

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9
DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

Present: Cllrs Copping (Chair), Nutman, Boulter, Roberts, Corker and Crissell.

In attendance: Mrs Fuller Acting Clerk, County Cllr Otton (in part) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.

2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting 11 November 2024

The minutes were approved and signed.

3a. To receive members Declarations of Interest on agenda items. There were none.

3b. To consider any dispensation requests from councillors. There were none.

4. Public comment.

Mr Taylor asked Cllrs to consider having an Elfin Oak Tree project in the Paupers Graves area. This will be an agenda item at the January meeting. Resident raised problems of dog poo along Forest Road, an item will be published in OHSMag again.

5. Report from County Cllr Otton.

Forest Road Footpath following an on-line meeting with Julia Proctor and Cllr Paul West cabinet member, Julia promised to have an update report ready for the December meeting.

The SHELF (Sport Health Education Leisure) details of the plans for the health and wellbeing site at Chilton fields including the details of the CIL bid have been sent.

Suffolk Libraries as yet there is no decision on the new contract

Free Health Checks details have been sent to Clerks.

Devolution council leaders are discussing possible change to Suffolk local government in line with current government, including abolishing of districts and boroughs and creating new unitary authorities and a directly elected mayor. There is still much to be decided.

Potholes Forest Road and notification Cllr Otton has asked why no notice given and why the wrong address for Finborough Road work.

Photograph Competition Cllr Otton was honoured to be asked to judge, with John Matthissen; this was really hard as they were all extremely good so well done to all who entered.

Loft Insulation Offer for Suffolk Residents: For the second year running, Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders are providing funding to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills by providing discounted loft insulation - The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

More Home Energy Efficiency Schemes: The council's new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake home energy efficiency upgrades that was mentioned in last month's parish report is now active. Efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest.

A Suffolk Retrofit Assessment Voucher Scheme is also launching, funded by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, whereby homeowners in Suffolk will be able to apply for a voucher that covers the cost of a professional retrofit assessment on their home property. Residents who own a home with an EPC band of below C can take up the offer of a voucher to claim an assessment from a PAS 2035 Retrofit Assessor who will identify the best measures for their home, for example insulation, draft proofing, ventilation repairs, low carbon heating or solar

panels. The assessment report will also incorporate analysis of the cost vs benefit of implementing the suggested improvements. The assessment is free for those with properties smaller than 98m², with a maximum additional charge of £30 for larger properties.

Council Budget Consultation: Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation prior to decisions on the budget for the next financial year, 2025-26, which are due to be made in the next few months. This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to share their views on proposed Council Tax changes and spending priorities, as well as giving information on how the council manages its finances, the cost-saving measures already in place, and how the council might generate more money to support essential services. The council can increase its budget in two main ways: by receiving more funding from the government or by increasing Council Tax. The survey asks residents which council services they use and to indicate which council services they consider most important to them. The consultation will close on Monday 16 December and results of the consultation will be included in a final report when the council sets its budget is set in February 2025.

6. Report from District Cllr Matthissen

A full council meeting took place on the 21 November, which included discussion of the council's treasury management. The Green administration also introduced a motion urging the government to rethink the decision to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance for most pensioners. After debate, this was agreed and a letter will be written to the chancellor. The three-storey, state-of-the-art innovation centre will sit at the heart of Gateway 14 – the business, innovation and logistics park that forms part of Freeport East, adjacent to Junction 50 of the A14. Planning permission has just been granted, meaning work can now begin on the delivery stage of the 35,000 sq ft building, which will include office space for high growth start-ups, collaboration and innovation spaces, training and meeting rooms, and a café. Mid Suffolk's website now has a new community funding page, which aims to make it much easier for local community groups to understand and apply for grants and funding. There are a few alterations to the recycling schedule over Christmas, including the scheme to recycle Christmas Trees. The information can be found on Mid Suffolk's website. There has been national press speculation over a change in local government structure across Suffolk and other areas. The White Paper has yet to be published, being scheduled for December. Government wants district and county councils abolished and replaced with unitary councils (with combined powers of district and county council). More information will be available in the future. Mid Suffolk council, along with their partners in Babergh council, signed up to a new campaign to stop social housing stigma. This was done in the form of a council workshop, which looked at the best methods to tackle social housing inequality and negative stereotypes associated with it across the district. Updates to Fees and Charges across the district were approved in this month's cabinet meeting and will take effect on 1 April 2025. A full list of alterations is available on the council's website – most charges are being raised by only 1.7% and some fees are coming down. Locality Budget applications are welcome from local community groups.

7. Planning Matters

a)To discuss and make recommendation to MSDC on any applications received prior to this meeting.

The Chair advised that an application was received for which the date for comments has passed so will be left to MSDC officer to decide.

b)To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

There were none.

8. Finances

To approve payment of the following invoices:

- a) £372.45 HMRC Tax & N/I overdue from July/August
- b) £411.00 Gipping Press December OHSMag
- c) £193.84 C Smith reimbursement for Little Owls Baby and Toddler Group equipment
- d) £75.00 hire of OHS Community Centre for 2024 Oktoberfest
- e) £144.90 Clerk November payroll

Items a) – e) and i) – k) were approved and payments authorised

f) To receive monthly financial report from the Clerk

Due to the resignation of the Clerk, there is no report

g) To discuss and approve the precept to be raised for 2025/26

Cllrs reviewed all items of the budget preparation sheet and made for provision of additional funds for insurance and legal fees if OPC leases the playing field and included £1710.20 to start a reserve for new play equipment. This would increase the precept to £27,000.00 which would be a 2.01% increase on a Band D property which equates to an addition 99p for the year. The precept will be approved at the January meeting.

i) £136.84 Mrs Cross Editing December OHSMag

j) £250.00 Stowmarket Concert Bank Oktoberfest

k) £830.16 Tuckwells services of Pauper's Graves equipment

9. Agree transfer of funds from Unity Trust Instant account to Unity Trust current account to maintain rolling balance of £2000 after each month's payments submitted.

It was unanimously agreed to keep a balance of approx. £2000.00 in the current account.

10. To consider a request for grants to Little Owls Baby and Toddler Group

a) hire of hall £285.00 covering January to March from current budget and £855.00 covering April to December from 2025/26 budget

It was resolved to fund £285.00 from Local Organisations reserve and £855.00 will be included in the precept for 2025/6.

b) purchase of 2 children's tables, three quotes provided to clerk

It was resolved to purchase the tables from Office Boffins for £100.95 + VAT each.

11. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves and take any necessary action.

Digging has taken place to improve water flow and therefore the footpaths should be less soggy in the winter. The monument is cleaned every two weeks. Everything is looking tidy. There has been much interest from the public in the infirmary. 75 attended the talk and presentation on The Pauper's Graves.

12. To discuss development of land around the parish and take any necessary action.

There has been no action on Onehouse Meadow as MSDC has been concentrating on other areas of the SHELF project which is disappointing. There is no progress on the Forest Road to Chilton Leys footpath. It is understood the bore of the pipe has been changed and therefore everything needs to be recosted.

13. To discuss OHSMag, Onehouse website and Facebook page and take any necessary action.

OHSMag – A Burn's Night (being called Scotch Mist due to the date) is being organised and profits will go into the OHSMag pot.

Website – nothing to report

Facebook – has over 400 followers

14. To receive **correspondence/communications** and to deal with any matters.
Two trees have blown down in the Pauper's Graves during recent storms. These will be dealt with during the pollarding work. All correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs.

15. To receive reports

a) Report from the Clerk – due to the resignation of the Clerk, no report was received.

16. Questions to the Chairman

The Parish survey reports, what is the current situation. We are waiting for further information from District Cllr Matthissen as this has all changed since the general election.

17. Items for next agenda

Elfin Oak Tree, approve the precept for 2025/6.

18. To confirm date and time of the next meeting as Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30 p.m. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....