

**OUSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021**

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

**Also present:** Joanne Kirk (Clerk), County Councillor Mary Evans 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 Sylvia Pettitt and the reason for absences accepted.

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

No councillors declared an interest in items on the agenda. No dispensations were requested.

**3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

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

**4. County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor Mary Evans had sent a written report prior to the meeting. She spoke about the following:

- APNR will continue at Household Waste Recycling Facilities along with online booking.
- Adult learning courses will continue online after lockdown as they have been successful.
- Ten ANPR vehicle activated signs have been purchased by Suffolk County Council to use in rural areas. The aim will be to target repeat offenders and people caught driving excessively at times when the Police are unable to carry out speed checks.

The drains along Front Street have been jetted out. Councillors reported that the culvert near Hall Farm blocks regularly and probably needs to be jetted out every year. The contractor recommended putting in a larger pipe. Mary Evans asked councillors to send photographs of the blocked pipe.

Councillors asked Mary Evans to follow up about VAS post which still hasn't been installed.

**5. District Councillor's Report**

District Councillor Mike Chester sent a written report prior to the meeting.

**6. Police issues**

A large sit on lawn mower was stolen from Baxter's Green in late December.

Suffolk Police has been notified by Trading Standards of a COVID 19 scam.

A fake text message is circulating purporting to be from the NHS offering the Covid-19 Vaccine. The link takes you to a fake NHS website which requests personal and financial details. The Covid 19 vaccine is free and the NHS will NOT ask for financial details for the vaccination.

Suffolk Police is currently undertaking a survey about the possibility of raising the policing element of the council tax precept for the next financial year to enable police numbers to be increased.

**7. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting**

There was one outstanding councillor actions.

Article for the newsletter – how to create a wildlife area	SP
--	----

**Actions to be completed in the spring:**

Clearing lichen from the circular oak bench in the spring	GI
Painting the circular oak bench in the spring	JG
Replace the slats on the circular bench – two need replacing	JG
Clean village sign in the spring	JG

These items will be deferred until after the lockdown.

## 8. Finance

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

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- Risby Parish Council – 1/6 of cost of document shredding – LGA 1972, s111 - **£6.67**

Geoffrey Ingham agreed to sign the Schedule of Payments after lockdown. The Chairman agreed to countersign it after lockdown.

### b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

No payments were authorised between meetings.

### c) Statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting

#### Receipts

Bank interest	£0.05
---------------	-------

#### Payments

McGregor Services - grass cutting	£60.00
Mr A P Leeves - phone box refurbishment	£199.50
E-on - electricity St Barnabas - final payment	£11.92
EDF - electricity St Barnabas - first payment	£8.00
Staff costs	£504.24

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

### d) Bank balances and confirmation of bank reconciliation as of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Lloyds Bank Current Account	£1,057.55
Lloyds Bank reserve account	£5,710.89
<b>Total in Banks</b>	<b>£6,768.44</b>

Geoffrey Ingham agreed to verify and sign the bank statements after lockdown.

### e) Councillor to complete the checklist of internal controls

Geoffrey Ingham agreed to sign the checklist of internal controls after lockdown.

### f) Approval of the 2021/22 budget and precept request

It was resolved that:

- The 2021/22 budget would be approved
- The precept request will be £8,347. The parish council element for a band D household will be £67.86 per annum an increase from £67.35 which equates to £0.51 per annum per band D household, an increase of 0.76%. The clerk and Chairman agreed to sign the Parish Estimates form after the meeting.
- All budgeted amounts which have not been spent by the end of the financial year will be transferred into the Council's earmarked reserves.

## 9. Planning

### a) DC/20/2205/HH - Canon's Lodge, Bury Road, Ousden - first floor extension with three dormers to front elevation and one dormer to rear elevation

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

### b) Suffolk County Council's Street Design Guide consultation which runs until 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/Suffolk-Design-Streets-Guide-R-compressed.pdf>

It was resolved that no response would be submitted.

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

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

John Gale discussed the problem of damage to the byways in Ousden with Rights of Way Officer James Pickerin. Suffolk County Council will be providing more permanent signs at some point. He also said he would

talk to the landowner about the section of the Three Villages Walk near Copley Grove where the path is impassable. The clerk agreed to contact James Pickerin for an update.

**b) Footpath leaflets**

It was resolved that Ousden Parish Council would share the cost of 2,000 leaflets with Lidgate and Dalham Parish Council. The cost for 2,000 leaflets is £345.

**c) Concerns raised by a resident about the blind bend by the pub near Pound Green.**

The Parish Council has been contacted by a resident who has raised concerns about the junction at Pound Green. Vehicles turning out of Dunstall Green Road into Front Street cannot see vehicles approaching from either direction with no visibility at all for vehicles coming past the Fox Inn. Some cars avoid this junction by going round the other side of Pound Green, but larger vehicles cannot do this as they are unable to get a wide enough swing. It was resolved that the clerk would contact County Councillor Mary Evans to find out if anything can be done to improve the safety of the junction. One possible suggestion would be to make the Green round to give larger vehicles more space to turn.

**d) Quiet Lanes Project**

Helyn Dudley updated councillors. The project is quite involved and there will be costs involved to provide the required signage. Ousden Parish Council will need to submit draft costings for signage by February 2021. John Gale, Alan Johansen and Guy Holland Bosworth agreed to help walk the routes to locate possible places to put signs. The clerk agreed to give admin support when needed.

**11. Review of the Council's grass cutting contract**

It was resolved that the current contract with McGregor Services would be renewed for a further three years as the Parish Council is very happy with the service he provides and has had positive feedback from residents.

**12. Village issues**

No issues were raised.

**13. Correspondence**

**a) Email from the Office for National Statistics about the 2021 census and asking for help circulating Census information and volunteers and venues where support can be available to those in the community who need help to complete the Census.**

It was resolved that information about the Census would be included in the newsletter with a request for volunteers if the Covid situation improves.

**b) Email from The Sicon Foundation about tree planting in communities**

John Gale agreed to speak to the Village Hall Committee about the scheme.

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

The following item will be included on the next agenda:

- Lorry traffic through the village
- Possibility of carrying out a village wildlife project

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm**

Signed ..... (Chairman) Dated .....