/20/1703/HH - The Old Rectory, Front Street, Ousden - (i) insertion of 3no. rooflights at first floor level of existing detached garage block (ii) insertion of glazed gable end to garage/home office

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

b) West Suffolk Council's Issues and Options consultation

Ousden is classed as a type B village in the proposed settlement hierarchy. This means that these settlements have a very limited range or no services and poor accessibility to public transport. It is likely that residents will rely on the private car to travel to meet their day to day needs. These settlements have a boundary, but no sites will be allocated through the local plan. Affordable housing on a rural exception site and entry level exception sites will be permitted outside the settlement boundary.

Wickhambrook is classed as local service centre which means it will accommodate more development, although West Suffolk Council has not specified how much yet. As Ousden is closely linked to Wickhambrook and relies on its services including the GP surgery and primary school, any increase in development there will impact on Ousden, particularly as the GP surgery is already popular and it is difficult to park.

It was resolved that councillors would submit their views about Ousden and Wickhambrook to the clerk who will collate their responses. The importance of replacing the village hall, and planning policy being flexible enough to allow a dwelling to be built to help fund the project, will also be included as the site is outside the housing settlement boundary. The final draft will be circulated to councillors for checking. It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to submit the final response to West Suffolk Council.

c) Sunnica consultation on the new solar farm in West Suffolk

It was resolved that councillors would submit their views to the clerk who will collate their responses. It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to submit the final response to Sunnica.

8. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Mary Evans had sent a written report prior to the meeting.

9. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Mike Chester sent a written report. He spoke about the following:

- The gutter sweep in Front Street was programmed to take place the first week in November.
- Covid 19 scams are becoming more prevalent.
- Retail in BSE is doing well with a new fashion company investing in Bury.
- 8% of shops are empty, but rents are going down and there is an interest amongst independent retailers in renting them.

10. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues:

a) Possibility of purchasing white gates for the entrances to the village

It was resolved that white gates would not be purchased as they are too expensive.

b) Update on the meeting with Rights of Way about the Three Villages Walk

This item was deferred until the next meeting as County Councillor Mary Evans was unable to attend.

c) Footpath leaflets

There are approximately 20 footpath leaflets left therefore some additional leaflets will need to be ordered before the spring.

11. Village issues

a) Ousden Village Hall Management Committee's sale of some land to raise funds for a new village hall.

The original conveyance for the village hall dates back 14th May 1954. The village hall and playing field were gifted to the Parish Council who now hold the legal title.

The first charity scheme was set up in 1965 when the Village Hall Foundation was created. The Parish Council became the Custodian Trustee and the legal title remained with the Parish council. The VHMC is unincorporated which is why the Parish Council holds the deeds.

Suffolk County Council wants reassurance that the VHMC is not going to misuse the money from the sale. Any extra money raised when the land is sold will have to be ring-fenced for the VH project via a S106 agreement.

The Parish Council will have to be part of the conveyance when someone buys the land and will need to sign the documents. It was resolved that the clerk and Chairman would sign the documents as and when required.

12. Correspondence

a) Local Government Boundary Commission for England review of Suffolk County Council boundaries.

It was resolved that no response would be submitted.

b) Email from Headway requesting a donation

It was resolved that no donation would be made.

13. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda

No further issues were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed (Chairman) Dated