

**OUSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2015**

**Councillors present: Ian Harding (Chairman), John Pask (Vice-Chairman), Emna Lindsay, Guy Holland Bosworth, Sylvia Pettitt and Geoffrey Ingham**

**Also present: Mrs Joanne Ince (Clerk) and Borough Councillor Clive Pollington. County Councillor Mary Evans arrived at 8pm. One member of the public attended the meeting for a short time to discuss the poor Broadband speeds in Ousden.**

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Alan Johansen.

**2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda**

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda.

**3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2015**

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed them.

**4. Report from Borough Councillor Clive Pollington**

Clive Pollington spoke about the following:

- Devolution. There was a meeting between Michael Heseltine and 16 members of different councils to discuss how devolution would work. Specific issues discussed included long term infrastructure projects and care in the community.
- One proposal is to form a Housing Development Company which will be a 'for profit' organisation. They will be shareholders in the company and receive dividends. There will be plots available for local people to build their own housing and affordable homes for sale for local people.
- His locality budget. He has £500 available for the village.

**5. Police Report**

The Parish Council has received a letter from Suffolk Constabulary about future attendance at parish council meetings. If there is a specific local issue being discussed at a planned meeting or a police presence is required following a major incident, then the Police will send a representative. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to maintain liaison with parish councils. Local SNTs will continue to provide written reports on local crime issues until the Constabulary's new website goes live in 2016.

It was resolved that councillors would let the clerk know if there are any specific police issues in Ousden so that the Police can be invited along when necessary.

**6. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting**

There were no outstanding councillor actions.

**7. Finance**

**a) Regular payments made between meetings**

- Community Action Suffolk Ltd - insurance - 1972, s111 - **£480.36**
- McGregor Services - grass cutting and hedge trimming - Open Spaces Act 1906, s10b) or s11 - **£192.00**
- Community Action Suffolk - insurance for VAS - 1972, s111 - **£30.92**

**b) Approval of payments**

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

**Electronic payments**

- McGregor Services, grass cutting (October invoice) - Open Spaces Act 1906, s10b) or s11 - **£60.00**
- J P Ince, expenses, LGA 1972, s111 - **£12.37**

Geoff Ingham and Sylvia Pettitt checked the invoices and signed the Schedule of Payments.

**c) Approval of the record of online payments made since the last meeting**

It was resolved that the record of online payments would be approved. Geoff Ingham then signed it.

**d) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls**

Geoffrey Ingham completed and signed the Checklist of Internal Controls

**e) Statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting**

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments was correct.

**f) Archive boxes to dispose of planning applications - £4 a box - box it. Max 5 boxes split between all councils**

It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to dispose of up to 10 archive boxes at a cost of £4 per box as quoted by Box it and that the cost would be split between all councils she works for.

**g) Draft budget for 2015/16**

It was resolved that the level of reserves is sufficient and that the Council was happy with the draft budget and a proposed increase of 3% in the precept request.

**h) 'View only' access to the Council's accounts for an additional signatory**

It was resolved that Sylvia Pettitt would register for online banking and then be given 'view only' access to the Council's bank account.

**8. Report from County Councillor Mary Evans**

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Simon Curl is no longer in post. Guy Smith from Highways is covering and is checking if it is possible to have a concealed entrance sign within a 30mph.
- Broadband - the Chairman has received a complaint from a resident about poor Broadband speeds. Mary Evans agreed to find out when Ousden will get superfast broadband.
- Suffolk Police has taken over the contract for running speed awareness courses and the income raised will go to them. They will be purchasing a smaller Safecam van for use in rural villages.
- She is taking some church wardens to meet the police and crime commissioner to discuss lead thefts.
- A team from Norfolk and Suffolk met in London to discuss devolution with Michael Heseltine.
- The County Council has agreed to set up a Housing Development Company.
- Changes to the fire service. 1 million pounds needs to be cut from their budget.

**9. Planning applications**

**a) DC/15/2090/HH - The Old Black Barn, Lords Lane, Ousden - (i) Proposed conservatory with insertion of roof lights (ii) Glazed link extension (iii) New windows and doors to west, south and north elevations and stainless steel flue (iv) proposed outbuilding/cart shed**

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application

**b) The Parish Council has been made aware that some building works have taken place at Chapel Cottage on Bury Road but no planning application has been received. The clerk was asked to contact SEBC to find out if planning permission was required.**

**10. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues:**

**a) VAS update**

- The new posts for the VAS have now been installed.
- 4 jubilee clips and 5 backing plates are required at a cost of approximately £40 each.
- Mary Evans has given the Council some high visibility jackets.
- The VAS is now insured against damage and theft
- The Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed and returned to Suffolk County Council.

It was resolved that:

- The clerk would contact Westcotec to order the jubilee clips and backing plates and would be authorised to pay up to £250.
- The clerk would be authorised to pay £300 for the two new posts and for the extension post for Dunstall Green Road
- Ian Harding would complete the Risk Assessment
- Ian Harding would let Mary Evans know where the VAS will be sited over the next 8 weeks so that the new Safecam van can be deployed at one of the sites.

**b) Damage to roadside verges**

The Council has received a report of damage to a roadside verge caused by a lorry. Mary Evans suggested that the damage be reported to Suffolk County Council using their online reporting tool.

**c) Grit piles**

It was resolved that the existing locations for grit piles would be used, but that councillors would let the clerk know if any additional piles are required.

**d) Footpath map**

This item is still ongoing.

**e) Footpath clearing**

Guy Holland Bosworth has been in touch with a local farmer about diverting a footpath. Discussions are ongoing.

**f) Registering with PSMA**

It was resolved that the Council would register with PSMA but that Ian Harding would check the terms and conditions first.

**g) Grass cutting**

It was resolved that an additional grass cut would be authorised in November if required.

**h) Review of dog and litter bins**

It was resolved that this item would be deferred to next meeting.

**11. Adopt a kiosk scheme - see e-mail from BT about the damage to the phone box**

The clerk had contacted BT about the damage to the phone box. BT has responded by saying that it would not repair any existing damage as the phone box would be sold as seen. It was resolved that the Council would not adopt the phone box at this stage as it is not able to take on the cost of repairing it. It was resolved that the clerk would contact BT to find out what will happen to the phone box if BT is not willing to repair it.

**12. Correspondence**

**a) Letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council about their gypsy and traveller sites consultation**

The Council is not aware of any possible sites in Ousden.

**b) E-mail from Suffolk Constabulary re Local Policing Information event on 10th December in Ipswich**

The clerk asked councillors to notify her if they wish to attend.

**c) E-mail from SEBC re lead thefts from churches**

It was resolved that this information would be included in the next newsletter.

**d) Queen's Birthday 12th and 13th June**

This information will be passed on to the Village Hall Committee.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.11pm.**

**Signed..... Dated .....**