

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 30 APRIL 2007
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH ROOM.

Present: Mr R Raisey – Vice-Chairman Onehouse Parish Council
Mrs P Fuller - Clerk to the Council
County Cllr Sida-Lockett
11 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

These were received from Mr M Chase, Mrs M Ellam and Mr D Ames.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 May 2006.

It was proposed, seconded and carried to approve the minutes.

3. To receive the audited parish accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2006

The Clerk presented the accounts of the Parish Council audited by Lubbock Fine. During the year a precept of £9,674.00 was raised. Donations were given to Optua, Suffolk Carers, Woodlands Pre-School, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau and East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The balance of the Income and Expenditure Account as at 31 March 2006 is £6,689.63. Funds held in earmarked reserves total £8,638.13.

4. Parish Council Report – Mr R Raisey

It's been a busy year for the Parish Council, in June 2006 Charmaine Moore was co-opted to fill the remaining vacancy, bringing us up to our full compliment. This was short lived however, as Sally Turner resigned in July and it was not until October that Nicky Turner expressed an interest and was duly co-opted. With all the co-options we were unable to press ahead with our aim to get Quality Parish Council Status, which will be vital in the future when more power devolves down to what is the lowest tier of local government. It was therefore particularly pleasing that all 7 councillors stood for re-election when nominations closed in early April. As there were no other nominations an election will not be necessary this coming Thursday.

Parish Plan – The Plan has been so well received in the Parish that it was felt necessary to start work immediately on the high and medium action points. We met with Suffolk County Council's Safety Engineer and our County Councillor and achieved an extension to the 30 mph speed limit in Union Road and better signage in Lower Road. SCC would not introduce 40 mph speed limit further along Finborough Road nor extend the 30 mph along the rest of Union road due to the low level of housing along there.

We are working towards securing junction protection markings – yellow lines – on the estate and this work should be carried out by SCC in this financial year.

We are also working with the Police on inconsiderate parking issues. A number of councillors met with the new Community Police Officer Andrew Catton and walked around the village looking at congested areas. It is all too easy just to issue tickets, we need to look at potential solutions as this estate was built when most households only had one car. To that end we are looking at the removal of the amenity area – grass verge- at the junction of Ash Road and Northfield Road to allow more room for passing. Any other suggestions will be considered.

We introduced weekend surgeries where parishioners could come along with any concerns but these were poorly attended – does this mean that people are happy with what they read in OHSMag?

Paupers Graves – A lot of work has been done by a small but very dedicated band of people and I would like to thank them for all their efforts. An information board has been purchased as well as a wooden bench and these will soon be installed. I strongly recommend that you take a look at what has been done.

A wooden bench has been purchased for the centre of the village, near the sign and a picnic table also for the playing field. These should be erected soon.

School Organisation Review – The Parish Council wrote to our County Councillor voting against the change as it was felt that the disruption for children currently outweighed any gains that there might

be in the future. As you are aware SCC voted for a two tier system. We have been assured that the free bus will still run and Sue Sida-Lockett confirmed that the review should not alter this. Planning -Enforcement notices have been served on Riverside, Wash Lane and this is now subject to appeal and decision by the Inspectorate.

There have been many changes to the planning system but rest assured your Parish Council continues to request and pass comment on any planning applications that affect us.

Land bids are in and the Local Development Framework is still ongoing so watch this space.

Consultation should take place with the Parish Council this summer.

I would like to give a big thank you to Andrew Sykes, our OHSMag editor for the tremendous work he does every year and also thank Mike Chase as Chairman of the Parish Council as well as all my fellow councillors. Here's looking forward to the next four years.

5. Matters arising from the previous items on the agenda.

There were none.

6. County Councillor's Report – Mrs Sida-Lockett.

Finances – we completed 2006/7 having made the savings of £23.9m the largest total of savings ever made in one year by SCC. We removed 112 posts from SCC payroll (which is 60% of our revenue budget costs) but were able to keep the redundancies down to just 22. Regrettably we are faced with another round of significant savings in 2007/8 of £21.3m, following the budget that was set in February. The Local Government trade unions have put in a pay claim of 5% (or £1000) increase this year together with additional leave and a shorter working week. SCC has budgeted for an increase of 2% which is in line with the Chancellor's recommendations.

Council Services – In January 2007 SCC agreed to make a bid to Government to build on its partnership with six district and borough councils (not Ipswich) with a view to providing excellent and accessible services that are good value for money. The bid is called 'Pathfinder' and we will not know the Government decision until June 2007 although we are continuing to develop our Public Service Centre in Bury St Edmunds and Waveney.

Ipswich Borough Council has put in a bid to become a Unitary Council and have gone through to the 2nd stage for consultation – if they become a Unitary this would have a considerable 'knock-on' effect for SCC. SCC will be circulating a leaflet shortly notifying you of how to participate in the consultation.

We have joined forces with our colleagues in the district and borough councils to run legal services more efficiently. We now share workloads and expertise, so we need to use private legal firms less often. So far we have saved £200,000.

The County Council has been awarded 4* for performance by the Audit Commission.

There are now over 66,000 young people in Suffolk with Explore cards, an increase of more than 10,000 over the past year.

School Review – on 22 March 2007 SCC agreed to move to the 2nd stage of consultation with a preferred option of a 2-tier system of education throughout Suffolk. A detailed implementation plan will be discussed at the May Cabinet meeting. Although Mid Suffolk and Bury schools will be in phase 3, a support programme for all staff will start immediately. Local area committee will also be established for each pyramid made up of parents, governors, teachers, councillors and representation from local communities who will engage with the consultation process.

Waste management – SCC is facing escalating costs for landfill due to the Landfill Tax (just put up by £8 per tonne in the budget rather than £3 we were expecting) agreed in October to prepare an outline business case for an incineration plant as our solution.

CSD – a new system for Student Support applications was started last year in particular students were able to bring their documentation to one of seven centres and have the whole matter processed in one visit. This has proved to be very successful and we were able to process all applications on time.

Environment – SCC launched a Greenest County campaign in February 2007: Suffolk organizations need to increase the levels of energy they are sourcing from renewable sources, such as wind power and bio energy; organizations and businesses to introduce energy efficiency and water consumption reduction measures, video conferencing, green travel planning, car share schemes and business mileage reduction to reduce the environmental impact of their staff and activities;

financial support to a “Community/village for the 21st Century” which is moving towards reducing its carbon emissions; development of a green loan/grant and quality mark which will support the greenest community, schools and businesses; linking Suffolk’s landscape, wildlife and sustainable tourism to local food and drink production.

Adult services – for the second year running, our adult services (including care for elderly people and people with disabilities) have been given the top three-star rating by government inspectors. More people need our help each year and we have had to make a lot of changes to keep services running and meet growing demand. Despite this, inspectors said our services have significantly improved in the last two years.

Major work – We have carried out major building work throughout the county including the new South Lowestoft Relief Road; a £1 m refurbishment of Felixstowe Library; new or replacement schools in Ipswich, Stowmarket and Rendlesham; two new very-sheltered housing schemes; 12 new children’s centres, which provide advice and support to parents and children.

Locality Funds – I have used my locality funds of £9,500 this year to fund projects in Onehouse, Buxhall, Rattlesden, Harleston, Drinkstone and Thurston. The current balance of £1,649 which has been earmarked for a project this coming financial year.

Councillor Sida-Lockett answered questions on the Haughley Bends improvements and Ipswich Unitary bid. Locality budget remains £9,500 for 2007/8.

7. District Councillor’s Report – Mr B Laker.

Nothing has been received.

8. To receive reports from Local Organisations.

OHS Youth Club

We are now in our fourth year and still going strong, with around 25 youngsters plus guests regularly attending the weekly sessions. The youth club is open to all children aged 8 years and over, who live in Onehouse or surrounding areas, every Thursday evening during term time 7-9 pm. Membership is £3 annually and subs are £1 per session, this covers hall hire, insurances and other running costs. All profits from this and the tuck shop go into the youth club bank account, which is building up steadily to almost £1,500.

We have a committee meeting soon as some of our older members have now outgrown the youth club, we need to elect new committee members and discuss other issues that have arisen.

As a result of the Parish Plan and having regular contact with the youngsters I know there is a need to provide more youth based activities within the village.

The youth club has taken on the role of a steering group for a project to add to the equipment on the playing field, which will be suitable for older children. Although this is in the very early stages, the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee has given their approval to the idea and the children are keen to be involved. Estimates so far have been around £50,000 and to get grants the youngsters have to be involved at all stage, so we have formed a youth committee, whose members have designed a type of area they would like to see, this included a wheeled play park suitable for bikes, rollerblades, skateboards, remote controls etc, a games wall and hard court for basket ball and other games, an ariel zip wire and other items, that they can decide on at another meeting. They would also like a youth shelter, which the police have advised is an excellent addition to have for a community project. I am still in the process of getting firm quotes, trawling through reams of paperwork, form filling and phone calling. We will hold a public consultation evening when we have all the relevant information and get detailed plans back.

Overall I am very pleased how the youth club is developing as this was a total unknown venture for me and I ‘m very relieved at its success. The youngsters are a vital part of our village and need to be appreciated and respected the same as any other member of our community.

A vote of thanks was given by Pauline Llewellyn to Audrey Russell-Howes for her ongoing commitment to the youth club

Jubilee Players

The Jubilee Players have gone from strength to strength in the last two years. This years pantomime ‘Mother Goose’ was a great success, we had to put on an extra night as Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were sold out, and the demand for tickets was high.

There is one problem, our wardrobe which is in John Jewer's attic has to be moved out, so we will have to find somewhere to house all our costumes etc. We need to find a shed or container possibly with electric connected.

We have about 30 members, we charge each child £1.00 and adults £5.00 per year, this covers insurance for our performers.

The biggest sadness is the loss of one of our village stars Jason Gooch who has been in our village pantomimes as the dame and the villain. He will be sadly missed.

OHS Sports and Social Club

Looking back at previous reports, really very little changes. The change of responsibility for our alcohol licence from the local magistrates to the District Council has passed off very easily. The main benefit being the reworking of our opening hours gives us far more flexibility as to when we can open within the licence terms. So it could be that we want to open the bar on a Saturday afternoon for instance, which we can now do without having to apply for a temporary licence. Also recently we helped the Management Committee to vary their licence which now allows them to sell alcohol to the public again without the need for a temporary licence. This makes the situation better all round.

The S&SC has been quiet again in organising additional events. With time constraints on the volunteers who help run the club, there is little additional time to organize other events. Having said that the bar is always available for events organised by the Management Committee or for private hall hirings.

The main activity was the New Years Eve party. Once again this proved to be very popular with two live bands and a hot & cold buffet. After expenses a small profit was made with this going to replace our old bar stools which we think were 25 year old!

Within the club we still run a small Christmas savings club for the members which continues to be used by many.

Financially we are steady although we have seen reductions in purchases and sales in our last financial year. Overall we made a small loss, mainly due to the cost of advertising for our change of licence. Without this we would have made a small profit.

Finding enough volunteers to help run the bar continues to be difficult. Over the past year we have lost quite a number, these are mainly the younger members who now have bigger commitments such as buying a house, moving away from the village and being in love. I should like to note the members sorrow at the untimely passing of Jason Gooch. Jason was a keen member of the S&SC and had been a bar volunteer until work prevented him continuing. We shall miss his larger than life presence and wit.

Table Tennis Club.

Adult Table Tennis has continued to be popular, with a good number playing on the second and fourth Thursday nights each month in the Church Room. After an invitation to play against Buxhall in October 2005, a return match took place in February 2006. Already in 2007 two more matches against Buxhall have been arranged and these were keenly contested and interspersed with abundant refreshments. Anyone who would like to come and join us would be welcome.

Onehouse Church

The year began with the Benefice facing an unusual situation, the Priest-in-Charge on Maternity Leave. As during the Interregnum, the Ministry Team, with the help of visiting clergy, kept up the normal number of services. With her DMC training completed, Arlene Cruickshanks was ordained Deacon in September. As Trudy Gray and Chris Childs are now priested, this means that our Benefice has one of the strongest Staffs in the Diocese. When Arlene is priested on 23 June 2007, we shall have four priests, two readers and five elders.

As well as the services, there is also a café style discussion group that meets once a month in the Church Room. A special 'Children's Church' for the younger generation is also held monthly, and the Men's Breakfasts have provided some stimulating sessions with visiting speakers. The open 'Books, Browse and Coffee' mornings held every Wednesday at 10.30 am in the Church Room, has become a lively fixture together with its Free Trade stall, and is deservedly popular.

One highlight last April was the Ladies Dinner, provided and cooked impeccably by a team of men and served with professional panache in the Church Room on a beautiful spring evening. The Guest Speaker was the Revd Daniel Couzens, a well known painter, whose talk 'A portrait of life' was illustrated with some of his landscapes and flower paintings. Derek Ames, one of the

organizers, has also completed his course in Evangelism, besides taking part in mission work for churches in the Roding Valley for two weeks, and fund raising for Michael Green's work for the Church Mission Society in Jordan where he cares for sick children.

St John's also supports Faidah Menza, a Kenyan girl, and pays for her education. Money is also raised for the Children's Society and Christian Aid. One way and another, the church remains very active in the service of the community to which it belongs.

Footpath Warden

I have walked most of the footpaths during the past year. Most of them seem to be in an acceptable condition, although during the wet period in January/February a few of them were very sloppy and slippery.

I am concerned about the footpaths in Onehouse Woods as with all the tree felling and other work going on there the footpath areas seem to have been rather neglected. They could do with a lot of wood chippings spread over them.

The fence and gate have been knocked down on the footpath going from Lower Road up past the lakes at Onehouse Hall and has been like this for at least two years.

The Hogweed behind Chilton Meadows Nursing Home is growing rather large again and will need to be sorted out by Suffolk County Council as the owners of the land refuse to take responsibility for it.

Due to the very wet winter this year the footpath at the corner by the Paupers Graves was very slippery and people are walking on the field.

Tree Warden

As I have walked the footpaths I look at the trees around the village and there seems to be no problems.

OHS Community Hall and Playing Field Trust

Following a meeting at the community hall in November, ten Trust members were nominated and elected to provide a team of people that will guide the running of the community hall and playing field throughout 2007. In addition, a further twenty people offered their support with running community groups, fund raising, and supporting the annual fete due to be held 22 July 2007. I (Bill Wood) felt honoured to be elected Chairman of the Trust shortly before Christmas. I wish to offer my thanks to so many people who have worked for and supported the Community Hall and Playing Field Trust over so many years.

Since Christmas, I have been reviewing the documentation produced by the Trust through discussions with the Charity Commissioners, (who support the work of the Trust). They have kindly provided extensive literature detailing how the Trust should be functioning in the light of much legislation that has been passed by parliament in recent years. This has required me to take professional advice and guidance on how the Trust will operate. I hope to develop the role of the Trust in supporting and enhancing the quality of life for all of us.

Since Easter, finance for the Playgroup has been secured, and work is in progress to enhance facilities for young people on the playing field.

Local History Group

The group continues to meet on a monthly basis throughout most of the year. Sadly we have lost a number of regular attenders by death and these, of course, were extremely valuable for their personal memories. There is quite an amount of written and recorded reminiscences but more work needs to be carried out with the more senior members of our parishes.

Last year we looked more closely at the history of Onehouse, Harleston and Shelland as presented by their own residents. During the summer we worked hard to record marked graves in Onehouse churchyard, mainly in an effort to try and locate possible burials where a grave is unmarked. Since 1813 there have been over 530 burials; many would have been in the original part of the churchyard, but quite a surprising number in the extension which was finally acquired around 1919. Some meetings do act as a great draw and this is particularly so when Geoff Clarke and the film archives – just as well because the cost is nearly £100 but well worth it! It is therefore with great appreciation we wish to thank the Parish Council for funding two private evening visits to the Records Office at Ipswich, a success not only for us but also for the Office staff who were extremely complementary about the visit.

In the coming year we will be looking again at very local history. By being frugal we can afford one or maybe two visiting speakers during any year, our other major expenses being hall hire and insurance – now with British Association for Local History.

Local History Recorder

As reported in previous years, this is still being carried out by reference to the approved Minutes of the Parish Council and copies of the monthly OHSMag – again, input by the Parish Council which is vitally important.

OHS Women's Guild

The OHS Women's guild is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

We currently have 23 paid up members. Over the past year the group has taken part in a variety of activities including running the refreshment tent for Onehouse Village Fete.

Some of the events we have enjoyed have been a visit to the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds and the Tourist Information Centre in Stowmarket. We had a treasure hunt ending with supper at the Retreat in Stowupland. We have had a variety of talks including – the Salvation Army, RNLI, Lindesfarne, Abbots Hall, a talk on gardening and propagation, St Elizabeth Hospice and the Stowmarket Operatic and Dramatic Society.

We have had a visit from Mr & Mrs Pearson from the Samaritans Purse and made shoe boxes which were sent to needy children throughout the world. We have had a go at making jewellery and had a very lively beetle drive in the Church Room. Several of our meetings have been open evenings and these have been very well attended.

We all enjoy eating and had our Harvest Supper here in the Church Room prepared by the committee members. A visit from the Pampered Chef gave us lots to eat at the end of the meeting. We had a garden meeting and supper in July and a Christmas Party and supper in December. The annual dinner was spent at the Trowel and Hammer in Cotton.

The coming year has an equally varied programme and we are still at present meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month usually in the Church Room at 8.00 pm.

Our only disappointment is that in a village the size of Onehouse we seem unable to attract new members, however we do keep trying. You don't have to be a member to come along and give us a try, just turn up and pay £2.00 for the evening, we are a non-denominational group and welcome all but would especially welcome younger members.

OHS Over Sixties Club

2006/7 has been a good year for the Club, with meetings and summer outings well supported.

Membership has risen and we have been pleased to welcome three new members during the year. Members of the Candlestick Club from Buxhall and Finborough have also attended some meetings, also some prospective members. Membership stands at 33.

At each of the committee meetings we try to keep up to date with members health and circumstances. Several members have spent time in hospital with visits varying from day visits to longer stays. Some members have moved house and are happy in their new environs. Last years summer outings were enjoyed by members and friends and several people commented that the programme was one of the best ever.

In spite of a hip replacement in March, Katie organized the Mystery Tour for our May outing. We had lunch at the Lion at Levenheath ended up at Layer Marney Tower where we enjoyed visiting the house, garden, church and rare breeds farm. Other visits to Sandringham, Great Yarmouth and Frinton-on-Sea were well supported. For several years members have asked to go to Ickworth house but this had to be put on hold until the west wing with the restaurant and shop on the ground level opened. We finally had a half day outing there in August. We were lucky to have beautiful weather for all our summer outings which added to the enjoyment.

Our main fund raising event was a Pie and Punch lunch. The organisation was hard work for the committee but very enjoyable. £288 was raised for club funds including a raffle. It was decided not to hold a Grand Draw as members find it hard to sell tickets and often end up buying them themselves. We hope members will support our monthly raffle.

At our birthday party in October we welcomed Jill Nicholls who entertained us with songs from the shows and the Old Fashioned Music Hall. At the end of the evening we toasted the future of the club. In November Mr Fish gave us a fascinating insight into to RNLI. Members also purchased Christmas cards and calendars to support the RNLI.

Our Christmas lunch was held at Harleston Hall at the kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Richard Taylor. Hilary Gibbs and Alison Taylor cooked a delicious Christmas meal which was enjoyed in festive surroundings. A festive raffle was held. In January we held our usual informal meeting with quizzes and refreshments. Once again Alison Taylor baked and decorated our beautiful Christmas cake. At the end of the evening we toasted Jill Gladwell and Billie Stone with a glass of champagne, both of them had celebrated their 80th birthday in 2006.

There was no meeting in February and in March Jean Smith the 'Cycling Granny' gave us a fascinating talk with the help of maps, about her remarkable bicycle journey across the U.K. Each outing and meeting is evaluated by the committee after the event but we welcome both positive and negative comments from our members. We would welcome ideas for speakers or entertainers we could invite to meetings.

The committee works hard to plan an interesting programme. Thanks to all the committee for all their help throughout the year and to members for their support.

Skylarks

The group continues to function although sometimes numbers attending are low. The group is run for 5-9 year olds and currently has 8-10 members. There is a tremendous amount of preparation work put into meetings and all volunteers are CRB checked.

9. Any other business.

Mr R Cruickshanks thanked Onehouse Parish Council and the County Councillor (locality budget) for grants towards the resurfacing of the car park.

Mr R Cruickshanks thanked the group of 14 who deliver the OHSMag for all they do and suggested that the Parish Council hold another thank you evening for them. He advised that the date published in OHSMag for copy is the deadline date so that the editor can get things printed and delivered.

Mrs J Taylor congratulated the team of workers at the Pauper's Graves. Although there are usually only 5 members in the working party they have achieved a great deal.

Mr R Raisey stated that it was good to see Jan Taylor looking so well following her recent operation. The untimely and early deaths of Jason Gooch and Gary Miller are a great loss to the community and they will be sorely missed.

The meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....