

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Onehouse Parish Council held on Monday 18 May 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr Willshere (Chairman), Vile, Crissell, Corker, Taylor and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Copping.

2. **To receive members Declarations of Interest on agenda items**

There were none.

3. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 7.33 p.m.

4. **Report from County Cllr Otton.**

SCC will be holding some meetings virtually. If they are public meetings, they can still be attended by members of the public. The link to the virtual meeting will be included on the agenda for the meeting. If meetings are cancelled, the Chief Executive will use her emergency powers to make any necessary decisions on behalf of the Cabinet/Council through the delegated decision-making process.

Suffolk County Council are supplying emergency PPE to all primary care providers who are unable or struggling to source their own supplies. My group is encouraging Suffolk County Council to close roads that are used by residents to get their daily exercise, to ensure that walkers/cyclists can exercise safely and maintain social distancing. The Boundary Commission has announced that they will be delaying their review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements and division boundaries. The Commission was due to publish their draft recommendations and consult on them in May-July 2020, with the intention of implementing the new electoral arrangements (including a reduction in councillor numbers) at the 2021 local elections. Given the delay to the consultation on draft recommendations, the new arrangements will now not be implemented until 2025. The cost of mainstream post-16 school transport has been increased by £90, whilst the cost of post-16 transport for SEND students has increased by £30. This is despite the fact that a consultation on the proposed increase indicated that 75% of parents who responded felt that the increase would have an impact on them. Suffolk County Council has agreed to increase the pay of children's social workers to match the remuneration offered by neighbouring councils, in order to attract and retain skilled social workers in Suffolk.

Recycling centres have reopened by booked appointment only. They are very busy but the system is working well.

5 **Report from District Cllr Matthissen**

Council staff are ensuring all areas have voluntary groups co-ordinating and supplementing the informal family and neighbour support for those unable to go out to shops, pharmacies etc. Staff have been extremely busy in housing all homeless, rough sleepers and also sofa surfers in order to reduce risk of virus transmission. The council is able to support small businesses with grants and so far, has distributed over £32M to nearly 3000 businesses across both districts, which should be reimbursed by Government. Emergency needs grants of up to £2500 have been paid out to groups playing a key role in protecting vulnerable residents. Since the lockdown more and more internal meetings are being held on-line and as much council business as possible continues, with all staff working at home. Under delegated powers as augmented by government legislation some key decisions have been made by the chief executive. The Government has instructed councils to keep the planning system moving, with increased delegated decisions, but ward councillors can ask for decisions to be made by committee where they feel it is essential. Waste services collection teams have been depleted by illness and self-isolation but managed to maintain collections of green and black bins by suspending the brown bin service. This resumed on 11th May.

Bronwen Curtis, Mid Suffolk Planning Officer joined the meeting at 8.pm.

6. Planning Matters

a)To discuss and make recommendation to MSDC on the following application and any others received prior to this meeting.

20/01110 Outline Planning Application. (Access to be considered) for two alternative proposals. EITHER Scheme A: Erection of up to 146no dwellings including vehicular and pedestrian accesses, public open space, play space, landscaping, associated highways, drainage and utilities infrastructure; Or Scheme B: Erection of up to 129 dwellings and a residential care home (up to 66 beds) (Use Class C2), vehicular and pedestrian accesses, public open space, play space, landscaping, associated highways, drainage and utilities infrastructure. Land To The South Of, Union Road.

Councillors expressed concern that this application had come forward during the coronavirus lockdown and residents who are unable to access online facilities are at a great disadvantage in participating in the consultation. Bronwen explained the situation from MSDC point of view but explained that although there is a cut-off date for public response, as a major application the decision will be made by a Planning Committee which is scheduled for 2 September therefore comments can be taken after the cut-off date. It is an unusual application in the fact that two options have been put forward and both need to be looked at. The current planning policies for the area are in the SAAP and the Core Strategy.

Councillors main concerns are the need to keep a strategic gap between Onehouse and Stowmarket, is there a need for this additional housing at the current time, Onehouse is classed as a Secondary village for infill housing only, the need for Starhouse Lane to be upgraded, flooding along Finborough Road, the impact on village roads.

Cllrs were asked to formulate their objections and comments and send to the Clerk so that she can co-ordinate the Parish Council response to send to MSDC.

Bronwen was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened.

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

The Clerk advised that there is a deficit in running OHSMag during 2019/20 of £241.66. There are still a few payments due therefore it was unanimously agreed to carry this forward but to advise both Harleston and Shelland Parish Meetings and request they make provision for OHSMag within their next precept to cover any deficit at the end of 2020/21. Currently OHSMag is only available online due to coronavirus restrictions and it was agreed that advertisers would not be charge for adverts in the April issue as they would have been unable to provide services. Invoicing for 2020/21 would not take place until hardcopy OHSMag was produced and distributed. Cllrs are aware that some advertisers may go out of business as a result of the pandemic and it is possible that OHSMag income may fall as a result.

8. To confirm discharge the functions of Onehouse Parish Council to the Clerk during the period of the Corona Virus crisis following this meeting.

Unanimously confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....