

YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

371

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2015 at Yaxley Community Centre.

Present:

Cllr Hawes, Cllr Aldous Cllr Pawsey,
Cllr Sano, Cllr Moore, Cllr Wright,
Cllr Burn, Cllr Watts.
0 member of the public.

Philip Freeman – Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Luff and County Cllr Fleming.

2. Councillors' Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.

Councillors completed the dispensation forms so they would be able to agree the precept the 2015/2016.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10th December 2014.

The minutes of the meeting of the 10th December 2014 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Hawes, with the following amendment: Jenny Amphill should read Jenny Anthill.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The following matters arose from the previous meeting:

- Mr Stevens was only able to attend a meeting on evenings other than Wednesday.
- There was a new police sergeant at Eye and the Chairman had attended a meeting where the police had explained that they were under considerable pressure and were may end the priority setting meetings.
- The Clerk had reported weeds and leaves which were making the path from Yaxley to Mellor's slippery.
- Th3re were problems with the white line road markings at the junction of the A140, Castleton Way and Eye Road, Yaxley.
- The Clerk and the Chairman had completed the parish survey.
- The Clerk had sent reminder letters to the allotment tenants who had not returned their agreements.
- Flooding on the Old Ipswich Road was still being investigated.
- Sue Herne will attend the meeting in February to give a presentation on Community Emergency Planning.
- The Clerk had sent a note to the Yaxley messenger about dog fouling in the Churchyard.
- The Clerk had booked to the meeting dates for 2015 with Celia Armstrong.

5. Notification of any items of urgent business:

None.

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Meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

Public Forum

Police Report:

Sgt Watts joined the meeting and explained that he had replaced Sgt John Eves and him, PC Sandra Wiggins, and four PCSOs were responsible for Mid Suffolk Central. He made the following points in his report:

- Crime: there were nine reported crimes in Yaxley during the last six months, which included two adult safeguarding matters, one burglary of a dwelling, in Ipswich Road which was an ongoing operation, two criminal damage incidents, for which one person had been arrested and charged and two dog incidents. In general, the crime rate was low in the area.
- Mid Suffolk North had 171 crimes and the area most affected was Palgrave with 73 crimes largely due to the St John's Hospital. In Eye there were 50 crimes and in Stradbroke 27.
- Much of the crime was serious i.e. burglary, criminal damage, the theft of heating oil and siphoning fuel from vehicles.
- In Stowmarket there was more domestic crime.
- Speeding vehicles and rural crime were being targeted.
- The next priority tasking meeting will take place in Thorndon.
- Speeding in Yaxley - Safecam will be used in Yaxley on the Mellis Road.
- Due to a shortage of resources there was a less visible presence from the police and most crime was dealt with by response teams from Stowmarket.
- Policing in the area would be increasingly challenging because of cuts to funding since most money was spent on staff. It was difficult to promise anything for the future.
- However, there needed to be a visible presence from the police.

In response to questions from councillors Sgt Watts made the following points:

- Response teams work from hubs and there was an allocation of officers to these teams but if they were busy there could be a call to another area.
- There could be a considerable number of officers on duty at any one time. In Stowmarket there was a sergeant and six police officers and at peak times there may be two shifts on duty at one time. The minimum was a sergeant and four police officers. The area covered was between Thurston, Sudbury, Ipswich, the Norfolk border and Hinderclay. Due to the large area covered less jobs were dealt with.
- In Ipswich there was a sergeant and 16 police officers on duty at any one time.
- The response time to Yaxley depended on where the police were coming from. Response teams come from Stowmarket where they cover the A14 corridor.
- Operations were organised to target crime and the two burglaries, on the day before this meeting, were now being targeted.
- Eye Town Council had complained about parking outside the schools but there was limited action that could be taken to deal with this.
- There was a problem with parking outside Mellis Primary School and a walking bus had been tried in some places to overcome this problem.

Sgt Watts would try to attend parish council meetings and, if unable to, would make sure that a report was sent. He hoped to attend Yaxley Parish Council three times per year and he would try to arrange for an officer to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Watts for attending the meeting.

Written Police Report for Yaxley PCM:

Crime Statistics

Since the beginning of December there have been 2 crimes reported to the police. The first refers to a Burglary on Old Ipswich Road between 9.30am and 5pm on 9/12/14. The second we cannot provide information for.

Speeding

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Yaxley will be having visits from the SafeCam van in the coming weeks. It has been agreed that Mellis Road, will become an approved site for enforcement following on from the Data which was recorded last year. The operators are currently finalizing the site and hoping to start enforcement in the coming weeks.

A burglar's top ten

There are a number of things burglars will look for when they case a house to see how easy it will be to get in. Find out how to protect yourself and deter thieves.

1. Spare keys

Think it's still OK to keep a spare key under the flowerpot? Think again. Burglars know all the hiding places – better to leave your spare keys with a neighbour or friend you trust.

2. Patio doors and ground floor windows

These are a particular favourite for burglars, keep them shut and locked, especially when you leave the room. If you have patio doors make sure you invest in secure glazing and locking systems.

3. Small and expensive

Your 42-inch TV might be safe because burglars these days tend to target small, expensive items they can easily grab. Keep cash, watches, jewellery, laptops, mobile phones and games consoles safely hidden.

4. The vulnerable

Students, the elderly and people moving house are all particularly susceptible to burglary.

5. Tools

Tools have long been a favourite of burglars because they can be easily sold or traded. There is a never ending demand for specialty tools on the illegal market.

6. Unsecured firearms

If you have a licence to keep firearms be responsible about how you store them. Firearms have a high black-market value - don't put them out there.

7. Electrical equipment

Electronics are also favourite targets for criminals because they can be easily sold or used for personal use. Electronics are not hard to find in the home as people often use them on a daily basis. Consider buying 'lock down' plates for your electrical equipment, back up your computer data regularly and look for products with built-in security devices when you buy.

8. Good getaways and hiding places

Burglars like houses that have easy escape routes or plenty of bushes to hide in should they be disturbed. Simple things such as placing flower pots beneath ground floor windows makes their lives harder as does putting good external lighting over any dark corners or bushes.

9. Scatty residents

People who leave their ground-floor windows open or leave ladders carelessly placed against a wall are advertising their house to burglars. Do not assume that because you are in the house you can keep those windows open or let your guard down either, many burglars will go for occupied homes at night knowing that they will contain wallets and mobile phones.

10. Holidays

Leaving the newspapers building up on the doorstep or forgetting to cancel the milk are all sure-fire signals to a burglar that the house is empty.

Priorities

On Tuesday 6th January, Eye SNT held its quarterly priority tasking meeting. During the meeting it was decided that the following priorities would be set;

Rural Crime - target incidents of Rural Crime in Mid Suffolk North.

Rural Crime is defined as 'Any crime of a agricultural, livestock wildlife or heritage nature. Includes fly tipping, unauthorised metal detecting and hare coursing.

Excess speed – target vehicles exceeding speed limits in Mid Suffolk North.

Due to the increased number of complaints, received in the meeting and through the last period.

The next meeting is set for Thorndon Village Hall, Thorndon at 7.30pm on 27/04/15

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Your Local Safer Neighbourhood Team

Your local team is always willing to assist with crime prevention, and can often assist with inexpensive methods of helping you ensure your property is better secured. Feel free to contact us on the details included in this report with any questions or concerns.

For those of you who engage in Social Media, Mid Suffolk Police now have a Twitter account. This is regularly updated with crime prevention advice, crime information, witness appeals and other local policing news. You can access the account at www.twitter.com/@MidSuffPolice.

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Your local officers are: PCSO 3240 Faulkner & PC 80 Wiggins

County Cllr Report – January 2015.

Cllr Fleming's report had been circulated before the meeting.

Railway Crossings and GEML Upgrades

In Suffolk, Network Rail's Anglia route asset management team is starting to review the safety of all level crossings on the Great Eastern Main Line (GEML). Officers from Suffolk County Council's Transport Strategy Team and Rights of Way Team are working with Network Rail on this project. The work is being undertaken through the Suffolk Road Rail Partnership Group (SRRPG).

The County's position is that it wants to see safe level crossings and faster travel times, and also ensure that the public is properly consulted and accessibility is not compromised as part of this process. It will continue to respond robustly to Network Rail where proposals are not matched with appropriate access. Expect location specific consultations from NR later this summer.

Consultation on Network Rail – Anglia Route Study – end date 3rd Feb.

This Route Study sets out how future growth in the long term to 2043 could be accommodated as well as the nearer term (2019 – 2024). Although no direct mention is made of crossings the public is encouraged to respond with any comments on these plans.

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/long-term-planning-process/anglia-route-study/>

DfT Consultation on the new East Anglia Rail Franchise – end date 16th March

This document describes the DfT's planned approach for rail passenger services on the Greater Anglia franchise when the current contract ends on 16 October 2016. Views are sought on the future franchise specification and any changes the public would like to see.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/east-anglia-rail-passenger-franchise>

Progress Power Eye Power Plant, Eye

The examination phase of this application ends on 24th January. SCC and MSDC have jointly submitted final comments for Deadline 8 on 13th January including a summary of the local authorities' position on key aspects of the proposal. Issue Specific Hearings took place at the Brome Grange Hotel on Dec. 9 – 11th; relevant documents are available on:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/eastern/progress-power-station/?ipcsection=exam>

It is noted that Central Suffolk and North Ipswich MP Dr. Dan Poulter has unusually written to PINS to object to the project, and his letter has been accepted by the Planning Inspector.

If there is something you need to know more about please get in touch:

County Cllr. Jessica Fleming, Hartismere

Assistant Cabinet Member Localities and Environment

Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Mobile: 07714-597980

Meeting opened at 8:12 p.m..

Signed: _____

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

- Various documents from SALC
- Various emails about the Progress Power application and the Planning Inspectorate.
- Various emails from Suffolk Community Foundation.

7. Yaxley Allotments:

- Update on allotment gardens and tenancy agreement.
 - a. Report on the number of vacant plots.
The Clerk reported that there were eighteen vacant plots.
 - b. Applications for Plots:
There had been one application for two plots.
 - c. Tenancy agreements 2014/2015.
Ten tenancy agreements had been returned and three plots had been given up.
- Unused plots:
Nothing to report.

8. Highways Matters:

- a. The use of the road through Yaxley by HGVs.
Nothing to report.
- b. Flooding on Old Ipswich Road in front of School House/Lyon Cottage.
Update.
See under the Public Forum and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the highways engineer for this area again.
- c. Speed Data Recorders on Old Ipswich Road. Update.
See under the Public Forum.

9. Finances and financial report

- a. **Balances on Accounts: 28th December 2014.**
 - i. Current Account: £6,207.35p.
 - ii. Deposit Account: £5,563.53p.
The bank balances were noted.
- b. **To authorise cheques for signature:**
 - i. Clerk's Pay and Expenses: £193.74p
 - ii. HMRC: £47.00p
 - iii. Clerk's expenses for use of home as an office: £75.00p.
Resolved, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts presented. Proposed by Cllr Burn and seconded by Cllr Wright.
- c. **Receipts:**
 - i. Burial fees: £110.00p
 - ii. Interest: £0.69p.
The receipts were noted.
- d. **Budget Report to 31st December 2014.**
The Clerk had emailed a report to councillors before the meeting. The report was noted and there were no significant variances from the original budget.
- e. **Budget and Precept 2015/2016.**
The Clerk had prepared a budget for 2015/2016 and recommended that the precept was kept at the same level of £5,250 as for 2014/2015. Following a short discussion the budget and the precept were agreed unanimously, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Hawes.
- f. **Projects that the Parish Council may Finance**
 - i. Disabled toilets/toilet refurbishment for the Community Hall.
 - Grant application.
Nothing to report.

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10. Review of Deeds of Yaxley Community Centre.

The Clerk had contacted Steeles Solicitors about the registration of the land on which the Community Centre was built. It was agreed unanimously, proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Sano, to authorise the registration of the land with the Land Registry.

11. Clerk's Salary Review.

During the review of the Clerk's salary he left the room. Following a discussion it was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary to SCP 26.

12. Mid Suffolk District Council Consultation on Planning Policy.

Cllr Burn the following points in an explanation of Mid Suffolk District Council's consultation on planning policy:

- The Local Plan had been in place since 1998 and was overdue for review. The stimulus for this had been pulling together the two workforces from Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council and the aim was to bring the two councils into alignment.
- There were differences in the planning policies between the two Councils and the intention was to bring them into line to help the planning department function efficiently. The aim was to streamline the process and this has implications for the five-year land supply which to protect councils from exploitation by developers.
- There was a difference between the two Councils in regulating within the countryside.
- Mid Suffolk District Council had a hierarchical system whereas Babergh District Council was flexible.
- There had been a search recently for additional sites to build up the land supply.
- The new policy would look at land supply.
- There was an appetite, in some villages, for development which was not allowed present.
- The Parish Survey was part of the process.
- Information about this consultation was on Mid Suffolk District Council's website and councillors were asked to look at it before the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Burn will send the Clerk the relevant document to be circulated. **Action: Cllr Burn.**

13. Cherry Tree Close Working Party.

Cllr Watts reported that he had received an email from Shane Hines of the Legal Department of Suffolk County Council. Mr Hines had contacted Mr Lucas' solicitor and initially there was a positive response but subsequently nothing further. Cllr Watts also reported that he had been contacted, in his role as a Parish Councillor, due to the failure of a house sale on Cherry Tree Close. He had advise the parishioner that the Parish Council was working to resolve the problem. The Chairman thanked Cllr Watts for all his work in this area.

14. Community Emergency Plan.

Postponed to the next meeting.

15. Eye Airfield:

- a. Progress Power Application:
 - i. Update from the Chairman and Cllr Luff.

All submissions from the Working Group had been made by 13th January 2015. Inspector now had three months to make recommendations to the Secretary of State, who then had three months to make a decision.

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Cllr Burn reported:

- The last document had been a robust challenge to Progress Power's report on alternative sites.
- The legislation puts the onus on the developer, if substantial harm were acknowledged by the developer, due to the choice of a particular site, then it had to be shown that this was unavoidable.
- Progress Power claimed it had looked at 600 sites. It was unclear on what basis the decision had been made that some sites were unsuitable.
- The Inspector had instructed Progress Power to produce information on the alternative sites on 19th December 2014 and, as a result, a little more detail had been received.
- There had been nothing on the environmental assessment.
- Cllr Burn had spoken to Cllr Fleming and she felt that the application should be refused.
- Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council had been more guarded in their comments but felt that the application should be refused.
- The working group had been effective in focusing on heritage and environmental issues.
- It had been an unusual step by Dr Dan Poulter MP to publicly oppose the application and to praise the work of the Working Group.
- The Inspector could refuse the application but this would only be a recommendation and the final decision was with the Secretary of State.
- Suffolk Preservation Society had helped with the preparation of the representations.

Cllr Burn had led the working group and had a massive amount of help from Phil Butler. The Council thanked Cllr Burn, and all those involved in the Working Group, for all they had done on behalf of Yaxley.

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

None.

17. Planning: To include any applications received after the publication of this agenda.

a. Applications:

- i. No 3908/14: demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of new dwelling and garage and erection of new garage with studio over existing cottage at land adj Linden Lea, Mellis Road, Yaxley.

The Chairman explained that the only difference from the first application was the drawing now included parking spaces for cars. The Parish Council had originally objected because:

- Of the lack of parking spaces.
- It was felt that the garage/studio would block the light to neighbours.
- The development did not fit in with other properties.
- The footprint was felt to be too big. 7

Since there had been no significant change to the plans the Parish Council unanimously agreed to make the same comments as previously, proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Wright with Cllr Burn abstaining.

- ii. No.3984/14: erection of two storey extension to annex at 67 Ipswich Road, Yaxley.

Signed: _____

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The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application since it was an extension and the property could not be seen from the road. Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Sano with Cllr Burn abstaining.

- b. Planning Decisions:
 - i. Approved: None.
 - ii. Refused: None.
 - iii. Withdrawn: None.

18. Play Area:

- a. To receive Play Area Inspection Report.
Cllr Wright reported:
 - There were no problems with the Play Area.
 - It had not been used much recently.
 - The brambles needed to be cut.
 - One leg of the slide was beginning to show signs of rot and it was agreed to take no action on this until next year.Cllr Watts agreed to take responsibility for the Play Area for the next period.
- b. Annual Playground Report – update.
It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

19. Yaxley Cemetery:

- a. To consider inspection report – Cllr J Hawes.
Cllr Hawes reported that the memorials were safe and the hedge had been partly cut. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Newcombe and ask that the whole hedge should be cut to the same standard. **Action: the Clerk.**

20. To receive Cllr's reports:

- a. Cllr Burn – EPR.
The next meeting would be in the summer.
- b. Cllr Burn – SALC.
There had been no meeting.
- c. Cllr Moore – Yaxley Town Estates Fund.
At the meeting of Yaxley Town Estates Fund it had been agreed not to give any money this year but donations would be made as appropriate.

21. A.O.B. – Any Items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at next meeting on 25th February 2015.

Cllr Moore reported that there were pot holes near the junction, by the Old Post Office. There were further pot holes on Dukes Bridge Lane and on the A140 near the Goswold Hall entrance and the turning to Thrandeston. It was agreed that the Clerk should report these problems to the Highways Department of Suffolk county Council.
Action: the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.