

Parish of Yaxley.

Reports for the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To be Held on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

in Yaxley Community Centre.

1. **Apologies.**

Cllr Watts and Cllr Burn.

2. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14th May 2014.**

The minutes of the APM on 14th May 2014 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Hawes and seconded by Cllr Luff.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

None.

4. **County Councillor's Report: Cllr Jessica Fleming.**

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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Over the last year the main topics of concern to rural communities have been roads defects, lorries, high speed broadband and mobile services and managing new development – all of which are mentioned below. One of the greatest challenges for Yaxley residents has been the need to understand and respond to the proposed Progress Power project at Eye with a substation within the parish of Yaxley about which a decision is expected in late July.

Roads – The County Highways and Kier May Guerney (KMG) have improved the online reporting tool for defects/ potholes and now the system allows interactive web reporting using various 'apps'. This, in combination with the use of 6 velocity patching machines, has enabled improvements all around in terms of both response times and the quality of repairs. Report highway defects on: www.suffolk.gov.uk/report-a-highways-problem Emergencies should be reported to 0345 606 6171.

A140 and Stuston Lane/ B1077 – Earlier this year Suffolk County Highways consulted affected communities about a proposal to prohibit right turns out of the 'Devil's Handbasin' exit; this resulted in a variety of responses from parish councils and local residents. The dominant theme was that the Brome B1077 junction on the east side of the A140 is more dangerous than Stuston and they should be considered together. Preliminary feedback from officers is that the entire section of the A140 from the Stonhams to the A143 will be reviewed in the next year and any action at Stuston or Brome will depend on this review.

Planning – The County comments on District applications for housing, land supply, and energy projects and is following the proposed new housing plans at Eye Airfield. In this case the effects of additional traffic accessing the A140 will be a key consideration. The County needs a share of financial contributions from developers so that new developments are supported by infrastructure such as road improvements, school places, public transport, healthcare and leisure facilities.

Progress Power Infrastructure Application, Eye Airfield and Yaxley – Progress Power (dba Stag Energy/ Watt Power) made an application to the Planning Inspectorate for a 299 MW gas fired peaking power plant at the end of January. The Inspector made a confidential recommendation to the Secretary of State on April 24th and a decision is expected in July.

Better Broadband - The fibre upgrade commitment is to provide all users with high speed by 2020, 95% by 2018, and all users with at least 2MG by the end of 2015. The 2MG guarantee is likely to require interim satellite cover until the fibre programme reaches those in the last 5%. When an area is upgraded to superfast users must actively sign up and pay a small additional premium, the more that sign up the lower these premiums need to be. If you have queries about Broadband cover, contact Jonathan Chown or any of our BB development team on Broadband@suffolk.gov.uk

Level Crossings - This year the County Council has been engaged with Network Rail (NR)'s plans to assess all level crossings on the Norwich - London mainline to allow increased speed and frequency of services. To date NR has not provided a programme or priority order for assessing crossings (aside from Gypsy Lane, Needham Market) but this is expected in summer 2015. There has been speculation that that the crossings in Mellis could be closed, however no assessment has been made to date and any proposed change would be subject to full

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consultation. I am monitoring the situation and will provide the parish council with updates when more is known.

Looking Ahead - We will see more joined up programmes between districts and County, and between counties. We will see an increasing role for parishes and for neighbourhood planning. Transport will be more community led, with more 'on demand' services. Health and community care is undergoing large changes so that better coordinated services are provided by the NHS and County together.

Thank you, it has been a pleasure to have represented this community over the past year. Please get in touch with me about any issues that are of concern, ideas or projects that need funding or topics about which you would like to know more.

County Cllr Jessica Fleming

Assistant Cabinet Member for Localities, Environment and Waste

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In response to questions the following points were made:

- There was likely to be a new leader of the Council.
- There was no further information about the plans for traffic calming at Mellis Primary School.
- There was no further information about the plans to close local level crossings.

5. District Councillor's Report: Cllr David Burn.

- With the **integration of Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council workforces** completed in the autumn of 2013, the Council was well settled into its new way of working at the start of the year. The single, restructured workforce, under a streamlined management team, is now **servicing the two sovereign district councils**, delivering the services and support that both require. This integration was part of the District's response to the challenge of year-on-year **reduction in funding by central Government**, which is expected to fall to zero by 2020. Further, the closer the requirements of the two councils could be aligned the greater the savings the combined workforce should deliver; similarity in managing the administration and services of both councils would streamline workflow, enabling the workforce to be more efficient and therefore more cost effective.
- To that end a number of initiatives were concluded during the year, foremost amongst which was the approval in June of a **Joint Strategic Plan**. The *Plan* sets out the Councils' vision, our District's being 'to ensure the economy, environment and communities of Mid Suffolk continue to thrive and achieve their full potential.' In order to realise the vision the *Plan* sets several priorities under three headings – *Economy & Environment, Housing and Strong and Healthy Communities* – and within each sets down the required outcomes, what needs to be done to achieve them and what success in each will look like. The full *Plan* can be accessed on the Mid Suffolk website.
- Last May the **contract with Customer Service Direct (CSD) ended**. CSD was created in June 2004 as a Partnership between British Telecom, Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council to provide unified 'back office' services. For most members of the public it was the first point of contact with the Council, either by 'phone or by visiting the offices in Needham Market. Absorbing 'in house' all the functions CSD had provided for ten years was a formidable task but, working with Babergh DC and Suffolk County Council, it was achieved with very little of a hiccup.
- Another major alignment initiative was the recent public pre-consultation on a **Joint Local Plan**, which will set out the policies that will enable development in the two districts to be managed for the next decade or more. Along with the directives in the *National Planning Policy Framework*, it is the policies in the *Local Plan* and the *Core Strategy* that **guide the determination of planning applications**. Mid Suffolk's present *Local Plan* has been operating since 1998 and is long overdue for review. The **pre-consultation closed at the end of March** and the results will inform preparation of the draft *Plan*, which will then be subject to a further public consultation before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for approval. The whole process will take about two years.
- So far as we in Palgrave Ward are concerned, the most important element of the new *Local Plan*, together with the review of part of the *Core Strategy* that is going on at the same time, is that which will govern the **extent of growth in our rural villages**. Since the *Core Strategy* was adopted in 2008, development in the countryside and in villages without a settlement boundary has not been permitted except in special circumstances

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and only infill has been allowed in secondary villages, such as Yaxley – but we can expect to see some relaxation of that policy in order to create space for the amount of new development Government has charged us with achieving.

- The extent to which Mid Suffolk District Council has been involved in Yaxley matters during the past year is probably more than you might think, though much of it is unsurprisingly taken for granted. **Waste bin collections** have gone smoothly and in November it became **possible to recycle more items**, which it is hoped will improve our record (38% to 42% over the past four years) even further. **Fly tips** have been cleared, **council houses** have been maintained, **council tax** has been collected and **benefits** have been paid out. All of these are the District Council's responsibility.
- As a means of generating income, the District Council last year started the process of **fitting photovoltaic (PV) panels to all suitable council houses**. Income from the generation of electricity will come to the council and the tenant will benefit from the free electricity, the value of which will be deducted from the supplier's bill to the property. It is hoped that the initiative will be completed this year, by which time about 1,000 properties in Mid Suffolk will have been fitted with PV panels.
- The **supply of housing** is always high on the Council's agenda and one of its key roles is to control the availability of building land. For the past 30 years housing provision here has been by private sector developers but last year saw a release of funding that will allow us start building council houses again – 38 to start with but hopefully more to follow. In June 2014 a **Housing Needs Survey** was carried out that will be used to plan the mix of house types developers will be encouraged to build. Yaxley is unlikely to be included in any strategic planning but a **development brief for nearly 300 houses** in the south-east corner of Eye Airfield is currently being prepared. Any development of that size is bound to impact in some way on this village and on many others in the area.
- **Determination of planning applications** is one of the most important and well-known of the District Council's functions. In the period 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015 a total of seven applications in Yaxley were decided:
 - 4 for new dwellings – plot on Old Ipswich Road, REFUSED; plot on Hall Lane (West), REFUSED; plot at Linden Lea, Mellis Road, WITHDRAWN then GRANTED
 - 2 for extensions – 67 Ipswich Road, GRANTED; Whiteholme, Mellis Road, GRANTED
 - 1 for non-material amendment to existing permission – Whiteholme, GRANTED
 - These were all delegated decisions made by officers in the Planning Department. Only about 2-3% of around 4,000 applications received each year are decided by the Planning Committee.
- Like the County Council, the District Council was a statutory consultee for **Progress Power's proposal to build a gas-fired power station on Eye Airfield**, as were the adjoining parish councils for Eye, Yaxley and Thrandeston. The impact of this development, however, would be felt far more widely than in just those three parishes. Other parish councils felt strongly that they should be able to represent the views of their communities and it was suggested that joining forces to give a single unified response would show solidarity and have greater impact. So evolved the **Eye Airfield Parishes Working Group (EAPWG)**, made up of representatives from seven parishes. I had been involved with the Progress Power application as a District Councillor since March 2013 but it was as a Yaxley and Thrandeston Parish Councillor that I found myself working alongside colleagues from Palgrave and the other parishes, steering the **EAPWG** through the examination by the Planning Inspectorate throughout the last six months of 2014. By the end of that period the **EAPWG** had become a force to be reckoned with and it is certain that with the help of a number of co-opted residents who had special skills in planning, heritage and document research, we presented an extremely compelling case against what residents believed would be the over-industrialisation of our area. At the end of the Examination the Planning Inspector complimented the Group on the quality of its contribution and thanked us for our participation. The **Inspector's recommendation** was delivered to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, on schedule, on 24 April 2015. The **Secretary of State's decision** on whether to allow the development or not will be made public on or before 24 July. We will have no indication until then about which way the decision might go.

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- The success of the collaborative approach to responding to one of the many pressures that our area faces and will continue to face has given rise to the suggestion that we continue with the Group as a recognised body **representing our communities whenever the need arises**. Other councils, including Eye Town Council, have expressed their willingness to join. Both of the Thornham parish meetings are already members and the newly created Stuston Parish Meeting (it has recently ceased to be a parish council) would be most welcome if it chooses to join with us.
- We can expect **further development proposals for the Airfield**, as outlined in MSDC's aspirational *Eye Airfield Development Framework* and *Planning Position Statement*. The first to show signs of life is a **residential extension of Eye** to the northwest (in the angle between Castleton Way and Victoria Hill). A development brief, which allows for 290 houses, is currently being put together by the landowner's agent. So far there has been a preliminary consultation and a public meeting on 12 March, at which the vast majority of the 100 or so residents who attended voiced strong opposition to the proposals. Further consultation will follow and the brief, if and when it is finalised, will then form an application to Mid Suffolk for outline planning permission. Changes of this magnitude have transport, schooling, health and other consequences that extend far beyond the immediate area of the development and must be carefully assessed, not only by the authorities but also by the people who would have to live with them.
- For further information on any of the topics mentioned in this report, please contact me (by e-mail if possible: david.burn@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

6. Yaxley Parish Council Report: Cllr Pawsey.

The Parish Council continues to maintain Yaxley Village affairs to a secure safe standard. The Parish Council as members of the EAPWG (Eye Airfield Parishes Working Group) has continued to oppose the Progress Power application to build a gas turbine power station and electrical substation in our area. Full representations were made to the Planning Inspectorate and now a decision from the Secretary of State is awaited later in the year.

Village allotments still have a solid core of tenants but more are always welcome. Unoccupied plots are kept in a weed controlled state by the P.C. Steps are being taken to register the total allotment land (garden & agricultural) to facilitate legal ownership in the future.

The Cherry Tree Close Working Party is still proceeding in the quest towards the adoption of the road network from the Developer to Mid Suffolk Council.

Village Hall Play Area: At present the play area equipment meets fully with recommendations from the annual inspection report.

The Disabled and baby changing toilet extension to the Village Hall is still on going. Possible grants are available and planning permission is being applied for.

The Village web site is now being maintained by Ian Muir and thanks to David Burn for raising the site to a good standard prior to handing over.

The Council attempts to work towards vehicle speed control and weight restrictions through the village and for the addition of public foot paths to improve pedestrian safety. These matters are long standing.

Yaxley hopes to have a Community Emergency person or persons in the future and an emergency plan is to be drawn up.

I take this opportunity to thank Parish Councillors for their dedication to Yaxley over this year and indeed their terms of office.

This is a year of Parish Council elections in which 7 existing councillors have reapplied with no new blood coming forward; 9 members needed meaning 2 places available to be filled at

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a later date.

Many thanks to Philip Freeman for his splendid work as clerk to the council and his expert guidance.

a. Report on the Village Sign

The sign has now reached the point of needing repair.

The pictures and surrounding frame are in good condition. The main oak post is now rotting half way through just below the base plinth. This is a 100% deterioration on the previous annual inspection. The quarry tiles on the plinth top have started to break up and become loose.

I suggest we recommend immediate replacement of main post and replace tiles on top of plinth. Whilst picture and frame are dismantled they can be cleaned up and retreated where necessary.

Credit should be given to Mrs Sandra Moore for maintaining the island garden area around the sign.

This will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting.

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7. Yaxley Parish Council Report & Accounts.

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2013/2014</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>2013/2014</u>
Precept	£5,250.00	VAT	£1,083.39
MSDC			
Grant	£383.00	Clerk's Pay	£1,554.11
Burials	£110.00	HMRC - PAYE	£392.96
Rental			
Allotments	£495.00	Clerk's Expenses	£87.00
Rights of		Postage, stationery	
Way/Rentals	£1,037.58	etc	£77.22
Interest	£2.76	Cemetery Upkeep	£585.00
Recycling			
Credits	£565.65	Subscriptions	£281.00
VAT Refund	£1,603.75	Insurance	£466.54
Other			
Income	<u>£2,000.00</u>	Audit Fee	£114.00
Total	<u>£11,447.74</u>	Allotments	£241.00
		Donations	£776.92
		Playground	£1,847.92
		Community Centre	£3,158.33
		Other Expenditure	<u>£523.37</u>
		Total	<u>£11,188.76</u>
Balance:			
	<u>2014</u>		
	£11,447.74	Receipts	
	<u>-£11,188.76</u>	Payments	
	<u>£258.98</u>	Balance on Year	

Bank Reconciliation:

Balance at 31 March 2013	£12,857.92
Less unpresented cheques	-£1,363.95
Income 2013/2014	£11,447.74
	-
Expenditure 2012/2013	£11,188.76
Unpresented cheques	£10.00
	<u>£11,762.95</u>

Funds in hand:	<u>31/03/2014</u>
Cheque Account	£6,201.55

Assets:

Deposit Account	<u>£5,561.40</u>
Total =	<u>£11,762.95</u>

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8. 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 trustees 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 a meeting in December 2014 and decided to not administer any of the fund this year. This was because of low interest rates and to preserve the fund for the needy in the future.

Summary of finance

Income:

Interest - £0.70

Payments – Nil

Balance in the account - £1,440.01

9. Yaxley Community Centre Committee Report & Accounts: Mrs Margaret White.

Village Hall Report 2015 We are currently awaiting quotes for the repair of the front wall of the hall, this will be a temporary repair as the fault lies with the roof and we do not want the expense of a major repair if disabled toilets are to be installed. The recommendations made by the fire assessment officer has been put in place and the next assessment is in June. The electricity has been overhauled and a certificate has been issued.

As of the 7th of May our finances are as follows

Current Account. £1718.79

Savings Account. £3601.96

Cash. £100.00 The hall has a monthly income of £250.00.

10. Community Police Officer's Report.

Crime Stats

In the last year there have been 12 recorded crimes to the police. These break down as;

- Theft x 3
- Burglary x 2
- Dangerous Dog Causing Injury x 2
- Criminal Damage x 2
- No Information x 3

This is a reduction from 17 during the year 2013-2014.

Policing Precept

Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore announced today (Friday January 30) that he will be asking council taxpayers to pay an average 6p a week extra towards policing in the county in the next financial year.

The PCC presented his proposal to the Police and Crime Panel meeting at Suffolk County Council's HQ for their consideration; the panel unanimously supported the proposal.

For the past two years the policing element of Suffolk's council tax precept has been frozen but this year the PCC felt in view of the financial challenges we are facing and the enormous demand that the Constabulary is managing, he should implement a small increase of just less than 2%.

Up-Coming Event.

Catalytic Converter Marking at Barley Green Garage on Saturday 13th June from 09:30 - 12:30. 4x4 vehicles and vans welcome, this will be a free event hosted by the police. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact the SNT.

Immobilise.

Suffolk Police has joined forces with the online property database Immobilise to help keep property safe and reunite stolen items with their rightful owners across the county.

Many items of identifiable property are either lost or stolen each year. By taking the time to register property on the Immobilise database, people can take a positive step towards reducing the crime.

Their registered property would be identifiable to all law enforcement agencies across the country. This in turn will help the police reunite property to their lawful owners and will also help to catch criminals.

Almost any possession with a serial number can be registered for free, including:

- Mobile phones
- iPods, other MP3 players and games consoles

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- Laptops, computers and PDAs
- Satellite navigation and in-car equipment
- Bicycles.

Watches, jewellery, art and antiques can also be registered for a small fee. Users who upgrade can also add photos and certificates of ownership to their account.

Many items of property which are recovered from criminals are not restored to their rightful owners, as without information on serial numbers or property marking police do not know who they belong to.

If you would like register your valuables visit www.immobilise.com

Speeding.

Speeding was an issue raised to me last year from the Parish Council and also various residents. Following on from these reports, an Speed Data Recorder (SDR) was placed out at 2 locations in Yaxley to monitor the traffic flow. This showed there was a speeding issue, and enabled the Police to look into options for Enforcement. The local SNT have carried out numerous checks, whereby offending vehicles have been notified.

I have also managed to request the SafeCam Van attend, and after a site survey, they have found a suitable spot for enforcement and this has been added to the site list. Unfortunately the SafeCam vans are a force resource and as such are shared across the county, which does mean that they cannot be attending day after day to catch offenders. But hopefully the times it does attend will be enough for drivers to think twice next time they travel through Yaxley.

Priorities.

On Tuesday 27th April, 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.

Burglaries to Dwellings and Outbuildings

The date and location for the next meeting have not been set, and will be published once arranged

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

11. Reports from other local groups and organisations.

a. Yaxley PCC – Mrs Julie Hammond

In 2014 the PCC has held meetings in January, April, June and October, as well as participating in a joint benefice PCC meeting hosted by Gislegham at the end of April. Reverend Julia Lall and her team continue their efforts untiringly and have been joined by new curate Eleanor Goodison who will hopefully help share the workload. A rota has been completed and St Mary's now has Morning Worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month, with Communion on the 3rd Sunday.

This year has seen several PCC stalwarts stand down with Judith Yonge, Nikki Watts and Joan Lockwood all moving out of the local area, whilst Zona Douglas has stood down due to poor health, our grateful thanks go to all of them for all their hard work and support on behalf of the PCC and St. Marys. Mrs Pauline Smith a loyal supporter of St Marys Church has been co-opted on to the Committee and her enthusiastic presence has been a welcome addition.

Fundraising events have included a successful craft, cake and coffee morning and a mini flower festival as well as the annual favourites of the harvest supper, strawberry cream teas, village fete stall and the soup lunch. These have been well supported and the addition finances have helped Yaxley PCC manage to pay all of its Parish Share for 2014. The quinquennial visit took place in 2014 and the subsequent report has high-lighted a number of areas requiring attention with in the next 18 months, Julia and Julian are

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spearheading an action plan and looking in to the possibilities of apply for grant funding to help towards these costs.

12. 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.

13. Any other business

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.