

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council in Yaxley Community Hall  
on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

Present:

Cllr K Pawsey  
Cllr J Moore,  
Cllr D Burn,  
Cllr A Luff,

Cllr I Luff,  
Cllr C Wright,  
Cllr J Hawes,  
Cllr R Hall

0 members of the public.

Philip Freeman – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence.  
Cllr A Watts.
2. Councillor's Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.  
Cllr Hall and Hawes declared a nonpecuniary interest in item 6 a.
3. Notification of any items of urgent business:  
Emails received from the Police about parking near the junction of Eye Road with Old Ipswich Road and attendance by the Police at Parish Council meetings.

Public Forum

No members of the public were present at the meeting and therefore there was nothing to report from the Public Forum.

4. Finances and financial report  
It was agreed to pay £33 to Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council for a RoSPA course which would be attended by Cllr A Luff. Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Wright.
  - a. Projects that the Parish Council may Finance
    - i. Disabled toilets/toilet refurbishment for the Community Hall.
      - o Quotation for the work.
      - o Grant application.

The Chairman made the following points following a meeting with Gillian Hilder from Mid Suffolk District Council:

  - It would be helpful if the Parish Council the Community Hall. This was still being investigated by Steele's Solicitors.
  - It would be possible to raise £25,000 in grants:
    - o Section 106 money - £1,983
    - o Council grant - £8,250.
    - o Awards for All - £10,000.
    - o Locality Budget - £500.
    - o A grant from the District Councillor of £500.
    - o In addition, the Parish Council could donate £5,000 towards the project.
  - Mrs Hilder believed this would help with the application for an Awards for All grant as it would be seen as positive that the Parish Council was offering £5,000.
  - Six additional builders had been identified to be approached for quotations for the work.
  - JH Vaudrey and Son Ltd had reduced its quotation to £21,460 plus VAT. This had been achieved by reducing the specification to a very basic level.

It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss with the architect how the specification could be divided into sections for the re-tendering process.  
**Action: the Chairman.**
5. Local Plan for Yaxley.  
Cllr Burn had prepared a briefing note on the neighbourhood plan and it had been sent to councillors. The following documents, The Power of Neighbourhood Planning, A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning and a description of how the plan could be prepared in sections, were given to Councillors.  
Cllr Burn made the following points:
  - The documents should be called a Community Led Plan.

- No decisions should be made at this meeting.
- He did not intend to sell the plan to Councillors.
- Any plan should reflect the Local Plan and the new version would include 35 policies.
- Parish Plans should be upgraded in relation to planning and they were advisory not statutory.
- Examples of neighbourhood plans were given to Councillors.
- It may be advisable to wait until the new document on Community Led Planning was available and then to consider preparing a joint plan with neighbouring parishes. In this case each parish could focus on preparing a specific section.
- Councillors should look at the documentation prior to a discussion.
- At present local plans were being prepared for Eye and Stradbroke.
- Few small villages had prepared Neighbourhood Plans but there was increasing interest in them.
- The plan could not be used to stop development but it could be used to direct it.
- The Local Authority will put pressure on parishes to allow the building of houses due to the pressure that the Local Authority was under.
- The biggest challenge will be to set up a working party, of the right sort of people, in the village with the appropriate skills and experience to prepare the document. It was agreed that the Parish Council could not undertake the task on its own.
- It was a long-term commitment.

In response to questions the following points were made

- People in the village would need to support the plan because the final stage was a referendum which will require 51% of those voting to be in favour.
- Community involvement, and engagement, was fundamental and it could be seen as a process to activate the village.
- It would be necessary to evaluate the process.
- Cost: it was not possible to say what grants were currently available but Cllr Burn had emailed the appropriate officer of Mid Suffolk District Council in order to find out what funding the Parish Council receive to support this work. **Action: Cllr Burn.**
- The steering group could be from outside the Parish Council but it was agreed that the Parish Council would need to be represented.
- It was suggested that the Parish Council had not got the capacity to undertake any additional work at present.
- Without a plan a community had no protection if development was suggested. However, the plan could divide a community and people had to be interested in preparing it.

Councillors thanked Cllr Burn for all his work in this area.

It was agreed that Councillors should consider what the next stage of the work should entail. **Action: Councillors.**

**6. Planning:**

a. Applications:

- i. Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to residential (retrospective application)

Location: Yawn Cottage, Old Norwich Road, Yaxley, IP23 8BH

Application Number: 3482 / 15

Cllrs Hall and Hawes declared a nonpecuniary interest in this item.

The following point were made in the discussion:

- It was noted that this was a retrospective application because the enforcement officer had identified a problem.
- No permission had been given for the change of use of agricultural land to residential. I.e. agricultural land was being used for a garden.

It was agreed, with one abstention, to support the application, proposed by Cllr I Luff and seconded by Cllr Moore.

b. Planning Decisions:

- i. Approved: none.
- ii. Refused: None.
- iii. Withdrawn: None.

## YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

415.

7. A.O.B. – Any Items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Two emails had been received from the police:

- Parking: the Parish Council was concerned by the parking of a vehicle at the junction of the Eye Road with the Old Ipswich Road would set a precedent and when this problem has arisen in the past the police had taken action. The Parish Council considered this to be a busy junction and therefore action should be taken by the Police. Since the local police had refused to act on the Parish Council's concerns it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should email the Police and Crime Commissioner and asked him to investigate this issue. Proposed by Cllr I Luff and seconded by Cllr Burn. **Action: the Clerk.**
- Representation of the police at parish council meeting.  
An email has been received which stated that due to reductions in funding the police would no longer be able to attend parish council meetings.

Meeting closed at 9:01 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

13<sup>th</sup> October 2015.