

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

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

In attendance: County Cllr Otton (in part), District Cllr Matthissen (in part), Mrs Swansborough, Clerk and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllr Crissell.
2. **To confirm and approve the minutes of the meetings on 9 June 2025 and 27 June 2025.** The minutes were approved and signed.
3. **To receive members Declarations of Interest on agenda items and to consider any dispensation requests.** There were none.
4. **To consider the co-option of a councillor and take any necessary action.**
An application had been received from the member of the public in attendance, Matt Goodwin. It was unanimously agreed that Mr Goodwin would be co-opted to the Parish Council. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed and Cllr Goodwin was welcomed to the Council and joined the meeting as a councillor.
5. **Public comment.** There was none.

6. Report from County Cllr Otton:

Funding for Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution: On Tuesday 17 June, Cabinet approved allocating £1.9m from council reserves towards the cost of work the council needs to undertake to set up the new mayoral authority with Norfolk County Council and to prepare its business case for a single unitary council, which needs to be submitted to the government in September. Mayoral elections are due to be held in May 2026, with the mayoral authority set up a few months earlier. The costs of setting up the mayoral authority and reorganising local councils is more likely to be tens of millions; it is the potential long-term savings that makes the process worthwhile to the government, who provide council funding.

20 MPH: We are proposing a motion at council on 10th July asking for SCC to make it easier for local communities/parishes to apply for a 20MPH area if it is desired.

Forest Road Footpath: Have again asked what progress as I was under impression there would be something for the July meeting.

UPDATE: Cllr Otton reported that she had met with Julia Proctor and was advised that that the project was now full costed and covered by S106 money. There are a few items to finalise and then the start date for the work can be discussed. Notice has to be given for any road closures so this will need to be factored into timings. Cllr Otton advised the Julia would be likely to attend the September meeting.

Speed Check on Combs Lane and Finborough Road: Have sent the data to both Onehouse and Gt Finborough Parish Councils. It doesn't look as if we would have a strong case to ask for a speed limit reduction.

Raising Educational Attainment in Suffolk: On Tuesday 24 June, the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee considered the educational attainment of children in the county and how to improve it, as Suffolk is currently below national attainment figures at Key Stage 2 (year 6) and at Key

Stage 4 (year 11). The council works closely with headteachers and the leaders of multi-academy trusts (MATs) so that schools can learn from each other via the Suffolk Education Partnership, which was established in January 2023. Support is also offered to academy schools, although they do not have to engage with it. While the council still has statutory responsibility for school improvement for all of Suffolk, academies receive their funding directly from the government and not from local authorities. The meeting also noted that Suffolk still receives a low level of funding compared to other counties, and council leaders regularly lobby the government for fairer funding.

Suffolk Libraries Changes to Suffolk Community Libraries: From the 1 June, libraries across the county were taken back in-house by Suffolk County Council at the end of the contract with Suffolk Libraries, who had been running the libraries since 2012. The new name for the service is Suffolk Community Libraries, with new branding, but the council's political administration has given assurances that all libraries will remain open, with no reduction in opening hours. Don't forget you can order books on line to pick up at your mobile library.

Council Gains £8m for Bus Service Improvements: Suffolk County Council has been awarded a grant of £8m from the Department for Transport to fund new and enhanced bus services across the county. The new funding from the government's Local Authority Bus Grant can be used for the following:

- £2,805,076 revenue funding for new or enhanced services
- £5,229,805 capital funding for new and improved bus stops, bus stations vehicle upgrades

The council plans to use the money to improve bus priority on congested streets, upgrade the Real Time Passenger Information system (giving live updates in bus arrival times), and improve bus stops and routes. It will also use some of the money to look into the journeys people take with a view to creating more innovative fare offers in future and get more people to use bus services. Details of successful local bids for the funding will be posted on the Suffolk on Board website.

New Bus Service for Thurston: I am very pleased that this money has been used to reintroduce a service for Thurston to be run by Mulleys and additional Saturday's Stowmarket to Bury St Edmunds, run by Dan's DB1.

Your Fete: Pleased to call in and enjoy tea and cake! Well done.

7. Report from District Cllr Matthissen:

Councillors Support Motions Calling for Speed Limit changes and a

Disability Champion: Two motions gained cross-party support at Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC)'s June 26th Council meeting. The first called on Suffolk County Council to make the process for applying for 20mph zones simpler and more cost effective in areas where they have community support, and to commit to a future target for zero deaths on our county's roads. A second motion was to appoint a disability champion for Mid Suffolk, whose role will include seeking to raise awareness and to improve accessibility to public buildings and services.

Pride In Your Place Grant Re-Launch: This fund to promote local identity and tidy up the environment has now re-opened for applications. Funds can be awarded to Parish Councils or community and voluntary groups – for example for planting schemes, local heritage and cultural initiatives, new signage, benches and seating areas for public use, and equipment for litter picks and community clean-up.

Seeking your views on the future of local government in Suffolk: The Survey for residents to have their say on the future local government options is closing late July. Mid Suffolk must submit its final recommendations in September. The final decision as to how the county will be reorganised will be made by national government.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Review: CIL is a charge that planning authorities can levy on new developments to help deliver community infrastructure in the district. MSDC annually review the guidelines on how CIL is spent to ensure it continues to meet the evolving needs and priorities of our communities. The new changes make for more agile CIL applications by ceasing the 'bid round windows' and enabling all-year CIL bids. The scope for CIL spending has also been broadened to include community farming projects and community run pubs and cafes.

MSDC Welcomes New Councillor Following By-Election: Dr Agnes Watson was elected to represent Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden after a by-election on 12th June.

Cabinet Agenda July: Cabinet approved a major grant to the Food Museum and improvements to the Creeping Road depot, needed to accommodate additional recycling streams next year (the project to find a new depot is on hold due to uncertainty around local government reorganisation). These decisions will need to be endorsed by a full council meeting.

Locality Budget: I will be pleased to hear from organisations with project ideas to benefit the communities.

Cllr Boulter asked if the locality budget could be used to fund new solar powered speed signs for the village. Cllr Matthissen agreed in principle that this would be possible but noted that the parish would also need to contribute. Cllr Boulter will investigate cost.

Cllr Matthissen was advised that there had been no contact or further information received regarding the land adjacent to the Paupers Grave. The SHELF project appears to be progressing but the Council is not receiving any updates. Cllr Matthissen agreed to follow this up and report back.

Cllr Matthissen asked whether the graffiti had been removed at the community hall but Cllr Boulter explained that the brick work had crumbled when pressure washed and so work had halted on cleaning and the wall will most likely require painting instead.

8. Planning Matters

a) To discuss and make recommendation to MSDC on any applications received prior to this meeting. There were none.

b) To receive MSDC decisions on previously considered applications.

DC/25/01447 58 Ash Road, Onehouse. Erection of single storey rear and first floor side extension. Approved.

DC/25/00995. Trinity Hall, Forest Road, Onehouse. Approved.

9. Finances

To ratify the following payment:

a) £497.98 – Mrs V Swansborough, Clerks salary – June 25

b) £157.50 – Mrs Emma Wilkes, OHSMag editing – June 25

To approve payment of the following invoices:

c) £157.23 – HMRC, Clerks PAYE & NI

d) £90.00 – Mrs P Fuller re Clerk Mentoring

e) To receive monthly financial report from the Clerk. See below.

- f) £187.50 – Mrs Emma Wilkes, OHSMag editing-July 25
- g) £300.00 – L R Chaplin T/as Greener Gardens Suffolk. Grass Cutting
- h) £875.47 - Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog Waste Bins
- i) £167.95 – NJ Servicing – Repairs to Paupers Grave equipment

All payments approved. The Clerk requested that the payment to Glasdon not be released until all dog waste bins have been received (item 14). This was agreed.

Monthly financial report from the Clerk: .

Current account balance: £2,532.10cr. Instant access account balance: £28,687.47cr. Total funds: £31,219.57cr. After this month's payments totalling £1,778.15, the current account balance will be £753.95cr and the Clerk will transfer £2,000 from the instant access account into the current account to cover clerk's salary for July and August.

The clerk also requested agreement that the HMRC payment due in August be authorised in advance due to no August meeting being planned and the due date will have passed by the date of the September meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk reported that MSDC have agreed that the CIL money being held can be used to pay for installation of the new noticeboard, towards the purchase of the new defibrillator and installation of the defibrillator and for the £600 grant previously agreed towards building a new wall at the community hall.

The VAT return is yet to be completed due to difficulties gaining login to the online account. This has been resolved. However, updating the contact name and address to the new Clerk with Unity Trust will also need to be completed prior to submission of the VAT return as a bank statement correctly addressed is required. The Clerk requested that 3 bank signatories sign the appropriate form for this change at Unity Trust to be put into effect, which was completed.

10. Nomination of Tree and Footpath Warden. It was unanimously agreed to nominate Mr Howard Tuckett to this role. The Clerk will advise Mr Tuckett and the Cllr Copping will provide a footpath map. ***Action: Cllr Copping and Clerk***

11. To consider any response to the Community Governance Review and take any necessary action. None.

12. To receive an update on the additional defibrillator and take any necessary action. The locality award of £775 has now been received and Cllr Copping reported that there has been some crowd funding raised too. As above, the remaining balance can be paid from existing CIL money. The Clerk is attempting to obtain quotes for installation. It was agreed that the defibrillator should now be ordered. ***Action: Clerk***

13. To receive an update on erection of the new noticeboard and take any necessary action. Cllr Roberts advised that this is scheduled for this week.

14. To receive an update on additional dog waste bins and take any necessary action. 2 of 3 bins have been received and the Clerk is chasing an update on the 3rd. These will then be installed. ***Action: Cllr Boulter and Clerk***

15. To receive an update on Neighbourhood Plan enquiries and take any necessary action. Dates are required for a zoom call with Rachel Leggett &

Associates, followed by a one-day workshop. Cllr Copping will find out if weekends are possible so that more councillors can attend.

Action: Cllr Copping

16. To receive an update on the Community Emergency Plan and take any necessary action. Cllr Copping met with Dawn Wnukoski and updated Councillors. The merit of a plan was discussed and it was agreed Councillors would review the information provided and it would be discussed further at the next meeting. Clerk to forward the information to all Councillors.

Action: Clerk

17. To receive an update on any events, including the Fete, and take any necessary action. Cllr Roberts reported that the fete had been a great success with £2813.53 raised. The turn out was very good with many cakes and bottles donated and a very busy BBQ. Thanks to all who helped set up on the Friday evening, Saturday morning and throughout the day. Octoberfest will take place on 27 September following last year's successful event. Cllr Copping requested that the profits from this year's event be used for the OHSMag, which was unanimously agreed. Other potential events were discussed and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

18. To receive an update on the Paupers Graves and take any necessary action. Cllr Corker reported that the area continues to be kept tidy by the volunteers. The names on the monument are regularly washed and, provided the weather remains dry, the next task will be to clear the pond at the bottom.

19. To discuss any action necessary regarding the Forest Road to Chilton Leys Footpath. See Cllr Otton's report above.

20. To receive an update on issues raised regarding Northfield Woods and other issues raised in the parish, and take any necessary action. It was discussed and agreed that it had been a quieter month but would continue to be monitored but no further action at this time.

21. To receive an update on the replacement of the Onehouse sign. This has not been completed and no further update has been received although it was noted that some work had been carried out in the area the sign will be. This will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

22. Environmental issues. Discuss and take any necessary action. It was noted that the planted flower barrels in the village look good. Cllr Boulter has not yet been able to move the final barrel but is aiming to do so in the next few days.

Action Cllr Boulter

23. To discuss development of land around the parish and take any necessary action. See comments in under item 7. it was noted that there had been no further contact regarding the land adjacent to the Paupers Grave. Cllr Boulter will email his contacts again and this will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Boulter

24. To discuss OHSMag, Onehouse website and Facebook page and take any necessary action. It was agreed by the OHSMag Working Group that the combined July/August edition would be delayed so that photos and a report from the fete could be included. Distributors were not aware of this and some are therefore unable to deliver this edition when it is printed. It was discussed and agreed that some Councillors may be willing to be back up distributors if this were to happen again.

Cllr Copping asked for agreement for the Council to cover the cost of a potential coffee & café event to thank distributors, which was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk reported that there remains one very old unpaid invoice for £110 and 2 newer unpaid invoices totalling £284. The Clerk will continue to chase and will soon be invoicing for 2024-25.

The Clerk has been in contact with Matthew Ball who has agreed to add a link to the new website to the old website when he returns from the US. As .gov.uk email addresses are required for 3 Councillors and a review of who can access and update the website would be helpful, the Clerk will contact Suffolk Cloud.

Action: Clerk

At 9.32pm it was unanimously decided to continue to complete all items.

25. To receive correspondence/communications and to deal with any matters. The following items have been circulated to councillors:

SALC: Suffolk Community Awards 10/6 & 15/6. News Bulletin 17/6, 23/6, 3/7 & 14/7. Training Bulletin 24/6. AGM Recording 7/7. **SCC:** LGC Update 16/6, Results of speeding & vehicle Classification survey 19/6, Unsafe Water Beads Notice 7/7, Local Authority Bus Grant 9/7 & Chairman's Summer Gift Fayre & Councillor Award Certificates 14/7. **MDSC:** Town & Parish Update Briefing 7/7, NSIP & Large-Scale Energy Development Update 8/7, Community Governance Review 11/7 & LGR Update 14/7. **Mid Suffolk CAB** Impact Report 8/7.

In addition, Clerk advised that a resident had been trying to contact a representative of the Community Hall Committee and that contact details had been provided.

26. To receive reports.

a) Report from the Clerk. The Clerk advised that there is Councillor basic training coming up in September and October. Cllr Roberts asked to registered for this training. The Clerk also requested agreement for Clerk finance training which was unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk

27. Questions to the Chair. There were none.

28 Items for next agenda.

Update on Community Emergency Plan

Update on Neighbourhood Plan

Update on erection of the new noticeboard

Update on new Onehouse sign

Update on new defibrillator

Update on Forest Road to Chilton Leys Footpath

To discuss the possible purchase of a gazebo

39. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....