**Reports for the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

**in Yaxley Community Centre.**

1. **Apologies.**
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 6th June 2018.**
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
4. **County Councillor’s Report: Cllr Jessica Fleming.**

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**State of the County** – A County Council administration as of last May includes Leader Cllr Mathew Hicks , and Deputy Cllr Mary Evans who is also Cabinet Member for Highways. Chief Executive, Nicola Beach took over last summer from Deborah Cadman. The Council’s main focus over the past year has been investing in local roads and infrastructure, working closer with our health partners to improve social care, and using limited funds efficiently.

**A140 Upgrades –** Planning approval has been granted for two new roundabouts on the A140 and a link road to the northern roundabout from the B1077. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2019. The scheme includes pedestrian and cycle access arrangements.

**Major Road Improvements** –The Council has started detailed design for the Lowestoft Third River Crossing; the Beccles Southern Relief Road was officially opened in September. The Council is also considering options for an Ipswich Northern Fringe Road. Public consultation on possible routes and junctions with the A14 and A12 will begin in the Summer 2019.

**Highways** - Suffolk Highways service centres at Rougham, Halesworth and Ipswich are now well established, and community wardens have been working with parishes. Warden Luke Merton has visited Yaxley in January and is familiar with the local issues. Suffolk Highways has purchased three Nu-phalt Thermal Patching machines aided by a central government grant. This enables Highways teams to carry out more effective, durable road repairs in poor weather.

The web-based reporting system is now widely used for road and drainage issues -as a reminder:

Report a defect <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

To check on area roadworks - <https://roadworks.org/>

**‘The Hold’ Historic Records Centre, Ipswich** - construction has commenced and the new centre is set to open in Spring 2020. It will replace the existing Ipswich Record Office in Gatacre Road, the Lowestoft and Bury Record Offices will remain open. On this basis Suffolk Record Office was on March 28th awarded Archive Service Accreditation, a quality standard which allows records of national importance to be retained in the County in the long term.

**Upgrades to Suffolk Recycling Centres –** The County is investing £6m into upgrades or replacement at Foxhall, Haverhill, Ipswich and Stowmarket; a suitable new site is needed for the latter. Construction is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

**Broadband –** The Council, in partnership with Districts, has secured £1.725m from DEFRA to help provide Superfast Broadband access to rural businesses currently excluded from fibre broadband rollout, and to enable additional non-business premises to upgrade. This will help connect some of the remaining 2% of the County not covered by existing contracts, although more work is needed to reach all premises. Connections for the qualifying rural areas will begin later in 2019.

**Planning and Major Projects** – Suffolk County Council works closely with applicants and comments on national scale projects, it determines applications for waste, minerals, highways and some schools and is a consultee on local planning proposals.

In the past year the Council has reviewed and objected to several aspects of EDF’s Stage 3 plans for Sizewell C namely road transport, effects on protected species and landscapes, and construction logistics. Similarly, it has objected to plans for land-based infrastructure associated with off-shore wind farms over harm to the natural environment and cumulative effects on the East Suffolk coast.

Nationally the Government issued an updated National Planning Policy Framework in July and new guidance on Neighbourhood Plans. The Council has begun work on its own Design Guidance which will be available later this year to help influence and improve the quality of new development.

**Council Budget Challenge** – With the reduced government revenue support grant the Council needed to raise council tax this year to help pay for needed services, particularly health and social care which now take ¾ of the total budget of £519m.

If you have comments or questions about this report or any other matter, please get in touch as I would like to hear your views.

Thank you for your support and participation over the past year.

1. **District Councillor’s Report: Cllr David Burn.**
2. **Yaxley Parish Council Report: Cllr I Luff.**

I was privileged to take over a council and village left in outstandingly good order by our previous chairman of many years standing, Mr Keith Pawsey. Throughout this year I have been attempting to live up to his example with the support of my fellow councillors, my Vice Chair Julian Moore and our exceptional clerk Mr Philip Freeman. I thank them all along with our county and district councillors, Jessica Fleming and David Burn who, despite their many commitments, have found time to support us by attending the vast majority of our meetings and by giving generous help both financially from locality budgets and through support in raising various issues with members and officials of both Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council

The Parish Council strove to maintain Yaxley village affairs to a secure and safe standard in the face of considerable challenges in the past year. Below is a summary of achievements and ongoing issues since 2018.

**Speed Indication Devices and Highways Issues**

Since the visit of Councillor Evans, the Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for transport earlier in the year, to observe the congestion around Mellis School and the state of road services in the village some small progress with local issues has been made; however the Parish Council remains locked in a constant state of dispute with Highways over their unwillingness to tackle the issues we report on a weekly basis. Our campaign for a footpath or other traffic control measures between Yaxley and Mellis continues. A scoping report on a continuous footpath between Yaxley and Mellis was carried out when Cllr Pawsey was still Chairman with support from Councillor Fleming, but a considerable financial obstacle still remains before construction becomes even faintly possible. This has become even more urgent with imminent construction work on two roundabouts and a large chicken factory on the A140 having the potential to increase traffic flow past Mellis School: already a congestion and danger hotspot. The Parish Council paid for a vehicle survey on Mellis Road which was carried out in March 2019. This provides useful evidence of traffic flows in excess of 1000 vehicles a day and will allow a good comparison of such flow before and after construction of the projects mentioned above.

A second Speed Indicator device was purchased this year with assistance from Councillor Fleming which allows coverage of the two of the three main road entries to the Village. We now have three location points, but unfortunately no approved sites can be found for any more. These devices have proven popular and effective.

**Allotments**

Sadly, the number of tenanted plots on our allotment site has fallen to a new low of only 6 from 30. The Parish Council has a duty to provide allotments and lottery money was used to establish the site so closure on financial grounds would be problematic and undesirable. Allotments, although undoubtedly hard work (!) are the ultimate ‘green’ project and can provide a healthy and rewarding hobby and the Parish Council, after discussion at our last meeting, remains committed to the allotments. A plan to make the untenanted plots easier to maintain and to improve the appearance of the site is being considered and will be looked at again at tonight’s Parish Council meeting.

**Illegal Encampment**

The establishment of an illegal encampment in Yaxley in November 2018 caused villagers a great deal of worry and coincided with an outbreak of petty crime and dog attacks on cyclists and pedestrians. I think it is fair to say that satisfaction levels in the Village with the response of Suffolk Constabulary to these issues were low and this was communicated to the Police Service.

In March 2019 Suffolk County Council Property Services brought the case to court and the occupants of the encampment drove away leaving huge amounts of rubbish which was cleared at public expense. Earth banks have been erected to secure the site and the Parish Council has made representations to ensure that the new roundabout development does not leave suitable areas for similar illegal encampments and the Parish Council will raise this issue with Highways. As part of our planning comments on the new roundabout scheme the Parish Council has specifically asked that no redundant spurs of tarmac or hard standing will be left once the work is complete in case this tempts other groups wishing to seek a site for an illegal encampment.

**Cherry Tree Close**

The adoption of Cherry Tree Close roads has made no progress despite numerous angles of approach. This will be a matter for further action. Plans for development in an area off the close were rejected after appeal to the Secretary of State.

**Play Area, Defibrillator, and Recycling**

The Play Area is maintained in good order as a result of monitoring by Parish Councillors and is used on a regular basis.

A Defibrillator for general use is fitted on the front wall of the Cherry Tree Public House and many thanks to the landlady for permission to do so. Operation of the device is maintained on a weekly basis.

The bottle and paper banks continue to bring income to the Village and are well-used. Councillors keep the site safe and tidy.

**Burial Ground**

Support from Councillor Burn’s locality budget has made levelling work on the Parish Burial Ground possible. This will improve access to the site for those visiting the graves of loved ones.

**Construction and Change**

As mentioned above, the Village awaits considerable construction work within its parish boundary. Plans for a Power Station on the Airfield, a Switching Station to the west of Leys Lane, a chicken factory close to the junction of Castleton Way with the A140 and a roundabout at the junction of Eye Road and the A140 have all been approved. The Parish Council has commented on every planning application and some of its comments for modification have been accepted. The Cranswick Chicken factory with a capacity of a million birds a week is currently under construction and is being monitored closely for any effects on the Village. So far cooperation with the managers of the site has been good and construction lorries have not been allowed to pass through Yaxley by company agreement. A similar agreement is being sought for construction traffic on the roundabout.

Negotiations continue for the establishment of a construction road to the proposed switching station across the old bomber hardstands which are controlled by the Parish Council.

**Final Thanks**

I would like to thank Abby Brett for allowing me space in ‘The Messenger’ local newspaper to write regular bi-monthly updates on the actions of the Parish Council and issues facing the Village.

I would like once again to thank Philip Freeman, for his outstanding role as Clerk, Julian Moore for his support as Vice-Chairman and all Parish Councillors for making a strong Council. I would also like to thank Councillor Feaver for his work over the years. We are sorry to see him stepping down from Yaxley Parish Council.

1. **Yaxley Parish Council Report & Accounts.**

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| **Yaxley Parish Council Accounts 2017/2018** | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Receipts** | 2017/2018 | Totals | **Payments** | 2017/2018 | Totals |
|  | Precept | £5,250.00 | £5,250.00 | VAT | £562.88 |  |
|  | Burials | £90.00 |  | Clerk's Pay | £1,980.52 |  |
|  | Rental Allotments | £300.00 |  | HMRC - PAYE | £493.60 |  |
|  | Rights of Way/Rentals | £2,427.84 |  | Clerk's Expenses | £85.40 | £2,559.52 |
|  | Interest | £3.76 |  | Postage, stationery etc | £95.38 |  |
|  | Recycling Credits | £653.37 |  | Cemetery Upkeep | £720.00 |  |
|  | VAT Refund | £3,305.72 |  | Subscriptions | £308.12 |  |
|  | Other Income | £1,680.00 | £8,460.69 | Insurance | £540.97 |  |
|  | Total | £13,710.69 | £13,710.69 | Audit Fee | £318.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  | Allotments | £365.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  | Election | £0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  | Section 137 | £0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  | Donations | £412.22 |  |
|  |  |  |  | Playground | £463.80 |  |
|  | **Balance:** |  |  | Capital Works | £1,510.00 |  |
|  | 2018 |  |  | Community Centre | £0.00 |  |
|  | £13,710.69 | Receipts |  | Emptying Bins | £230.00 |  |
|  | -£8,672.94 | Payments |  | Other Expenditure | £587.05 | £6,113.42 |
|  | £5,037.75 | Balance on Year | | Total | £8,672.94 | £8,672.94 |
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| **Bank Reconciliation:** | |  |  | **Funds in hand:** | 31/03/2018 |  |
| Balance at 31 March 2017 | | £10,428.80 |  | Cheque Account | £5,743.85 |  |
| Less unpresented cheques | | -£4,149.88 |  |  |  |  |
| Income 2017/2018 | | £13,710.69 |  | **Assets:** |  |  |
| Expenditure 2017/2018 | | -£8,672.94 |  | Deposit Account | £5,572.82 |  |
| Unpresented cheques | | £0.00 |  | Total = | £11,316.67 |  |
|  |  | £11,316.67 |  |  |  |  |

1. **Yaxley Town Estates Fund Report & Accounts: Cllr Moore.**

The Yaxley Town Estate Charities were set up in 1926 for the poor, sick and school leavers. They are no longer registered charities and are combined into Yaxley Town Estate Fund. The fund is administered by six trusties three from the parish council and three co-opted from the parishioners. The trustees every December administer the fund. The main aim of this fund is to give to pensioners living on their own, the sick and the bereaved, who have lived in the village for over five years. The fund is held in a savings account. The interest on this is used to buy gifts for the chosen recipients each year. The trustees held to a meeting on November 28th 2018 and decided to give flowers to six parishioners in ill health or who had been bereaved .

**SUMMARY OF FINANCE**

**INCOME:** **£3.16**

**PAYMENTS: £60.00**

1. **Yaxley Community Centre Committee Report & Accounts: Mrs Tess Thomas and Mrs Jude Hunt.**
2. **Financial report as at** : 30 April 2019

Current Account: £1462.72

Business Account: £7856.27

Cash: £76.37

2. **Expenditure:**

We have purchased and installed a new replacement cooker in the kitchen at a cost of £349.00.

We had to replace the entrance door as a matter of urgency at a cost of £1410.00

We purchased a PA system for the hall at a cost of £325.00 which has been hugely successful at our Quiz nights and hopefully the Summer Fete.

We have contracted with Ian Hubbard, electrician to remove all the old wiring on the ceiling of the hall prior to issuing an Electrical Survey Report - work in progress with an estimated cost of £1,020 plus vat. Please convey our thanks to Cllr Fisher who advised us that this report was necessary.

3. **Replacement heaters and Fire Doors:**

A working group has been set up to carry this project forward with the assistance of the Parish Council. Progress was slow as finding companies to quote for the work has been problematic. We have now received two quotes for supplying and installing the heaters and one quote for supplying the heaters only. We have also received three quotes to replace the fire doors.

The quotes are as follows:

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| **Replacement Heaters and upgrading Lighting in the hall:** |
| BNThermic (supply heaters only) - £2,392 plus vat (plus cost of installation) |
| Secelec Electrical Services Option 1 - £8495 plus vat |
| Secelec Electrical Services Option 2 - £8,195 plus vat |
| Ian Hubbard Electrical (supply and install heaters incl materials) - £4,320 plus vat |
| Ian Hubbard Electrical (To upgrade internal lighting) - £840 plus vat |



The Working Group discussed all the quotes and decided with the agreement of the Management Committee, that the contract should be awarded to Ian Hubbard Electrical to replace the heaters and upgrade the internal lighting in the hall. Ian Hubbard Electrical has been contracted to carry out the work, on the understanding that the work will be carried out only if funding is received from the Wind Turbine Fund.

It was decided that Stratton Glass and Windows should be awarded the contract to replace the Fire Doors on the same understanding that work will be carried out only if funding is received from the Wind Turbine Fund.

The Chairman of the Parish Council has kindly agreed to forward the application for funding to Baber and Mid Suffolk District Council.

4. Regular Bookings remain healthy and in addition and the following events are planned for 2019:

Summer Fete Sunday 30th June.

Strawberry Tea 7th July (VH will be used in the event of inclement weather)

Macmillan Coffee Morning 27 Sep (VH will be used in the event of inclement weather)

Harvest Supper October (Date to be confirmed)

Halloween Party 26 October

Quiz night Every three months

Soup Lunch November (Date to be confirmed)

Christmas Bingo 7th December

5. We have investigated methods of increasing security at the hall however the cost of installing a CCTV system will be in the region of £5,000. We have no funds available for this at present. We have also received a quote of £2,000 to supply and install x4 lockable car park posts with concrete bases along the side of the hall to prevent cars from driving onto the playing field. Once again lack of funds is the problem however when the current project is completed this could be looked at again. Any work of this kind would initially be discussed fully with the Parish Council to seek their agreement.

6. Routine maintenance is ongoing. We have had storage shelves installed in the Storeroom

7. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their contribution of £300 towards the cost of the new entrance door and for their continuing support of the Management Committee.

1. **Reports from other local groups and organisations.**
   1. Yaxley PCC – Mr I Luff

The year saw positive developments in the life of the Parish despite the continuing financial strain and threat to the fabric of St Mary’s Church caused by the theft of lead from the south roof of the Church in November 2016 and by developing structural issues made more evident by the extremely hot summer and soil shrinkage.

Early in 2018 the PCC approved the formation of a Triumvirate consisting of Bob Feaver, Andrew Martinelli (FRICS) and Ian Luff to oversee building works on St Mary’s Church. Mr Martinelli is a qualified surveyor with experience of previous church repair projects and his experience has proved invaluable. The Triumvirate appointed experienced architects to supervise repairs in stages. A structural survey carried out at her instruction in November identified that a vast sum would be needed to rectify all issues with the building. Since this sum was clearly beyond the grasp of the PCC - even allowing for grant applications to all possible awarding bodies - it was decided to tackle repairs in small stages according to degree of urgency with the objective of maintaining the church as a watertight and safe place of worship. In accordance with this plan a successful application for a grant of £10,000 was made to Historic England under the Taylor Review. This has allowed work to repair the clerestory windows to be commissioned as the first stage of repair. Subsequent stages have been identified as roof repair during 2020 followed by structural repair to arrest decline in the building and safeguard its heritage from 2021 onward. This last stage of grant application will need to be substantial and will probably be made to the new Heritage Lottery Fund. It will require a number of community initiatives if it is to succeed and guidance on strategies for this has been sought from Historic England. Currently an architect is drawing up a specification for roof repair which will form the basis of subsequent grant applications. The challenge remains formidable.

Regular Sunday services continued at Yaxley during the year with Holy Communion services being held monthly but unfortunately the ‘Messy Church’ Initiative, has been suspended from lack of numbers. As usual the Christmas Carol Service proved a great success in attracting a very large number of villagers into St Mary’s and reinforcing the true meaning of the festival to many who may not otherwise come to church.

Jane Mould was elected as churchwarden in March 2018 to serve alongside Julian Moore. They have carried out sterling work throughout 2018.

The PCC consists of: Reverend Julia Lall, Julian Moore , Anne Pawsey, Bob Feaver, Louise Clifford, Pauline Smith, Jane Mould and Ian Luff. It met this year in February, April, July, August (interim meeting), and October.

A number of successful fund-raising events took place throughout the year and the PCC extends its thanks to all those who have worked hard to bring about that success, particularly in respect of the Harvest Supper, Soup Lunch, the Strawberry Tea, the Christmas Fayre, the Sponsored Cycle ride and the consistently bright flower displays in the church. The ‘Festival of Weddings’ in the church was notable success under the initiative of Pauline Smith and brought members of the wider community into the church.

The full amount of our Parish Share was paid during the year which was a great achievement considering the financial burden of the impending repairs to the church building.

We pray that this ancient and beautiful church building continues to be a focal point of Christian worship in our village as it has for so many past generations of the people of Yaxley.

1. **The registration of the allotment land.**

Update from Beth Wilson of Steele’s Solicitors:

The land is currently registered under a Possessory Title, because there were no deeds, with the Land Registry. The registration took place in 2007 and there is a wait of 12 years before there can be Title Absolute.

1. **Yaxley Community Centre Agreement**

Due to be renewed 18th April 2028

1. **Any other business**