**Minutes of the Meeting of Yaxley Parish Council held on 12 October 2022 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillor I Luff Councillor J Moore

Councillor R Hall. Councillor C Wright

Councillor J Hawes Councillor K Stubbington

District Councillor David Burn

County Councillor Jessica Fleming.

P Freeman Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

* Councillors Pawsey and Young. Councillors sent their best wishes to Councillor Pawsey.
* Councillor Moore took the Chair in the absence of Councillor Young.

1. Chair’s Opening Remarks

* The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Councillor’s Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.

* None.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings.

* The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chair, proposed by Councillor Hawes and seconded by Councillor Wright.

1. Matters arising from the minutes:

**Action Points:**

Notes on the action are in red.

**Action Points from the Meeting on 26 May 2021.**

* Mr Martinelli has suggested that a time capsule with memories of the past year is prepared, and it could be located in the area at the well seat. It was agreed to consider this suggestion at a future meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

**Action Points from the Meeting on 23 February 2022.**

* The bowser needs maintenance. **Action: Cllr Moore.** The bowser does not need any further maintenance.

**Action Points from the Meeting on 18 May 2022.**

* The Clerk will check the agreement which was made for the 99-year lease on the land on which the Community Centre is built. **Action: The Clerk.** Nothing to report.

**Action Points from the Meeting on 8 June 2022.**

* Follow up again the progress on the adoption of the roads on Cherry Tree Close with Suffolk Legal and forward the email received to Cllr Fleming and Cllr Burn. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed, but no more information. County Councillor Fleming agreed to forward an email to the Clerk about this and arrange a meeting to discuss the problem. **Action: Councillor Fleming.** Nothing further to report.
* Cranswick has not carried out the planting of a green boundary to screen the processing plant on the southern side of the factory. **Action: The Clerk.** Reported.
* The biodiversity conditions which apply to Cuckoo Close, and the clearance of the site have not been completed the Clerk will contact the Enforcement Officer. **Action: The Clerk.** Reported.

These two matters will be followed up by an Enforcement Officer for Mid Suffolk District Council with the expectation that what was agreed in the planning permission will be implemented.

* The revised Emergency Plan will be considered at the meeting in October 2022. **Action: Cllr Luff and the Clerk.** Completed.

**Action Points from the Meeting on 20 July 2022.**

* Follow up the report the grass verge at the junction of Eye Road and the A140 which to be cut to improve visibility for vehicles. **Action: The Clerk.** A meeting has taken place. It was agreed to contact Mr Newcombe to arrange for the grass verge to be carried out on a regular basis. **Action: The Clerk.**
* Contact Cranswick about a permanent arrangement to control access to the site. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed. The Clerk has made several attempts to contact Cranswick but without success. He will make another attempt through the Company’s website.
* Cllr Luff will contact the supplier of the SID. **Action: Cllr Luff.**

**Action Points from the Meeting on 31st August 2022:**

* County Councillor Fleming agreed to forward an email to the Clerk about Cherry Tree Close and arrange a meeting to discuss the problem. **Action: Councillor Fleming.** Completed.
* It was agreed to contact Mr Newcombe to arrange for the grass verge to be cut out on a regular basis. **Action: The Clerk.** The first cut has been made.
* Councillor Fleming offered to find out about plans to replace oil fired boilers used for heating in rural homes with heat pumps. **Action: Councillor Fleming.**
* A mains water supply for the allotments which involves contacting Essex and Suffolk Water. **Action: The Clerk.** Contact has been made.
* The Chair will contact the Community Centre Committee about the projects listed in the minutes: **Action: The Chair.** Completed.
* The Clerk will contact contractors for quotations for the work on the King George V Playing Field. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* The Clerk will contact the Council’s insurance company to clarify the level of cover for a litter pick by volunteers and obtain equipment for it from Mid Suffolk District Council. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed and cover is in place.
* The Clerk will inform Mid Suffolk District Council that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* A sheet will be prepared to be signed by Councillors at the next meeting to show they accept the new Code of Conduct. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* At the next meeting of the Drax consultation group Councillor Hawes will enquire about the Community Fund and how the Council can apply for a grant. **Action: Councillor Hawes.** The fund is being managed by MSDC and no decision has been made on how it will be distributed.
* The Clerk will email the Chair the phone number of Cranswick by which members of the public can report smells from the factory. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* It was agreed that Councillors should send questions to the Clerk which can be put to Conrad Energy. An additional meeting will be arranged if an extension cannot be agreed until after the next meeting for the Parish Council’s response. **Action: Councillors and the Clerk.** Completed.

1. Notification of any urgent business.

* None.

Meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

**Public Forum.**

Conrad Energy:

Representatives of Conrad energy were present to answer questions on the following points were made:

* The Suffolk Preservation Society has objected to the application.
* The area is of historical interest due to the Roman field boundaries.
* When the substation was built it was constructed in such a way that it was not as intrusive as it could have been.
* The Synchronous Condensers will be housed in a building of similar size and colour to the substation.
* It will fit within the road system across from Leys Lane to the houses to the west of it.
* If the Synchronous Condensers is built further away from the substation power will be lost from the cables. In a similar situation in Wales the Synchronous Condensers is built next to the substation.
* 7/8 Synchronous Condensers are operating at present and 8/9 contracts have been awarded in Scotland. There are 15 sites across England.
* This development is separate from Progress Power and the contract is awarded by National Grid. There is also one at Walpole. The National Grid is supporting the service and the substation must have the capacity to fit in with the Synchronous Condensers.
* There will be a connection to the substation and the cables will be underground. It will be cheaper to construct the Synchronous Condensers next to the substation.
* There was a suggestion that the Synchronous Condensers should be built on Eye Airfield.
* Drax has constructed a road from the A140 to the site for the substation and Conrad Energy may be able to take advantage of this facility. It was pointed out that it will be necessary to extend the life of the track to cover the construction period whereas on the Airfield there are no problems because of the runways and there will be no need to reinstate the land after the removal of the track.
* Conrad Energy offers a community fund.
* The Council is concerned about the industrialisation of the area and the changes which will result.
* There was a suggestion that if the site could be excavated and the building constructed at a lower level with an embankment around it and this would reduce its visual impact.
* The plan is to position the Synchronous Condensers as near as possible to the substation.
* The Council noted that the enforcement of landscaping conditions does not always take place.
* There will be no electromagnetic field associated with the Synchronous Condensers and it has been designed to be safe.
* A noise assessment has been completed and it will not contribute to the background noise level.
* The Chair thanked the representatives of Conrad Energy for attending the meeting and for answering questions.

**County Councillor Report**

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

[Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming

**Local Cost of Living Assistance** –

This scheme is intended to locate practical help for those experiencing financial hardship this winter, refer to a [Cost of Living leaflet](https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1). Refer also to <http://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/costofliving> which includes details of local support.

**Stanton Development –** West Suffolk Council issued a Scoping Opinion on 9th August 2022 following consultation on a report issued on behalf of the developer by Jannic. This can be found under application DC/22/0987/EIASCO: <https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RCSW5RPD07800>

**Air Quality –** The County Council Public Health is undertaking an Air Quality survey in the Ipswich area to help inform interventions to improve air quality in the town.  An informational event will be on Ipswich Cornhill on Monday 24 October between 11am and 3pm to raise awareness of the effects of poor air quality on public health. To find out more about Air Quality in Suffolk and to complete the survey, please visit: <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/airquality>

**Suffolk Waste Partnership and Metals Campaign** – SWP along with Alupro has launched a Metal Matters campaign. Metals is a valuable resource and can be used multiple times. Cans, empty aerosols, tins and foil should go into [your recycling bin](https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/my-bins/together-we-can-get-our-recycling-right)– not the rubbish bin. Links can be found at: [Metal Matters - Suffolk Recycling](https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/where-to-recycle/metal-matters) and [Home - Suffolk Recycling](https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/)

This does not include batteries and electrical goods, which should be taken to store recycling points or a household waste recycling centre. Please also avoid placing glass, dirty containers or nappies in the recycling bin.

**Bird Flu in Suffolk -** Avian influenza H5N1 has been confirmed in Suffolk and the region. Please report suspicious dead wild birds to Defra on 03459 33 55 77, keepers should report suspicion of disease to APHA on 03000 200 301. All keepers should register poultry with Defra so you can be contacted, this is a legal requirement for 50 or more birds - Find out [how to register your birds](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-registration)**.**

**News from our Health Partners -** [Read the latest news from NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)](https://midsuffolk.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b92522d28bbfbe421813f5565&id=45cc1a8ef6&e=5db4b369f7)

**Ukraine –** We still need wide range of homes for single people, mums with children and complete families. Anything “self-contained” is especially helpful. If you think you can help, or know anyone who is interested, please visit [**homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk**](https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine)

**David Burn District Councillor’s Report**  **The death of Her Majesty the Queen**

Thank you to all our towns and parishes who helped residents to pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen and send condolences to the Royal family. We recognise the effort behind the scenes in supporting our communities across our districts. Thanks in particular to our Town Council colleagues, who had the additional responsibility of staging the local proclamations of the reign of King Charles III.

[Condolences to the Royal family from our councils](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-councils-sadness-at-the-death-of-her-majesty/)

[More information on the historic proclamations that took place across our districts](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/historic-proclamations-take-place-in-the-babergh-and-mid-suffolk-districts/)  
**Councils set out parking strategy for the next 20 years**

Supporting the needs of local trade and residents, while putting the brakes on climate change – Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have set out their plans for improved parking provision for the next 20 years. (27-Sep-22) [More information](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/councils-set-out-parking-strategy-for-the-next-20-years/)   
[**Bird flu outbreak**](https://www.babergh.gov.uk/news/bird-flu-detected-in-nedging/)

Information on the recent bird flu outbreak in Suffolk. (last update 5-Oct-22) [More information](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/bird-flu-detected-in-nedging/)

**Latest CIL funding sees thousands ploughed back into communities**

More than £420,000 in developer contributions is to be ploughed back into communities – funding a study into Thurston railway station and improved play equipment and bus facilities for villages. (5-Sep-22) [More information](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/latest-cil-funding-includes-support-for-rail-study-and-national-gallery/)  
**A chance to stand for what you believe in**

Residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being encouraged to consider adding their name to the ballot and stand as a district councillor next May. (2-Sep-22)

(*Although this news release relates to an information event that took place on 29 September there is still plenty of time for would-be councillors to register their interest.*) [More information](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/a-chance-to-stand-for-what-you-believe-in/)  
**What’s Next for Stowmarket?**

Almost 350 residents, businesses and community groups attended the John Peel Centre for our public exhibition to find out more about major projects underway in Stowmarket. The event was coordinated by the Stowmarket Vision Group which includes Mid Suffolk District Council, alongside partners including Stowmarket Town Council, the John Peel Centre, Old Fox Yard, the National Food Museum and others. [Find out more about the projects.](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/business/economic-development/stowmarket-vision/whats-next-for-stowmarket/)    
**Households urged to get Food Savvy and plan ahead to save money and avoid waste**

As the cost of living continues to bite a new campaign has been launched in Suffolk to help families reduce food waste and save money. (7-Sep-22) [More information](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/households-urged-to-get-food-savvy-and-plan-ahead-to-save-money-and-avoid-waste/)

In response to questions the following points were made:

* Gateway 14 at Stowmarket has the potential to create many jobs and Range is the first business on the site which will create 1500 jobs.
* There have been 9 objections to the plans for further buildings on the play area of Cherry Tree Close.

Meeting reopened at 8:25 p.m.

1. Correspondence received.

* Various documents from SALC.
* Emails from Community Action Suffolk.
* Town and Parish Council Newsletter.
* Various emails from the Highways Department Suffolk County Council
* Clerks and Councils Direct.

1. Yaxley Allotments:

* Update on allotment gardens and tenancy agreement.

1. Report on the number of vacant plots = 21
2. Agree the Allotment Rent for 2022/2023 = £30.
3. Update on long term strategy for Yaxley Allotments.

* Investigations are taking place on how a permanent water supply can be laid on to the area.
* Unused plots:
  + The plots are being kept tidy my regular cutting.

1. Finances and financial report.
   1. Balances on Accounts: 28th September 2022.
      1. Current account: £51,706.78
      2. Deposit account: £5,597.79

* The account balances were noted by Councillors.
  1. Financial report and bank reconciliation.
     + Detailed accounts had been given to Councillors, which recorded all items of income and expenditure, and compared them to the budget. The spreadsheet also showed both as a percentage of the budget.
     + The accounts were to the date of this meeting and included a bank reconciliation for both accounts.
     + There were no questions from Councillors.
  2. Discussion of projects on which to spend the additional income that the Parish Council has received from Drax and CIL.
* The discussion will take place at the next meeting.
  1. To authorise cheques for signature:

N.B. Cheque signatories to initial cheque stub and invoice.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Details** | **Cheque Number** | **Amount** | **Power** |
| P Freeman | Clerk’s Pay and Expenses | 101360 | £458.40 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 101361 | £114.60 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| CAS | Insurance Renewal | 101362 | £414.96 | LGA 1972 S111 |
| Callum Newcombe | Grass Cutting (already paid) | 101359 | £390.00 | LGA 1972 S111 |
| CAS | Website Hosting | 101363 | £60.00 | LGA 1972 S111 |

* It was agreed unanimously to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Luff.
  1. Requests for financial support: none.
  2. Receipts:
     1. VAT Claim: £1,447.98.
     2. MSDC – Precept: £3,125.00
     3. Interest: £1.73
     4. MSDC – Recycling Credit: £345.40. It was agreed to split this income between Yaxley Parochial Church Council and Yaxley Community Centre.

1. Litter Pick

* The Clerk has received delivery of various items for collecting litter and insurance for the project is in place.

1. Arrangements for filling the Casual Vacancy.

* A piece will be put in the Yaxley Messenger asking for applications to fill the Casual Vacancy. **Action: The Clerk.**

1. Emergency Plan for Yaxley: update from Councillor Luff:

* In 2017, following encouragement and some pressure from Suffolk County Council Yaxley Parish Council wrote an elaborate 48-page Emergency Plan for the Village on a County Council Template. Volunteers were recruited to operate the plan, under the guidance of the Parish Council, should an emergency arise. Our local farmers and some 4x4 vehicle owners very kindly stepped forward to offer use of their vehicles and many other people offered to serve as distribution volunteers taking food or water to those in need or to work in a central location caring for persons displaced, injured, or distressed by any emergency. The Parish Council was and is very grateful for these offers of support.
* Unfortunately, following recent insurance changes withdrawing cover from some people using vehicles in accordance with an activated emergency plan Yaxley Parish Council has withdrawn its current plan with immediate effect. It will consider its replacement by a less elaborate and more realistic document offering local support in the Village Hall if the Hall is approved for this purpose. This plan is currently being composed along the most recent County Council guidelines. **Until such a document is ready and approved by the Parish Council there is no local emergency plan currently in force for the Parish of Yaxley.**
* **There is no cause for concern. The Emergency Services and County response teams remain ready to help if any emergency arises in the village and, in reality, these would have provided the core response of the previous Emergency Plan and would do so for any future one.**
* Yaxley Parish Council sincerely thanks those who offered to help with the 2017 Emergency Plan and hopes that at least some of those might consider offering their services for any future plan. Any future plan would not involve use of vehicles under Parish Council direction.

1. Councillors to sign the Code of Conduct

* Councillors signed the Code of Conduct.

1. Highways:
   1. Increase in incidents of speeding on Mellis Road – result of traffic survey and cooperation with Mellis Parish Council regarding anti speeding measures.

* Nothing to report.
  1. The adoption of the roads on Cherry Tree Close.
* Nothing to report.
  1. The pavement alongside the Mellis Road.
* The Clerk had met a representative of the Highways Department about the hedge alongside the pavement and it was agreed that the owner of the field and hedge would be asked to arrange for it to be cut.

1. Drax/Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station)

* The building of the substation will start on 1 December 2022.

1. Cranswick Processing Plant.

* See above.

1. Planning:
   1. Applications:
      1. Application for Outline Planning Permission - DC/22/04818

Proposal: Outline Planning Application (All Matters Reserved) - Erection of 2no. detached bungalows

Location: Land Off, Cherry Tree Close, Yaxley, Eye Suffolk

Yaxley Parish Council wishes to make a Holding Objection on the following grounds:

1. The explanation of the basis for the decision to make an application for this site is inadequate as the Parish Council does not consider it to be suitable and that a site on Eye Airfield would be correct.

2. There is no data on the impact on the electricity supply to the National Grid of moving the Synchronous Condensers to a site on Eye Airfield which is a few hundred metres to the east of this site.

3. No information is available on the electromagnetic impact on the area and how widespread this would be.

4. The plans to mitigate the visual impact on the landscape are insufficient and need to be more detailed and enforceable.

5. There is insufficient information on the noise impact on the area and how widespread this would be.

* + 1. Application for Planning Permission - DC/22/04021

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Construction and operation of Synchronous Condensers with ancillary infrastructure, and associated works including access and landscaping.

Yaxley Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. The addition of two more dwellings on Cherry Tree Close will increase the parking problems in the area.

2. The Parish Council believes that the site, which is the basis of the application, was planned, and is used as, an amenity area for local residents. It has been maintained as such for approximately 20 years.

3. The increase in properties in the area is unsustainable as there is limited public transport available locally and what is available is at inappropriate times, leaving Yaxley at 11.00 am and returning at 2.00 pm, for people in employment and will make residents dependent on the use of cars.

4. The roads and drainage system on Cherry Tree Close have not been adopted by Suffolk County Council and the increase in paved areas will lead to more runoff of water following rainfall and the drainage system is already inadequate. This plan will exacerbate the problem and soak aways will be insufficient to manage this.

5. Mid Suffolk District Council has an adequate land supply already and this development is not needed.

* + - * The Clerk will respond to Planning Applications 17 a.i and 17 a ii. **Action: The Clerk.**
  1. Applications – no decision: 
     1. Location: Land At The Leys And Ivy Farm, Mellis Road, Yaxley, Suffolk IP21 4BTApplication for Planning Permission - DC/22/03962

Proposal: Planning application - Change of use of land to residential curtilage (retention of) and creation of new highways access.

Location: Willow Tree Barn, White House Farm, Old Norwich Road, Yaxley Eye Suffolk

* + 1. Application For Planning Permission - DC/22/03492

Proposal: Amendments under Requirement 22 of the Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1570) as Amended, seeking permission to use solar panels and a wind turbine to power site equipment

Location: Progress Power, Potash Lane, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7HE

* 1. Planning decisions:

1. Approved:
2. Refused: none.
3. Discharge of Conditions:
4. Conditions not being Discharged: none.
   1. Withdrawn: none.
   2. Appeal allowed: none.
5. Play area:
   1. To receive Play Area Inspection Report.
      * All is in order and Councillor Wright offered to continue until the next meeting.
      * Councillors thanked Councillor Wright for taking on this responsibility.
6. Yaxley Cemetery:
   1. To consider inspection report - Councillor J Hawes.

* All is in order and the monuments are safe.
* Additional plots for cremated remains may be needed in the future.
* Councillors thanked Councillor Hawes for his report.

1. Speed Indicator Devices, Defibrillator and Bottle Bank.
   1. To receive a report on the speed indicator devices.

* Nothing to report.
  1. To receive a report on the defibrillator.
* All is in order.
  1. To receive a report on the bottle bank.
* All is in order.
* Councillor Stubbington will continue with the responsibility for the bottle bank and the defibrillator until the next meeting.
* Councillors thanked Councillor Stubbington for her report and for taking on this responsibility.

1. AOB - Any items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at the meeting on 23rd November 2022.

* It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Tubey and Mr Laughlin for a quote for the cost of the work to refurbish the noticeboard at the junction of Eye Road and The Street. **Action: The Clerk.**
* The Clerk will report a bicycle which has been left on the grass verge on the footpath from Yaxley to Mellis. **Action: The Clerk.**

**Action Points from this Meeting:**

* A piece will be put in the Yaxley Messenger asking for applications to fill the Casual Vacancy. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* The Clerk will respond to Planning Applications 17 a.i and 17 an ii. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Tubey and Mr Laughlin for a quote for the cost of the work to refurbish the noticeboard at the junction of Eye Road and The Street. **Action: The Clerk.**
* The Clerk will report a bicycle which has been left on the grass verge on the footpath from Yaxley to Mellis. **Action: The Clerk.**

Meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.