

	<p>road and there is no pavement or path. The residents asked if this 60mph speed limit could be reduced by moving the existing 30mph sign. It was agreed that initial contact should be made to Cty Cllr Oakes. The matter of speed is also on the agenda for discussion this evening.</p>	
4	<p>Chair report None</p>	
5	<p>Clerk report, with mention of emails and correspondence received Since the last regular meeting in July, for the most part I have been on annual leave. A number of residents have been in contact centred mainly around fundraising for parish events, and visibility on the roads in Willisham, these have been placed on the agenda for the Council to discuss. Cllr Oakes has advised that the cracked pipe between School House and Middlewood Cottages is down to the landowners and they have been in contact with the landowner to fix this.</p> <p>An EGM took place on 31st July regarding the National Grid Plans and the impact on the Parish to formulate a formal response to the consultation, which was done by the Chair. Administration communication difficulties continued, some bodies able to respond to a new email and some yet to make the change. Our new website has been created www.offtonandwillisham-pc.gov.uk and the old website will be in the process of being taken down by the old website providers. New emails are in the process of being created for each councillor and the clerk clerk@offtonandwillisham-pc.gov.uk , and the temporary email will be discontinued along with the old email that is no longer working. This will again spark a process of transition and bodies such as Mid Suffolk District Council Suffolk County Council, HMRC, Pension Regulator, contractors, bank etc etc will be notified and it will take time and repetition for the change from other bodies to take place. Emails will now be as secure as possible though, safeguarding councillors own personal emails and ensuring that residents and the IT providers will have access to all information the parish council holds should a freedom of information request be received or security is breached etc.</p> <p>I am hoping that all councillors are now able to access and view the bank account online.</p> <p>I am still waiting for one of the landowners to respond regarding the parking sign.</p> <p>I will be carrying out the annual asset check in Sept and updating the Action Plan to reflect current goals ready for November's meeting, along with the VAT reclaim and 2nd Qtr accounts. The 1st Quarter accounts have been checked by Cllr Cox and are due to be discussed in this meeting this evening.</p>	

	<p>The uncontested election Invoice has now been corrected and received from Mid Suffolk for £142.51 and will be paid in time.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Pylon Group Report</p> <p>Summary of activity undertaken in the period since the last Offton & Willisham Parish Council Meeting:</p> <p>Pylon Group established with active momentum and engagement in driving through the implementation of the Communication Strategy with regular meetings / discussions held</p> <p>Dr Dan Poulter MP attending Offton & Willisham Village Hall on two separate dates (Sept and Nov)</p> <p>Specific questions drafted to be shared with Dr Dan Poulter MP in advance to follow up on previous commitments, to ask pointed questions re what has been learnt since the last meeting and what is being done to protect the interest of both villages and its communities</p> <p>Notices sent to all neighbouring Parish Councils and relevant Suffolk organisations of Dr Dan Poulter attending the Offton & Willisham Village Hall</p> <p>Insert included in the Offton & Willisham Parish Magazine</p> <p>Email sent to Claire Coutinho, the newly appointed Energy Security and Net Zero Secretary setting out the Pylons' Group's concerns with the proposed plans and seeking her confirmation that she will oppose any plans to use Pylons through Offton & Willisham</p> <p>List of key contacts developed re support areas</p> <p>Ensuring full understanding of the key drivers in the National Grid strategy such as the status of the requirement changing ie Vattenfall pulling out of the Boreas project thereby reducing the planned near future energy transmissions into Norwich (reduction in energy delivery into Norwich Network Node may delay allowing the North Sea to Tilbury route to be planned and constructed)</p> <p>Early stage discussion in pulling together a 'video' of Offton & Willisham which will be used to show the impact of the proposed route on the two villages</p> <p>Active engagement with the Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex Pylons Group to ensure that the local activities are in broad alignment with the broader Group Strategy</p> <p>Current Focus Areas</p> <p>Alignment of Communication Strategy to key members of the Pylon Group to ensure allocation of responsibilities, with clear actions to</p>	

	<p>maintain visibility of the impact during the period between the Non Statutory and Statutory Consultations</p> <p>For discussion:</p> <p>Costs are being incurred by the Pylons Group (eg Meeting Room Hire Costs) – how can the reliance on individuals to cover costs be reduced?</p> <p>Parish Council to share views on additional focus areas and to set out reporting requirements for future Parish Council Meetings</p> <p>Requirement</p> <p>Offton & Willisham Parish Council to confirm that all individuals that was agreed as part of the previous Parish Council meeting (which sets out the confirmed point of view of the Parish Council) have been completed.</p> <p>The council discussed the report given by the Pylon Group and continued into item 7.</p>	
7	<p>To discuss the Terms of Reference & COmmunication Strategy for the Pylon group</p> <p>Further to the progress and momentum the Pylon group had it was now felt by the Council that the group should stand as a separate identity to the Parish Council so that it can be more reactive, gain further members, support and funding.</p> <p>It was concluded that the group had fulfilled the initial remit ‘to advise the council in their response to the National Grid’ and that as a working group for the council would now be dissolved.</p> <p>This was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously AGREED</p>	
8	<p>Standing Items agreed from the Parish Plan EGM</p> <p>i. Road Closures - Cty Cllr Oakes As Cty Cllr Oakes was not in attendance it was agreed for the Clerk to email Cllr Oakes regarding improving and changing the existing enforcement for road closures.</p> <p>ii. A dedicated Bus Route - Cllr Wells Cllr Wells reported back from liaison with the Elmswell Clerk regarding their new bus to Bury St Edmunds. Council discussed costs of hire, company that provides the service, advertising and booking. It was AGREED that Cllr Wells would look into obtaining a similar service for Offton & Willisham and report back in November</p> <p>iii. Speeding in the Village - Cllr Chaplin As per Public Participation, it was AGREED that the Clerk and resident would contact Cty Cllr Oakes regarding changing the speed limit on Barking Road.</p> <p>iv. A Tree for Every Household - Cllr Wells Cllr Wells reported that having spoken to the Biodiversity Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council that to maximise tree canopy a number of options could be investigated. A tree for every household has limits in restricted</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>to those with a garden, would have to water and look after the tree and have a big enough garden for a tree. Therefore options open were:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wood could be funded and have more tree cover than a tree in every household. The Woodland Trust fund over 0.5 hectares and one local landowner was in the process of doing this and other local landowners could be approached. 2. Trees for Gardens. Can be sourced via Suffolk Tree Wardens 3. Locality Grant - could be used for sourcing trees, to support ones once they have been planted, and/or for advertising to the parish 4. Biodiversity Officer - is hoping to provide a local source of trees, can provide protective coverings to prevent wildlife eating young trees, will be able to provide information to residents looking after a tree, would be able to help with a scheme on community land. <p>It was Proposed, Seconded and AGREED to focus on landowners and maybe do the household tree's in parallel as well as planting hedgerows due to the lack of community land in the parish.</p> <p>Cllr Wells in conjunction with Dst Cllr Pratt will work together and encompass the 'more woods' scheme.</p>	Cllr(s)
9	Planning & Governance Consultations None	Clerk
10	To discuss the restoration of the Commemorative Tree on Tye Lane It was AGREED that a new tree should be purchased of a similar size to replace the tree that had died. Cllr Cox will contact the BMSDC Biodiversity Officer regarding this.	Cllr
11	To discuss creating a footpath to Willisham Church Cllr Pratt highlighted the need for a footpath. The footpath from Fiske Pightle to the Church was discussed as it was a condition on a planning application. It was concluded to wait to see if Willisham Farm Barns is purchased and contact the owner.	Clerk
12	To discuss advertising funding for Mobile Shop Cllr Pratt advised this was more to do with organising retail providers to visit Offton & Willisham Village Hall, such as a refill van, coffee van, mobile baker. It was agreed that Cllr Pratt would liaise with the Village Hall for permission to use the car park. It was seen as an excellent idea to bring services back into the village.	Clerk
13	To discuss having a Community Wood As this was Cllr Chaplin's item this was deferred to the next meeting	Clerk
14	Resident Communication: Willisham Roadside Hedges Council asked the Clerk to forward this to Cty Cllr Oakes.	Clerk
15	Finance a) Current Bank Balances as at 31st July 2023:- Community Account = £2,092.51 Premium Account = £13,682.53	

	<p>b) To review and approve 1st Quarter Accounts - Cllr Cox Cllr Cox reported that the accounts were in order. Council Unanimously approved the 1st Quarter Accounts.</p> <p>c) To approve and Authorise payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Village Hall Invoice for 2023-2024 - £180.00 ii) Clerk Office Allowance, Mileage and Expenses - £137.45 iii) Clerk Wages for Sept - £391.63 iv) Suffolk Cloud (New Website, set-up of gov.uk, Website & Emails x2yrs, support) - £710.00 <p>These items were taken together, Proposed, Seconded and unanimously AGREED for the clerk to arrange payment.</p> <p>d) Grant Applications & Donation requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Village Hall Grant Application The grant application had been reviewed by Councillors and the representatives of the Village Hall Trust were in attendance. It was Proposed, Seconded and AGREED with one abstention to award the grant as budgeted for 2023/24 for £700. ii) Offton & Willisham Xmas Luncheon request for funding iii) Offton & Willisham Childrens Christmas Party request for funding <p>ii & iii were discussed together along with the issue of volunteers and safeguarding. It was Proposed, Seconded and AGREED that subject to the Council agreeing a Safeguarding Policy at the next meeting and volunteers meeting the criteria held within the policy, these events would take place with funding of up to £500. All receipts to be forwarded to the Clerk for reimbursement. Cllr Eves confirmed a personal donation to the Childrens' Xmas Party.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
16	<p>Confidential Item: To discuss Employee Panel members and Terms of reference This was deferred to the next meeting</p>	Clerk
17	<p>To confirm venue change for Meetings on 8th January & 13th May Due to a clash with the Garden Club alternative dates were discussed. It was agreed that the January meeting would be moved to 15th and the meeting in May to be 20th.</p>	Clerk
18	<p>Next meeting scheduled for Monday 6th November 2023 7:15pm (NEW TIME)</p>	Clerk

Meeting end 9:26pm

ADDENDUM

1. District Council Report - Sept

Pride in your place campaign

The Pride in Place campaign was launched last month with the aim to clean-up neighbourhoods, build community pride and tackle the doorstep issues that voters say matter to them. Under the scheme, parishes with a population over 1,500 are eligible to apply for up to £400.

New Business grants

Businesses in both council areas are set to benefit from a new round of funding thanks to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Mid Suffolk District Council was allocated £821,658 over the next two years. Grants are available between £5,000 - £10,000 per application and will fund a maximum of 50% of total project costs. Eligible projects include net-zero developments, agriculture and farm diversification, visitor economy business expansion as well as SME investment and diversification or investment in community facilities in our rural areas.

Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme

This scheme is open for applications that both help wildlife and have public access. Applications can be for individual trees, tree planting schemes, small community woods, hedgerows, community or scattered orchards and wildflower meadows. MSDC tree canopy cover across the district is currently well below the national average. We want to help get 30% of our land managed for wildlife by 2030 (30 by 30 national initiative). We are doing what we can on the council's land, but need help on other land to be really successful. This can include parish land, school grounds, recreation grounds, land open to the public regularly, millennium greens and community spaces.

Cost of Living support

The following support was provided for residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who were struggling with the cost of living during 2022/23. One-hundred thousand pounds was awarded to tenants through the household support fund, £150,000 to households struggling with the cost of their rent through Discretionary Housing Payments and a reduction in council tax for low-income households. During last winter, a total of £110,995 was provided to 62 organisations through Winter Warmth grants. Over 588 homelessness applications were received in Mid Suffolk. Additionally, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice received a 30% uplift in funding.

Solar Farms

The appeal against MSDC planning decision for a Solar Farm at Burstall was successful as well as the appeal for costs. There are currently several other applications for similarly large-scale solar farms in the district and this appeal decision will be a material consideration.

Dr Daniel Pratt

Mid Suffolk District Councillor