

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2008
AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH ROOM.

Present: Mr M Chase – Chairman Onehouse Parish Council
Mrs P Fuller - Clerk to the Council
District Cllr Matthissen
County Cllr Otton joined the meeting at 8.28 p.m.
16 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

These were received from Mrs M Ellam.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30 April 2007.

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

3. To receive the audited parish accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2007

The Clerk presented the accounts of the Parish Council audited by Lubbock Fine. During the year a precept of £9,950.00 was raised. Donations were given to Optua, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau, East Anglian Air Ambulance, West Suffolk Victim Support, Out and About, OHS Local History Group and Ipswich & East Suffolk Headway.

The balance of the Income and Expenditure Account as at 31 March 2007 is £9,205.63. Funds held in earmarked reserves total £6,307.74.

4. Parish Council Report – Mr M Chase

I'm happy to report that at present we have a full compliment of councillors. Our long term aim is that we become a Quality Parish Council. Our Clerk Peggy is working to gain the CiLCA qualification, which will then allow us to apply. We are hopeful that this will then allow the future council the autonomy to be able to work, especially as local government is changing under the Secretary of State proposals for Suffolk.

Our biggest challenge at the moment is the future LDF plans for the area; this will also be linked to the Stowmarket Mater Plan. We all are aware of our local Parish Plan and this leaves us with little scope to agree to any plan. We as a Parish Council however have not got our heads in the sand and accept that change will happen, that is the reason we have increased the Council Tax this year to provide us with a fund for professional guidance to fight any adverse plans. However the latest news is that hopefully we, as a village will not hit as hard as was first thought.

Footpath 20/cycle route 51. Unfortunately we haven't moved very far on this, as it's now part of a greater plan for the area. Discussions have taken place with land managers to upgrade it to a bridleway and to extend it at Onehouse end to exit nearer the village. If successful this would provide access for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. SCC has taken it up and at the moment is seeking views on the proposal before moving forward.

Yellow lines on the estate. We have reluctantly decided that the only way forward is that we have all junctions on the estate painted with yellow lines to allow smooth running of traffic. SCC is dealing with this at the moment. Plans will soon be exhibited and comments asked for.

Police. We are still experiencing problems with the local police, although we do have more sight of a Police Officer in the village we still cannot get him to report to us at council meetings.

OHSMag. We have recently had to change the printer of the magazine because of retirement. We are experiencing a couple of teething problems, but hopefully this will be sorted out soon. Ron Cruickshanks retired as Distribution Manager last December and we welcome Mrs Ann Dodge as his replacement. At this stage I would like to offer my grateful thanks to Andrew Sykes who as editor has kept the standard very high, and had to deal with the problems.

Paupers Graves. Our working parties have had another full year in the clearing of the site. We recently provided a seat there and are looking to provide another. We have an information board explaining the history and an entrance gateway. Last month we remembered those souls who are buried there, when we dedicated a cross holding all the numbers of graves that we have found. If you have not visited the site, please do so as it is a very restful place.

We have continued to provide help to local organizations with money. This year we have helped the Mother and Toddlers Group here in the Church Room. We have also made provisions to help the Church Room in their plan to provide a disabled toilet. We have also helped Citizens Advice Bureau, Local First Responders, local Doctors on emergency call out, Headway, East Anglian emergency helicopter and many others.

Finally I would like to thank a number of people who have helped the council to be able to work last year. When Sue Sida-Lockett retired in June last year as our County Cllr we were worried who would replace her. Thankfully Penny Otton is that lady and has proved every bit as helpful as Sue, thank you Penny. John Matthissen our District Cllr has also been very helpful and has worked hard for Onehouse. I would also like to thank all councillors on our Parish Council who have worked very hard all year. Finally Peggy who has had a rough year with her health and jury service, but without her guidance we would be poorer. Thank you all.

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

There were none.

6. County Councillor's Report – Mrs P Otton.

Since being elected in August last year I have managed to attend most of the parish council meetings and hope I have been able to help with issues in the areas, including a planning application in Hessett, trying to get a cycle way in Onehouse and problems with school buses to the schools in Stowmarket.

It has been a busy year for SCC with a better than expected settlement from the Government, the probable abolition of the present system of local government in Suffolk, the introduction of charges for day care centers and the proposal of a waste incinerator at Gt Blakenham.

The most controversial has been the appointment of a new Chief Executive at a vastly increased salary. We tried to have this reconsidered but the administration refused.

I have asked the County Council to consider helping with the cost of clearing the litter from the A14 and helping to keep village post offices open. I have been involved in a panel looking at issues to do with lorries; I have asked that there is a way for parishes to find out about HGV applications. I have also suggested the Highways Agency consider not allowing lorries to overtake on the A14 and to provide better rest facilities. The proposed site for an incinerator for Suffolk has been chosen: the plant will be located at SCC highways maintenance depot at Gt Blakenham. Concerns have been raised regarding potential effects on the environment, human health, house prices and the effect on recycling rates in the county. There have been several meetings concerning the proposed flight stacking arrangements which will affect many parts of Suffolk. SCC is considering a report on school term and holiday dates as part of a recommendation that there should be a standard school year; a) as an even pattern as possible (approx 2 blocks of 7 weeks before Christmas and 4 blocks of 6 after and b) a start of school year as near 1 September as possible; c) a 2 week spring break in early April irrespective of Easter. These ideas are to be put to teachers and governors and staff organizations. Support is being gained for a campaign against plastic bags. I have been able to help projects in Drinkstone, Hessett, Rattlesden, Harleston, Beyton and Thurston from my Locality Budget. SCC met in February to set a council tax increase of 3.75% for 2008/9. Money savings are being made across the council including from adult care, children and young people's services and environment and transport. The administration of SCC has put through a motion that a single unitary solution for Suffolk should be investigated. The School Organisational Review continues moving towards an all two-tier school system.

Concerns were expressed regarding the large lorries using Union Road and the danger posed to children walking to school.

7. District Councillor's Report – Mr J Matthissen.

It is almost a year since I was elected to represent you at MSDC. I have enjoyed a wide range of work and challenges and hope that I have met at least some expectations. I am a member of one of the two Planning Committees which alternate on a fortnightly basis to ensure planning applications are dealt with speedily. I am allowed to attend either committee to speak on applications in our ward, but not allowed to vote on these local matters. The other committee of which I am a member is the Stowmarket Masterplan Steering Committee. As the local market town, the future of

Stowmarket matters to us all. I hope many local people will have contributed their views at the consultation stages. I also volunteered to attend the Green Forum which is a joint officer/member group seeking ways to reduce the carbon footprint of both the council and the entire district. MSDC is working to produce a new Local Plan, now called the Local Development Framework, and I have tried to uphold local interests and contribute to a better strategy across the district as a whole. Our scope for self determination is severely limited both by the number of homes we must accommodate and the many national and regional policies within which we must comply. Local issues raised with me often require enforcement action and we are fortunate that this function of the council has been strengthened and stabilized over the last year. Environmental Health enforcement relates to problems such as noise, smoke and rubbish whereas developments without permission require the attention of our Planning Enforcement officers. I have worked to improve the Sustrans National Cycle Route 51 which passes through Shelland, Harleston and Onehouse and thence to Stowmarket and beyond. I hope to see significant progress during 2008. Work to fulfill the promise of a tree for every Green vote has begun with a native species hedge of 250 young trees planted beside Stowmarket Golf Centre. In future planting seasons I hope to arrange tree planting in all of the parishes and suggestions of locations are welcome. I have tried to keep residents informed and provide useful information via our three excellent village newsletters. MSDC has finished rolling out the twin bin scheme, garden waste service and has one of the highest recycling rates in the country. MSDC has taken over several licensing functions such as alcohol licensing, public halls music and dancing licensing and taxi licensing. We have also got the business of handling planning applications back on track. We have had two quite expensive financial setbacks with the cost of the Snoasis public inquiry and settlement of an old dispute regarding flying from an airstrip at Crowfield. SCC and MSDC are supporting a single unitary authority for Suffolk. I am against this as this will mean less representation. Mrs Llewellyn asked what plastics can be recycled. MSDC provides a list.

8. To receive reports from Local Organisations.

Police

There were 20 reported crimes between 25 April 2007 and 25 April 2008. These were 1 theft of a motor vehicle, 1 theft of pedal cycle, 5 theft various items, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 4 burglary from other building, 3 criminal damage to motor vehicle, 2 criminal damage to a dwelling, 2 driving motor vehicle with excess alcohol and 1 driving whilst disqualified.

Mrs Fuller asked which items are distributed under Police Direct. They will only be reported through Police Direct if the complainant agrees to media coverage. Mrs Llewellyn asked regarding crimes in the village. These are mainly carried out by people living outside the parish.

OHS Community Hall and Playing Field Trust

It has been an interesting and broadly successful year for the Trust. Financial viability is probably the greatest challenge however I am pleased to report that the 2007 Village Fete was financially one of the most successful that has ever taken place. After all expenses were met, over £1500.00 was placed in Trust funds. In October Audrey Russell-Howes secured nearly £5000.00 for new flooring in the Community Hall and in recent months there have been a number of very successful community evenings that included Chocolate Bingo at Easter, and "Deal or no Deal" last Saturday. As you are probably aware there was a break in at the Community Hall in Mid March. Matters are now in the hands of the Police and our insurers.

One of my principal concerns has been to attract significant grants for the refurbishment of the Community Hall. Having approached the Charity Commissioners and Suffolk ACRE I discovered that to meet the requirements of twenty funding agencies the Trust had to show that it had secured the Community Hall and Playing Field assets in perpetuity. We will also need to demonstrate financial acumen in how we monitor the financial side of the Trust, and that includes all user groups. I discovered that the Trust Assets had not been vested with the Charity Commissioners and that took a lot of meetings with various bodies to secure the outcome. The vesting application has now been made and I am waiting to receive the final paperwork. It is hoped to look at the next stage in the refurbishment of the Community Hall very shortly. Matters are in hand to have the bench

provided by the Parish Council installed on the field during May. I look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Fete on 26 July.

Mrs Llewellyn asked regarding the seat outside the Community Centre. This is being replaced by the Parish Council.

Mrs Cruickshanks asked regarding damage to the Community Centre roof. The damage has been caused by vandalism but the Trustees have been assured the roof is watertight and is visual damage only.

Mrs Taylor thanked OHSMC for use of the hall for the pantomime and asked if the Trust pay the peppercorn rent for the use of the car park. This had only recently been brought to the attention of the Chairman.

OHS Sports and Social Club

The Club continues to open 4 nights a week with the number of people coming in varying quite considerably. Friday night is the busiest, Wednesday and Saturday tending to be quiet and Thursday dependent on the Youth Club being open as a number of parents come in as they collect their children.

The club as supported any events organized by the Management Committee such as the fete, quizzes and bingo. As the hall has not been booked much in the last year from either outside organizations or the public for parties, this has had quite an effect on the revenue taken by the club which is quite apparent in our last set of audited figures. Over all the club lost money in its last financial year. With recent increases in tax from the budget and the brewery we have had to raise our prices. I hope this doesn't deter people from using the club.

As always we rely on volunteers to help run the bar, at one stage it seemed we would not be open 4 nights a week due to lack of volunteers but as a new member of the community and the club wanted to get involved this didn't occur.

Table Tennis Club.

Numbers have been slightly down on previous years, but the core of regular players has increased on occasions to require all three tables to be in use. As in previous years two matches were played against Buxhall and these were memorable for some good food and good Table Tennis. Sadly there has been no young people's table tennis over the past two years. Afternoon table tennis has recently commenced.

Skylarks

The group has had another good year, with eight children on the books and most of them present at each of the sessions. Gloria Hall had to step down from leading the group after she was taken ill while on holiday in the summer. This meant a slight reduction in the number of sessions in early autumn, but there was a full programme in November and December. Derek Ames took over as leader in October and some of the mums offered to join the list of helpers. This has given an opportunity to ensure that paperwork and training for all helpers is up to date and complies with Diocesan guidelines. The session before Christmas ended with a party and a presentation to Gloria in recognition of all her hard work over many years.

Onehouse Ramblers

The group first stepped out in September when seven people and two dogs had a lovely walk on a glorious Sunday afternoon. The weather was fine and dry in October and November when the group walked more local footpaths. Over a dozen people have been on at least one walk, several coming from outside the village. In addition to walking local footpaths, it is hoped to go on the occasional longer walk away from the village in the coming months.

Jubilee Players

The Jubilee Players has gone from strength to strength in the last three years. This year's pantomime 'Alice in Wonderland' was a great success. We had to put on an extra show on the Wednesday as Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were sold out and the demand for tickets high. The wardrobe which was in John Jewers attic is now transferred to the attic at 'Paupers View'. We haven't done anything about getting a shed or container.

We have 49 members, we charge each child £1.00 and adults £10.00 per year. This covers insurance for our performers. We still miss Jason who was one of our star performers, it was agreed at the Annual meeting to donate £200.00 to Jason's chosen society in his memory.

We are applying for some grants to renew our staging and curtains. Our treasurer has completed the relevant forms For Mid Suffolk District Council. Janice Taylor will be standing down as Chairman at the next AGM as she feels it is a good time to hand it over to a younger person.

OHS Youth Club

The club is now in its 5th year and we have over 35 registered members and three of the older members are also helpers. We have a good variety of activities for all ages of children and the club is proving very popular, some members bring guests along and everyone mixes and play games or sports, do arts and crafts or use the play stations, dance mats or pool and table tennis tables whilst some choose to sit and relax and chat with friends in the bean bag area. Now that the light evenings are here we have our goals out and play football most Thursdays. This is very popular even if noisy and sweaty. It's great to have such a good bunch of young people to work with.

Three years ago I set up a card system as in football, to be used in case of bad behaviour. In the first year I had to issue 2 yellow and 1 red card which meant a one week ban. Since then I have only had to issue 2 yellow cards so we should be proud of our young people.

As in previous years we are still in need of adult helpers. At the moment we have 2/3 volunteers each week to oversee activities and it would be good to have a few extra people to call on to cover illness or sickness but no one seems to want to come forward even though there must be 60-70 parents of members. The 3 helpers I have at the moment are excellent and reliable but do need a break sometimes and that means we are short handed but so far we have never let the children down.

The club opens on Thursday evenings during term time between 7pm and 9 pm for youngsters in the community aged 8-17.

Onehouse Church

The service pattern changed several times during the year going through an experimental stage. During 2007 there were 2 baptisms, 3 weddings, 1 blessing of marriage and 6 burials. As usual services in the first part of the year were transferred to the Church Room. Main festival services have been celebrated, Mothering Sunday with posies for all mothers, the Good Friday Procession of Witness when the heavy cross is carried to points around the parish, Easter, Harvest Festival and meal, Carols by candlelight and Christmas. Church members also support Deanery Services. Arlene Cruickshanks was priested in June at the Cathedral by Bishop Richard just prior to his retirement. Arlene continues pastoral work in the parish particularly at Chilton Meadows Nursing Home. She has formed strong links with the catchment schools in Stowmarket and become part of the Chaplaincy team staff at West Suffolk Hospital.

Courses were held in Lent and Advent. Other events held throughout the year are the bi-monthly Ladies Lunch meetings, quarterly Men's Breakfasts and weekly coffee mornings. The Church family continues to support Faida Menza in Kagere, the Children's Society and the work Michael Green with CMS in Jordan.

Mr Wood asked Rev Llewellyn-Duff if there is any plan to have the internal plastering of the church done. There is no plan at present as it is not a priority. The East wall and window need to be worked on first.

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 they have been very muddy as they were last year. 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 three years. We have received some complaints regarding the barbed wire fence along the footpath to Onehouse Hall. This could cause some nasty cuts as the path is quite boxed in with a hedge the other side of the footpath. It has been reported to SCC.

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.

Tree Warden

As I have walked the footpaths I look at the trees around the village and there seems to be no problems although one or two dead ones were blown down in the gales earlier this year. Mrs Cruickshanks advised that she feels one of the trees along Church Walk is in a dangerous condition.

Neighbourhood Watch

The past 12 months has seen a number of changes taking place involving Neighbourhood Watch. The Police started Safer Neighbourhood Teams, which were well publicized, and the idea was to raise the profile of the Police, especially around the villages where one of the main criticisms which we as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators continually raised was the lack of Police presence. Sgt Curtis is in charge of the Mid Suffolk team, with Richard Calver and Claire Cox covering our village amongst others. Mid Suffolk West Cluster which Onehouse scheme is part of had its inaugural meeting last October, which was well attended and Ron Raisey was elected as Chairman. Our second meeting was held a couple of weeks ago and the main topic raised by the police was the number of crimes committed, mainly burglaries, where house doors and windows were left unlocked, sheds as well, and thefts from motor vehicles where these two were left unlocked, with sat navs, briefcases, wallets, mobile phones and handbags on display for any villain to see. One important point to remember is that if premises or vehicles are not locked then your insurance is void!

It was pleasing to have a number of residents in the village advising us when they were going away, who else held keys and how long they would be away for. This enables us to keep an eye out ourselves on homes that we know will have nobody in them for a time.

Should anyone see anything suspicious then please let us know straight away, and we can get in touch with the police quickly, contact details in OHSMag.

Finally it would be good to get somebody from Lower Road or the Hamlet to become a Co-ordinator. This would ensure that those area get looked after as well as the rest of the village.

Onehouse Mother and Toddler Group

We are pleased to report that we have had a successful year so far since we first opened our doors on Monday 10 September 2007 at the Church Room. On average we have had 22 children come along each week with their mums, dads, grandparents or carer. We have aimed to provide a safe, fun and friendly environment for children and adults alike.

Each week there is a craft activity for those wishing to participate, we also have a book corner, baby area, jigsaw table and a variety of activity toys available. We have been fortunate to purchase a variety of new toys for the children including a slide, trampoline and pedal car. During each session we provide a hot drink and biscuit for the adults and we have a snacktime for the children where healthy snacks are provided. At the end of the session we have a story and song time which the children really enjoy.

Our funds, originally provided with a donation for Onehouse Parish Council, a grant from Suffolk ACRE and fundraising at the village fete in 2007 have been maintained by weekly subs and fundraising events including a Pampered Chef evening, Virgin Vie evening, commission from school link and Yellow Moon Books, commission from Spencer Brown Photography, Osbourne Books and Phoenix Cards. Our most recent fund raiser was an Easter egg hunt.

In December we organized a trip to see Father Christmas at Banham Zoo and we also held a Christmas Party. We have had two social evenings for mums and carers which were well attended. We are very thankful to the Parish Council for the donation and support when we were starting the group and we are looking forward to the future.

Local History Group

Apart from January, the meetings continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month. Attendances vary between 10 and 20, with the lowest attendance being in August and the greatest always in November when Geoff Clarke from East Anglian Film Archives in Norwich manages to provide a delightful evening of archive film relating as closely as possible to this part of Suffolk. The programme for the coming November will be of particular interest as it will include film of the memories of an elderly man from Bradford who grew up in Stow Lodge while it was still a Workhouse, and also will include current footage of the blessing of the Service of Dedication of the Cross and ground of the Paupers Graveyard on April 5 and also the George Ward service on 4

May, when, weather permitting, there will be a fly-past of a Lancaster bomber in honour of George Ward.

During the past year the group has looked at the history of the parish church, houses in Onehouse, Harleston and Shelland, relating these to old maps and started the ball rolling on local families in Onehouse. Last year Stuart Bowell gave a fascinating talk about the history of advertising and Roy Colchester of Mendlesham read from his fathers letters from the Somme during the First World War. The history of all five parishes of this Ward/Benefice is of interest and a visit made to Granary Crafts at Buxhall. In September Carl made us most welcome when 12 people sat down to a meal at the Shepherd and Dog on the annual Pub Evening. At the meeting this month John Jones of Earl Stonham introduced all to the trials and tribulations of producing a parish history in photographs which created much enthusiasm here.

We will be visiting Westhorpe Hall in June including a history of the hall and its links with Mary, the Queen of France. There will also be a guided tour round the farm & refreshments.

Local History Recorder

I am still using the approved minutes of Onehouse Parish Council and the OHSMag as a record of events in the parish. However, during the past year or so an interesting change has taken place with infill properties being built on land which over the years has constantly had planning permission refused. As always when this happens, after a short while it is very difficult to remember what the spaces looked like beforehand. The properties concerned are:- 1. To the rear of Leacroft and Elder Cottage where semi-detached properties have been built, and where once there was one of the parish pumps for water and originally this parcel of land may have been the original Fiddlers Green. 2. Detached property on land being part of and adjacent to Hunters Lodge. 3. On land to the front of 26/28 Forest Road, formally tied cottages but now a single property. 4. A bungalow at Lakeside, Lower Road, allowing the home owner to live on the land run as a commercial business. 5. Development of land adjacent in Lower Road. Since the report appearing in the Millennium OHSMag several houses in Northfield Wood Estate have had considerable additions made. The Chilton Playing Fields, all within the parish boundary, were originally sited to create a barrier against the encroachment of urban development from Stowmarket. More latterly developers have proposed considerable housing for the area, but it is understood the latest moves are for Stowmarket Schools and Leisure Centre with its facilities to be moved here, while their site within the Stowmarket boundary would be used for housing development.

The purchase of the Pauper's Graveyard by Onehouse Parish Council has been a very positive move and the work carried out by volunteers to clear and maintain this area is laudable. Whatever the outcome, all the land in this area will obviously be affected by the proposed rerouting of the B1115 to link with the A14.

There has been more involvement about Northfield Wood between the Woodland Trust and local organisations, including the Parish Council, which has to be good.

OHS Women's Guild

We currently have 23 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 been involved in over the last 12 months have been a walk around Northfield Wood with the Woodland Trust, a visit to Mickfield Hostas, flower arranging, a talk on the history of Onehouse Church, Mid Suffolk District Council came to talk on recycling our waste, quilting, sugar craft – cake decorating, Salvation Army First Responders, film show and holiday talk, ceramic crafts, country dancing at Haughley Village Hall, a talk on Lawn care and presentation and talk on the Woodland Trust. We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Thurlsford to see the Christmas Spectacular.

We all enjoy eating and held a garden meeting and supper in July. We held our Harvest Supper here in the Church Room prepared by the committee in October and finished the year with a Christmas Party and supper in December at a member's home. The annual dinner was held at the Gladstone Pub in Combs Ford.

The coming year has an equally adventurous programme. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month usually in the Church Room at 8.00 p.m. Our AGM will be held on 1 May, everyone is welcome to attend.

We do keep trying to attract new members and would particularly welcome some younger members.

9. Any other business.

Mrs Llewellyn advised that as Church Warden she is liaising with SCC to get the 'To the Church' sign to be reinstated which was removed when the footpath sign was replaced. SCC had wanted to charge the parish but was told the one they removed was paid for by the parish and they should not have taken it away.

Mrs Llewellyn is looking into the footpath at Onehouse Lodge as it doesn't go anywhere and SCC should get back to the PCC.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....