

Oulton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.00pm in Oulton Community Centre

Parish Councillors (7) present	Jenny Hinton (Chairperson), John Sarbutt (Vice Chair), Peter Bryant, Peter Collecott, Robin Hinton, Joanne Illingsworth, Tony Knights & Hilary Sarbutt
County Councillors	Edward Back
District Councillors	Andree Gee
Also in attendance	Rebecca Morris (Clerk)
Members of the public	7

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair started the meeting with announcing the celebration of the 130 year anniversary of Oulton Parish Council. To celebrate the occasion, the agenda and minutes of the inaugural meeting of December 1994 have been reproduced for members and the public. A light buffet has been supplied and all were welcome to attend after the meeting.

To receive and approve apologies for absence: None to report

To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensations

Cllr T Knights & Cllr E Back declared a non-pecuniary interest as Trustees of Oulton Community Centre.

To approve minutes of the Parish Council emergency meeting held on the 5th November 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2024 were agreed after a proposal by Cllr R Hinton and second, Cllr H Sarbutt all in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chairperson. Cllr J Sarbutt wishes to oppose the extra new bins, as minuted last month. He believes we should all refuse delivery of the additional bins. Agreed a follow up letter be sent to ESC as no acknowledgement has been received.

Adjournment for Public Participation (15 minutes allowed for)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and comment on items on the agenda before the Council makes decisions. – Nothing to report.

Reports from:

- **Parish Clerk:**
 - 1) With regard to the entrance of the Community Centre. Cllr K Robinson had a meeting with Paul Ashton @ East Suffolk Council. He will look at best options and report back.
 - 2) Received email from Jen @ East Suffolk Council regarding 2023/2024 CIL Report. I had missed a box in the submitted form and have been asked to rectify and reissue. Clerk & Chair to resign.
 - 3) Pin down a date for group training – 15th, 22nd or 29th January? All have agreed on 15th January. Will give more information when obtained.
- **Chairmans Report:**
 - 1) Facebook page is always quite lively, especially when planning applications are discussed on the BBC news media service. The planning application for South of Union Lane was heard on Tuesday 12th November. We were unaware of this, else I would of attended and spoke on it. Very disappointed that the planning committee totally ignored our Neighbourhood plan, and their own Local plan and passed the application with no restrictions. In fact they also gave permission to cut mature trees down and take land from property they did not own. That resident is seeking legal advice. A letter of complaint was sent to Angela Rayner to call this decision in as it is against planning policy's adopted by ESC. Ben Woolnough has said that if we as a Parish Council are prepared to put in an official complaint, we will be heard All unanimously agreed to proceed with official complaint. Cllr J Sarbutt suggested contacting the Kings Council.
 - 2) Attended the Church service for remembrance at St Michaels then, lunch with the elderly on the Wednesday. Oulton Poor Trust met on the 20th where a new Trustee was welcomed. Information was given by the manager of the food bank that over 18,000 people had been given food in 2023 alone. Of these 1413 were residents in Oulton of which 46.7% were children. A visit will be arranged in new year for fact finding purpose with intention of setting up a regular donation.
 - 3) Received response from Debi Sharman @ Persimmon Homes, she has written to Ben Woolnough and James Blake (consultants for the play area) asking for re-consultation regarding the re location of the play area and the pump track, as our residents are unhappy.
 - 4) I have sent the minutes of the Fat and Bone factory on our FB page to Jess Asato who requested confirmation we had not been consulted on play equipment and the site it goes on. Something this Council insisted came back to us for discussion.

- **County Councillors – Edward Back:**
 - 1) Setting of budgets on Friday 6th December. Hoping to have a plan to not cut services.
 - 2) Consultation to abolish district and county Councils and amalgamate them with central Councils. This would allow significant cost savings. No further information to date.
- **District Councillors – Andree Gee:**
 - 1) Following decisions regarding planning applications Cllr Gee states that she challenged to save the paddock, during the planning meeting that took place on the 12th November. She wanted to have a site meeting, but feels the vote was rushed though, therefore the opportunity was dismissed.
- **St Michael’s Church & OPT:** Mentioned in Chairmans report.

Planning

- **To receive new planning applications and make comment** – Nothing to report
- **To receive results and updates on outstanding applications** – Nothing to report

Finance: Income & Expenditure as at 30th November 2024 received.

Payment Schedules

Payee	Value	Description
Oulton Community Centre	£20.00	November 2024 Room Hire – OCC1768
Clerk Salary	£611.20	Salary Novemebr 2024
Anglia Locksmiths	£189.60	Repairs to filing cabinet
Graphic Solutions	£140.00	TOMS November 2024 edition
Rebecca Morris	£13.99	Paper – 130 year minutes
St Michaels Church	£2000.00	Signage - CIL
Total	£2974.79	

Income Received – Nothing to report

To agree payment of invoices and other expenses: Payments – Proposed by Cllr R Hinton and second by Cllr H Sarbutt – All approved

To consider grant applications: - Nothing to report

To set a date to discuss and set budgets for 2025/2026 – Precept figures for 2025/26 received. Cllr J Hinton, Cllr J Illingsworth and Clerk met Monday 11th November to review budget figures for next financial year. Presented draft budget at this meeting for approval. All unanimously agreed and can forward precept figures to East Suffolk Council.

To receive updates from individual Council Members (for information only):

- 1) Cllr T Knights provided SID camera results. Sands Lane westbound – average daily traffic 2631, average speed 30.5 mph. Hall Lane – average daily traffic 418, average speed 34 mph. Results sent to PC Michelle Deal & Ben Woolnough at Planning.
- 2) Cllr P Bryant has heard from the planning inspectorate via Amy Kemp, as Suffolk County Council is taking a neutral stance on the bridleways around Camps Heath and the Country Park. The planning inspectorate requires all the written evidence from Amy that she initially provided for the appeal. Amy has also agreed to written representation as part of the ongoing review process. The inspectorate will review the two public objections using the information provided. Amy is now awaiting further details on the further review process and timescales. It is so disappointing that this is taking so long as it was initially understood that the appeal had been successful, yet we now have a further review process to navigate and delay until the planning inspectorate provides their decision.

To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda (for information only) Duck boxes for Jenkins Green Pond.

To confirm date of the next Parish Council meeting as Tuesday 4th February 2025 @ 7.00 pm in Oulton Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 20.04. All were invited to join councillors for the celebratory buffet.

Wishing all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year