

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025 T 7.30 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

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

In attendance: County Cllr Otton (in part), District Cllr Matthissen (in part) Mrs Fuller Acting Clerk, Mrs Swansborough Clerk and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr Boulter

2. To confirm and approve the minutes of the meetings 10 March 2025.

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. To receive members Declarations of Interest on agenda items and to consider any dispensation requests from councillors. There were none.

4. Public Comment. A resident provided an update on the footpath which has now been completed. Cllrs were advised that as there had been very little rain since completion, there may be a future need for maintenance if the footpath material needs topping up or the posts slip. The same resident raised concerns regarding the adjacent ditch which is full and, as it is a soakaway, if the ditch was blocked and overflowed there could be damage to the footpath. The resident also advised that he would like a conversation separately with a Cllr to discuss an organisation he is in contact with who may be able to provide people to complete work for residents. The resident then advised that they had been approached by someone who could provide a football pitch on the playing field. Cllr Roberts advised that this person should approach the Community & Village Hall Committee directly, outside of the Parish Council Meeting.

A resident commented on the missing Onehouse sign and also asked about an update on the drilling holes for the Forest Road footpath. Cllr Copping confirmed that the indications are that this could be completed on 7th May. This resident also raised concerns about the increase in HGV's coming up Starhouse Lane and from Union Road through the village and then needing to turn around. They expressed concern that an accident would occur following several near misses. Cllr Copping advised that Suffolk Highways route for HGV's is Finborough Road and Starhouse Lane but that only reports of accidents would have an impact, not near misses. A further concern was raised regarding night working at 'Fieldens' with increased light pollution noted. Cllrs will consider asking planning enforcement to visit.

5. Report from County Cllr Otton

At Cabinet on 18 March, the council administration voted to bring Suffolk's libraries back in-house at the end of the current contract for the library on 31 May. Suffolk Libraries, who have held the contract since the service was divested in 2012, were the only bidder for the contract, but negotiations broke down and the council felt it had no alternative but to bring the libraries back under council control. The proposal to do this was passionately opposed not just by Suffolk Libraries, but also Suffolk residents and the many volunteers and Friends groups who work for and raise money for libraries in their communities. Many of them attended the Cabinet meeting and protested outside Endeavour House, or asked questions during the meeting.

Following the Cabinet meeting, the decision was 'called in' – a process by which an issue can be tabled at a meeting of the council's Scrutiny Committee to be looked at more closely. Both the requests were rejected by the council on Wednesday 27 March after being reviewed by the council's monitoring officer.

SPEEDING ON COMBS LANE; I have agreed to pay for a speed check and to look at the state of the road there and the number of HGVs. However they have agreed to also do the same for the B1115 Finborough Road as this is where HGVs should be travelling. Unfortunately, they have re-organised the highways support team so Cllr Otton will now have Matt Fox (again after a few years) so he will need time to catch up with issues in her patch. Cllr Nutman asked if Cllr Otton was suggesting a lower speed limit. Cllr Otton said the original report and data would need to be checked to see if anything has changed. She confirmed that once the process has been completed and a decision made there is no process to challenge the decision and the whole process would need to start again.

FOOTPATHS; Footpath 28 work to be finished

FOREST ROAD FOOTPATH; like you I was so cross that they have had to delay the investigation work YET AGAIN but hope this will be done on time agreed. Cllr Copping advised that although not formal notification has been received, the indication is that the road will be closed on 7th May and she is hopeful this means the work will take place on this date.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE; Having reported the issue of burning rubbish this has now been sent to planning enforcement. Cllr Nutman advised that burning was still happening. Cllr Otton requested feedback on this.

Local Government Reorganization Proposals Proposals from all Suffolk councils were submitted to the government by 21 March, Suffolk County Council has announced that it will be proposing one single unitary council for Suffolk. Subsequently, all the district and borough councils have now voted to propose multiple unitaries as their preferred option. All the councils now need to prepare a business case and submit it to the government by September. The government should announce by the end of the year what local government in Suffolk will look like in future. The plan is for a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk to be elected in May 2026, and the government's public consultation on a new Mayoral Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk is open until 13 April if you are yet to share your views.

Suffolk Archives Exhibition Nominated for Award Suffolk Archives' recent exhibition, The Arrivals: Celebrating Migration to Suffolk, has been nominated for Community Engagement Programme of the Year at the prestigious 23rd annual Museums + Heritage Awards. The exhibition explored historical and contemporary migration experiences to Suffolk since the end of World War II. Cllr Otton also advised that a footpaths officer will be working to clear local footpaths and this will include Onehouse. The request for a 'No HGV's' sign on Wash Lane has 'got lost' but has been reminded.

Highways have notified of road closures which means a huge diversion. Cllr Otton reminded that all need to be mindful of what happened last time (back lanes being used to avoid the diversion) but noted that the closures are overnight this time and not during the day.

6. Report from County Cllr Matthisson

It was with great sadness we announced that the Deputy Leader of Mid Suffolk Council, cabinet member for finances and resources, and Councillor for Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden, Rachel Eburne, sadly passed away on the 14th March after a long illness. Since being elected as a councillor back in 2010,

Rachel was a key champion within her local community and was deeply committed to Mid Suffolk. She will be missed by us all, and for me after 15 years working with a dear friend and colleague.

Councillors had a lively debate regarding the government proposal for a mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk. Notable concerns were that local voices would not be heard, and that powers might be concentrated rather than devolved from Government.

All District and Borough Councils in Suffolk have published their joint proposals on how local government in Suffolk should be re-organised. This proposal is for two or three unitary authorities across the county, but the exact boundaries for these authorities are yet to be determined. Letters to this effect have now been sent and acknowledged by the Secretary of State. Now more detailed business plans for the proposed new authorities will need to be finalised and agreed by September.

As the work begins to review the Joint Local Plan to achieve compliance with Government's new housing targets, each parish has now been given a guide to the scale of the challenge to allocate sufficient land to meet the increased numbers to the end of a new plan period – 2024 to 2044. It is emphasised that this is just an indication, and that the eventual numbers may well be less or more. Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk agreed for updated CIL charging structure proposals to go out for 6-week public consultation. The CIL charging rates had not been changed since the Councils brought in CIL back in 2018. It is proposed that these are now increased and have been viability tested before going out to consultation. Details of the proposed new charging structure can be found on the website in due course.

At its April meeting council discussed and approved a motion to tell Government that their misunderstanding of how the planning system and housing markets interact stood in the way of delivery of their aim to see 1.5 million homes delivered over the parliament term.

The next round of locality funding is now live so parishes and groups are welcome to discuss project ideas with me. The total amount per councillor has increased to £10,000.

In addition, Cllr Matthissen advised that the planning indicative target for Onehouse was zero. This is due to the existing new developments which would have been included in the calculation. However, it was advised that this could change. It was also advised that a further round of land bids were being worked though.

7. Planning Matters

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

DC/25/01447 – 58 Ash Road, Onehouse, IP14 3HB. Removal of variation re single story rear and first floor extension (DC/24/02697). No comment.

DC/25/01183 – Confirmed forwarded to Onehouse is error. No action required

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

DC/25/01506 – Land South of Union Road - Approved

DC/25/00613 – 105 Northfield Road, Onehouse, IP14 3HE – Approved

8. Finances

To ratify the following payments

- a) £343.20 Laura Cross – March OHSMag

- a) £498.18 Mrs V Swansborough – March Clerk Salary
 These payments were unanimously ratified.
 To approve payment of the following invoices:
- c) £115.20 - SALC for Clerk Basic Training
 - d) £43.20 - SALC for councillor training, I Crissell
 - e) £2493.15 - Realise Futures for Benches & Picnic Table
 - f) £880.00 - Mrs Fuller for Clerking services March 25
 - g) £359.00 – Gipping Press for April OHSMag
 - h) £125.40 - HMRC re Clerk income tax March 25
 - i) £27.00 – SALC re Payroll Services to 31/3/25
 - j) £424.26 – SALC re Membership Subscription 2025/26
 - k) £300.00 – JR Landscapes for grass cutting x2
 - l) £52.00 - ICO Annual subscription and to agree for a direct debit to be set up for future subscription collections
 - m) Any additional invoices received since agenda produced
 - o) £22.57 – D Nicholson Paupers Grave – Petrol and Brackets
- items c) to o) were unanimously approved for authorisation.
 n) To agree for the Clerk's Salary to be paid by the last working day of the month (as per contract of employment) and ratified at the following Council Meeting.
 This was unanimously agreed.
 To receive monthly financial report from the Clerk
 At the end of March, the current account was £2,228.33cr. The instant access account balance was £24,514.17cr bringing total funds to £26,742.50cr. Since then previously agreed donation cheques totalling £1,390.00 have been cashed and a Precept credit received of £13,500. The clerk has transferred £7,000 to the instant access account. After this month's payments totalling £4,821.78 the current account balance is now £2,516.55cr and the instant access account balance is £31,514.77cr. Total funds £34,031.32cr.
 The Clerk advised that year end work was in progress in preparation for audit and that the Paupers Grave spend is over budget and this should be taken into account when setting budgets for 2025/26.
 Due to a discount being given on the picnic table and benches on the playing field, the amount of grant received was in excess of the amount spent by £109.35. This may have to be returned but it is possible agreement might be gained to use this towards the cost of cementing the posts (agenda item 10)
Action: Clerk to enquire

9. To consider contributing to an additional defibrillator to be sited in the Lower Road area. A local resident and Community First Responder- Liam Cross has approached the Council as a need for an additional defibrillator has been identified. He is in contact with the Lakeside Café and the Shepherd & Dog as potential sites. Cllrs unanimously agreed that funding should be provided to support this. Cllr Matthissen was asked if funding might be available from the Locality Money. Cllr Matthissen supported this and offered 50/50 funding

between Locality money and the Parish Council. Cllrs unanimously approved this funding. *Action: Cllr Copping to forward application form to Clerk for completion.*

10. To consider funding request for concrete plinths for the benches and picnic table on the playing to secure them to the ground. Cllrs unanimously agreed to fund this.
Action: Clerk-See item 8 action

11. To receive an update on the Church Walk/Church Way sign and consider any action necessary. Cllrs Matthiessen advised he had not been able to progress this productively. Cllrs unanimously agreed to raise a formal complaint to the District Council due to the failure to consult on this matter.

Action: Cllr Copping to instigate complaint. Clerk to investigate Royal Mail procedure/cost of change.

12. To discuss producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Onehouse and take any necessary action. The amount of time commitment and resources this could take was discussed. Cllr Copping had reviewed another councils plan which was considered good and it was unanimously agreed that the consultant used for this plan (Rachel Leggett & Associates) should be contacted and further information gained ahead of the May meeting.

Action: Cllr Copping to contact the Consultant

13. To consider the co-option of a councillor and take any necessary action.

Cllr Crissell advised that a resident had expressed an interest. An informal conversation with Cllr Copping was suggested together with an invitation to the next meeting

Action: Cllr Crissell to invite the resident to the next meeting

14. To consider a Community Emergency Plan and take any necessary action. It was unanimously agreed that an up to date plan would be beneficial.

Action: Clerk to respond and request further information

15. To discuss response to Planning Statement of Community Involvement Consultation. Cllrs unanimously agreed that a response from the Council should be made against the proposals. A poster will be put on the noticeboard and on the facebook page to advise residents of the consultation and encourage them to respond as individuals.

Action: Clerk to display poster, Cllr Copping to add to facebook page

16. Events

a) To receive an update on the Craft Afternoon on 19 April. Cllr Copping advised that there had not been much interest in this event (3 people). Reminders will be put on facebook.

Action: Cllr Copping to post on facebook

17. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves and take any necessary action. The group have been working hard over the last 3 weeks to tidy the area ahead of the Easter long weekend when they hope residents will be able to enjoy the area. Cllrs were pleased to hear that the area was gaining recognition locally.

18. Consider any action necessary regarding the Safeguarding Policy.

Deferred to the May meeting.

Action: Clerk to circulate policy again

19. Discuss any action necessary regarding the Forest Road to Chilton Leys Footpath. As previously discussed, it is hoped the indicated road closure on 7th May means progress on this.

20. To receive an update on the Church Walk/Church Way sign and consider any action necessary. See item 11.

21. Environmental issues. To include the flower barrels. There is one spare barrel which will be moved near to the Onehouse sign on Forest Road. 2 barrels on Forest Road near the village sign/green have not yet been adopted.

22. To discuss development of land around the parish and take any necessary action. Quotes for the erection of the new noticeboard on the green at Union Road are awaited. Jason Reynolds has confirmed that the clearing round the edge of the playing field is scheduled to be completed early May.

23. To discuss OHSMag, Onehouse website and Facebook page and take any necessary action. There are two people interested in the editor role. One is a resident of Harleston and is arranging to meet the existing editor for further information. There are further fundraising plans for the OHSMag.

24. To gain approval for OPC to transfer funding to OPC to match 23/2024 deficit payment. To keep Onehouse in line with funding payments agreed by Harleston and Shelling to support the OHSMag for 2024/2025. This was unanimously agreed.

25. To consider the OHSMag Working Group proposal to increase the contracted payments to the OHSMag editor to £15 per hour. This was unanimously agreed.

26. To receive correspondence/communications and to deal with any matters. The following items have been circulated to Cllrs : SALC Mid Suffolk Area Forum Notice 12/3, Training Bulletin 11, 18 March, News Bulletin 17, 24 & 31 March, Devolution reminders 17 March & Devolution Slides 18 March. Advice of AGM & 75 Anni 19 March, Suffolk Highways Forum notice 20 March. Devolution & LP Update 25 March, NSIPs Bulletin 31 March. **SCC** EP Passenger Interest Group Meeting Minutes 21 March **MSDC** Mid Suffolk Neighbourhood Plan Invitation 12 March, Notice of planning Statement of Community Involvement Consultation 17 March, Food Waste Action Week Info 18 March, Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus Fares Update 19 March, Facebook Post Share re Rural Connect Transport Service 19 March, Town & Parish Liason Meeting Devolution Slides 21 March, Planning for Future Briefing Pack 21 March, Adoption of Babergh & Mid Suff Biodiversity & Tree Support Planning Doc 21 March, Decision Notices 21, March & 4 April, Planning Consultation Request 27 March, Notification Planning Statement of Community Involvement Consultation 27 March, Link to Public Facing Module Dev Database 4 April, Neighbourhood Plan Presentation 9 April. **County Cllr Otton** Update on advance notice of road closure 20 March, Parish Report 2 April, Slides on A14 closure 11 April. **Suffolk Highways** Works to footpath notice 12 March, Update to Notice of Road closure 18 March, Community Emergency Planning Info 27 March, Notice of Grass cutting 27 March.

27. To receive reports.

a) Report from the Clerk. The price for collection of litter and dog poo bins for 2025/26 has been received. The price per bin has been standardised at £50

each but due to the Council being overcharged last year, the cost for 2025/26 is £342.38.

At 9.31pm it was agreed to continue to complete all items

28. Questions to the Chairman. Cllr Roberts advised that an additional poo bin would be beneficial and requested council support. An additional site for a dog poo bin was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to request another bin.

Action:Clerk

29. Items for next agenda. Safeguarding policy, Neighbourhood Plan update, Community Emergency Plan update, Defibrillator update.

30. To confirm date and time of the Annual Parish Meeting as Monday 12 May 2025 at 7pm. Confirmed.

31. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm. Confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....