

YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at Yaxley Community Centre

Present:

Cllr J Hawes,
Cllr K Pawsey
Cllr J Moore,
Cllr D Burn,
Cllr A Watts.

Cllr Sano,
Cllr I Luff,
Cllr Wright,
Cllr C Aldous,

0 members of the public.

Philip Freeman – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence.

None.

2. Councillor's Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 14th May 2014.

The minutes of the meeting of 14th May 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr Hawes and seconded by Cllr Sano.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The Clerk reported that he had:

- Placed an advertisement for the vacant allotments in the Yaxley Messenger.
- Contacted David Newcombe and arranged for the overgrown area by the unconsecrated ground to be cut back.
- Drawn up a list of burial costs which had been circulated to councillors.

Councillor Aldous reported that he had:

- Contacted Mellis Primary School about becoming a Local Authority Governor.
- Almost completed an 'Awards for All' application and had arranged a meeting with a Mid Suffolk District Council officer about other grants.

5. Notification of any items of urgent business:

Cllr Hawes reported that grass was growing across the path on Old Ipswich Road.

Public Forum

County Councillor Jessica Fleming's Report – June 2014.

Schools Education Leader Appointed

Suffolk County Council has appointed an assistant director to lead the team which helps schools to drive up standards. Nikki Edwards joins the council from Ofsted's school inspection contractor Serco on 21 July. She was formerly a teacher and head teacher and she has 22 years' experience of working in education and improving standards.

Historic Records Storage at UCS Ipswich

Preliminary approval in principal has been given by Cabinet to building a new storage facility and office on UCS land (sufficient to meet medium term storage shortfall) around which further developments can take place. The existing small storage site in Ipswich and other sites at Bury and Lowestoft would be retained. Digitalisation of records continues, records will be made available to the public in approximately 18 months – 2 years.

Consultation on Change to Parking Standards

Updates are proposed to the County-wide technical guidance relating to new developments. It also sets out advisory levels and characteristics of parking for particular types of schemes such as gyms, restaurants, care homes and residential dwellings. A key difference is that the new document sets minimum standards for residential developments as opposed to maximum.

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Signed: _____

Date: _____

To view the guidance please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/suffolparkingconsultation>

Eye Gas Fired Power Station – Update: The County Council Cabinet approved the County's response to the Planning Application which also forms the County's initial comments to PINS. The County's position is that it would not support the Air Insulated Substation variant but could support the much smaller Gas Insulated Substation, provided that concerns about cultural heritage, natural resources, and agriculture are addressed. The application documents and registrations of interest are at: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/eastern/progress-power-station/?ipcsection=overview>

Business Support Grants – As part of our work with NALEP, Suffolk has recently been awarded an additional £1.4m from the Government's Regional Growth Fund and can offer grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). To register contact Nataliya Klymko, Fund Coordinator, nataliya.klymko@newanglia.co.uk, tel: 01603 510073. Deadline is 31st October 2014.

Energy Efficiency Improvements – Suffolk Energy Action has received additional funding from DECC for household energy efficiency improvements such as loft insulation, double pane windows and new boilers. The assistance is usually in the form of a loan against future anticipated savings, grants may be available as well. To find out more contact the scheme via the [Suffolk Energy Action](#) website or by calling 0800 840 9090 (mobile: 0208 633 9760).

If there is something you need to know more about please get in touch: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Mobile: 07714-597980

In response to questions from councillors, Cllr Fleming reported that:

- There was a problem with the cutting of grass verges on minor roads and Kier Gurney was approximately 3 weeks behind with the work.
- A and B roads had been cut.
- The Thornham Music Festival was on the weekend of 17th July 2014.
- She could make a contribution to the cutting of the vegetation at the entrance to Cherry Tree Close from the Locality Budget.

Meeting reopened at 7:54 p.m.

6. Correspondence (copies circulated in Correspondence File or with agenda).

- Various documents from SALC Halifax
- Clerk & Councils Direct.
- Various emails and letter about the Progress Power application.
- Various emails from Suffolk Community Foundation.
- Letter from Dr Dan Poulter about the HGV petition.
- Term and Parish Council newsletter.
- Notification of temporary traffic order.
- Local Councils Update.
- The local councillor.
- Email from Steve Jacobs.
- Emails from Common Concern.
- Email from the Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Day
- Lights Out.
- Suffolk Energy Action is Coming Your Way Soon!
- The new code of conduct.

7. Yaxley Allotments:

- Update on allotment gardens and tenancy agreement.
 - a. Report on the number of vacant plots.

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There were 17 vacant plots and there was a discussion of how this number could be reduced. The following comments were made:

- Tenants could be offered a second plot at half the annual rent.
 - Extend the catchment area for tenants if the applicant was recommended. This was unanimously agreed, proposed by Cllr Sano and seconded by Cllr Watts.
 - There was a national shortage of allotments and it was difficult to understand why there were vacant plots.
 - People were starting to work together.
 - The variations in the summer weather over recent years had not help the situation.
 - It would be useful to establish a strategy for ensuring that the allotments were fully used.
- b. Applications for Plots.
David Wilcox may be interested in becoming a tenant.
- c. Tenancy agreements 2013/2014.
Nothing to report.
- Unused plots:
Mark Sano had sprayed the vacant plots with herbicide.

8. Highways Matters:

- a. The use of the road through Yaxley by HGVs.
- i. HGV petition.
There was nothing further to report on the HGV petition.
- b. Flooding on Old Ipswich Road in front of School House/Lyon Cottage.
The following points were made:
- Water will build up very quickly following heavy rain.
 - There may be a problem with a blocked pipe but the water does drain away once the rain had stopped.
 - A significant issue was the way vehicles drive through the flooded area because of the wash affect.
 - The area flooded very quickly following the storm during the week before this meeting.
 - It was agreed that the matter should be reported to The Highways Department of Suffolk County Council. **Action: the Clerk.**
- c. Speed Data Recorders on Old Ipswich Road.
Following a short discussion of Cllr Burn's suggestion that speed data recorders should be placed on the Old Ipswich Road it was unanimously agreed to request that the police should place them on the Old Ipswich Road and on Mellis Road. Proposed by Cllr Burn and seconded by Cllr Luff.

9. Finances and financial report

- a. **Balances on Accounts: 28th May 2014.**
- i. Current Account: £8,124.10p.
 - ii. Deposit Account: £5,561.40p.
- b. **To authorise cheques for signature:**
- i. Clerk's Pay and Expenses: £219.40p
 - ii. HMRC: £50.20p
 - iii. David Newcombe: £130.00p (2 cuts)
 - iv. Membership renewal for Community Action Suffolk: £30.00p
 - v. SALC – audit: £139.20.
 - vi. Safe and sound - we control on the allotments: £60.00p
 - vii. Terry's Odd Job Services - for installing seat in play area: £85.00p
 - viii. Mid Suffolk District Council - litter and dog bin emptying: £192.00p
- Resolved**, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts presented. Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Wright.
- c. **Receipts.**

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- i. Kier MG LTD: £500.00p
- ii. N Copping – allotment rent: £15.00p.
- iii. Susan Whymark Funeral Services LTD: £55.00p

d. **Audit Report.**

The Clerk reported that he had received the report from the Internal Auditor and that there were three areas for action:

- o The Annual Parish Meeting had been held in April 2013, and it should have taken place in May, but it was arranged in this way because there was no meeting scheduled in May 2013.
- o The financial regulations were not reviewed during the last financial year but the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7th November 2012 showed that they were reviewed at that meeting.
- o The grant from Mid Suffolk District Council was now shown as income separate to the precept.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Wright for his help with the Annual Accounts.

e. **Projects that the Parish Council may Finance**

- i. Disabled toilets/toilet refurbishment for the Community Hall.
 - o Grant application.
See under matters arising.

10. Request for Donation from SARs.

It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £50, proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Watts. The payment will be made at the next meeting.

11. Cherry Tree Close Working Party.

There was nothing further to report and the working party will meet before the next meeting the Parish Council.

12. Foliage at the Entrance to Cherry Tree Close.

Reports had been received that foliage was blocking the visibility of vehicles leaving Cherry Tree Close. In particular, it was difficult to see vehicles coming from the Mellis direction. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should contact a contractor from Thrandeston to cut this area and the Council agreed a maximum allocation of £100 to pay for this work, the Council accepted the offer that this should be paid from the Locality Budget, proposed by Cllr Aldous and seconded by Cllr Luff.

Cllrs Luff and Pawsey offered to help the contractor when the work was being done. The Council noted that in the original planning application for this area it was for low growing plants.

13. Eye Airfield:

a. Progress Power Application:

Cllr Burn had arranged a meeting between Mid Suffolk District Council and local councils and there had been a recommendation that the local councils should work together to oppose the application for the substation. Cllrs Pawsey and Luff attended the meeting.

It was noted that there was considerable overlap between the responses made by local councils but they did not have the resources to pay for professional/expert help. There had been a suggestion to set up a working party from local councils and there was a preliminary meeting with the Planning Inspector on 24th July 2014.

A document summarising the meeting between Mid Suffolk District Council and local councils was given to councillors by Cllr Burn.

The following points were made in the discussion that followed:

- There was concern about the attitude of Michael Wilks from Suffolk County Council.
- There will be a meeting on 24th July 2014 where the Planning Inspector will explain the process.

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- A number of responses will be required over the six-month period of the examination.
- There may be hearings at which representatives of the Parish Council would have an opportunity to speak.
- It may be sensible for the Council to go ahead alone in case there was a lack of support from other councils.
- It may be necessary to look for local expertise to help oppose the application.
- The position of Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.
- Eight councils were involved.
- Common Concern had initiated considerable opposition to the application. There may be request from this organisation for a donation towards its costs.
- Cllr Burn will send the Clerk information on Section 111 which covered how the Council may be able to spend money on opposing this application. **Action: Cllr Burn.**
- The Suffolk Preservation Society was making a valuable contribution.

The following resolutions were unanimously agreed:

- The Council would work with the local councils, proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Luff.
 - Cllr Pawsey and Cllr Luff would represent the Parish Council, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Wright.
 - Cllrs Pawsey and Luff would have delegated powers to act on behalf the Parish Council, proposed by Cllr Hawes and seconded by Cllr Sano.
 - The Council would become a member of the Suffolk Preservation Society, proposed by Cllr Sano and seconded by Cllr Hawes.
- b. Letter from Progress Power – to agree the action to be taken.
It was unanimously agreed, proposed by Cllr Sano and seconded by Cllr Watts, to ask for advice from the Parish Council's solicitor.

14. Parish Council matters for publication in the Yaxley Messenger.

Application by Progress Power for a Power Station on Eye Airfield:

Yaxley Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help prepare its case in relation to the application for a power station on Eye Airfield and the placing of a substation on the west side of the A140 near Yaxley. If you have an expertise in one of the following areas, and could help, please contact the Parish Clerk by email:

philip.c.freeman@btinternet.com

Help is needed from people with an expertise in, heavy construction, ecology, landscape management, traffic management, archaeology, heritage preservation or environmental impact.

15. Planning:

- Applications:
 - None.
- Planning Decisions:
 - Approved:
 - No. 0274 / 14: Erection of annexe accommodation. Erection of attached double garages at Whiteholme, Mellis Road, Yaxley
 - Refused: None.

16. Play Area:

- To receive Play Area Inspection Report.

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Cllr Luff reported that the play area was in good order and he had removed thistles and weeds, but, they need to be permanently cleared. He offered to continue until the next meeting.

b. Annual Playground Report: Update.

Three quotations had been requested to repair the slide:

- Terry Keeley, did not wish to quote.
- The original installers, whose overall quote was in excess of £1,000.
- Willing Hands quoted £375.

The quotation from Willing Hands was unanimously agreed, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Moore.

Cllr Pawsey agreed to find the cost of the chains and bearings for the swing and it was agreed that Cllr Fleming should be contacted for a contribution from the Locality Budget.

17. Yaxley Cemetery:

- a. To consider inspection report – Cllr J Hawes.
The grass had been cut just before this meeting and all was in good order.
- b. Review of cemetery charges and fees.
A revised set of cemetery charges had been emailed to councillors before the meeting and a two stage increase in charges was unanimously agreed. Proposed by Cllr Hawes and seconded by Cllr Wright. The Clerk will notify local funeral directors. **Action: the Clerk.**

18. To receive Councillor's reports:

- a. Cllr Burn – EPR.
Nothing to report.
- b. Cllr Moore – Yaxley Town Estates Fund.
Nothing to report.

19. A.O.B. –

- Councillors were asked to pass on comments to the Clerk about the litter collection by a student for his Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Councillor Burn offered to be the councils SALC representative.

Meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.

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Signed: _____

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