

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2021 AT 7:00 PM AT YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr. Russell Pearce - Chair  
Cllr. Paul Ashton - Vice-Chair  
Cllr. Sarah Barrett  
Cllr. John Sutherell  
Cllr. David Tower  
Cllr. Stephen Siddall  
Cllr. David Childs  
Cllr. Laura Greenberg  
Cllr. Nicol McCallum

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Ian Shaw – written and accepted  
Cllr. Kara Cowie – written and accepted  
County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

**In attendance:**

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
Three members of the public

**2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Russell Pearce declared an interest in item 7.

**3. Public Forum**

Three members of the public spoke to the Council about the outline planning application for up to 5 dwellings including means of access at land to rear of 1 Cullcott Close. The residents have concerns that the applicant has submitted incorrect and misleading plans to the planning department therefore a fair decision cannot be made. The applicant has cut back shrubs and uprooted trees, diverted Footpath 21, and taken land from the District Council to widen the accessway. The residents raised their concerns with the District Council but no response has been received. They would like the District Council to conduct a site visit, measure the land professionally, and reinstate the official boundary by ensuring the fence is on the applicant's land. They are also requesting that Footpath 21 is clearly marked and declared as a public access way. Cllr. Stephen Siddall said he shared the residents' concerns and he has asked for a site meeting with PRoW, the Case Officer and Highways but he has not yet received a response. Cllr. Siddall has also kept District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes fully informed and asked for his support. Cllr. Paul Ashton said he would look into how these concerns can be escalated within the District Council.

**4. Meeting Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. David Tower, seconded by Cllr. John Sutherell, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be approved. All in favour.

**5. Matters Arising**

With reference to item 3b, Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that he completed the ESC Digital Connectivity survey on behalf of the Council. He said that the Council would consider holding hybrid meetings if they had the necessary equipment. This may have the additional benefit of enabling the Village Hall to extend its facilities to local businesses and become more financially viable.

**6. Councillors' Reports**

a) Yoxwood – Cllr. David Childs said the silver birch trees to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee have arrived.

b) Provisions for Teenagers:

i) Yoxwood Shelter – the Clerk reported that she spoke to the ESC Community Partnership Officer and he was confident that the Council will receive funding to provide a shelter for young people. The Clerk has completed an application form for £1,200 to cover the cost of materials to provide a 10ft square, three sided shelter with the roof and sides clad in steel, three bench seats, solar lights and paint. The Clerk

reported that she also spoke to the CYDS Project Manager and he has offered to help the teenagers to build the shelter with a couple of his helpers. He can train them in the use of tools and conduct risk assessments. He said this would be a good opportunity for initial engagement with the young people about the provision of a youth club.

ii) Youth Club – the Clerk also spoke to the ESC Community Partnership about the provision of a club in Yoxford. He replied that they would be keen to provide funding but it would be better if the application was submitted by The CYDS Project. The Project Manager agreed with this but said the priority was to get the shelter up and running and this would provide them with a link to the young people to discuss the club. The Clerk reported that she met with Helen Bateman from Community Action Suffolk at The CYDS Project at Leiston. She said CAS may be able to help to start up the youth club with funding for equipment, and training and DBS checks for any local volunteers who may like to support. She will also arrange to survey children via the local high schools to ascertain their needs.

**ACTION: Clerk to submit application form to the ESC Community Partnership.**

c) Church – Cllr. John Sutherell informed the Council about the Christmas services. Cllr. David Tower said that residents who live next to the churchyard are concerned about the lime trees which have grown out further and over their properties and they feel at risk. Cllr. Sutherell agreed to ask East Suffolk Norse to conduct another safety inspection and to trim or coppice the trees if required.

**ACTION: Cllr. John Sutherell to contact East Suffolk Norse.**

d) Police - Cllr. John Sutherell said 8 crimes were reported in October 2021. There was a theft on the B1122, two violence/sexual offences and one public order offence in Cullcott Close, two criminal damage/arson offences and one violence/sexual offences in Elmsley Way and one theft on the A12 near Darsham station.

e) Work Party – a work party has been arranged to complete the work on the petanque piste. There was a discussion about the overgrown footpath from the village to Darsham station again. Cllr. Paul Ashton said he would write to County Cllr. Richard Smith to say that the County Council needs to maintain this footpath properly and the Council cannot keep asking him to intervene every time it needs clearing.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to write to County Cllr. Richard Smith.**

f) Little Street traffic calming – Cllr. Paul Ashton said permission has not yet been received from Highways to site the Speed Indicator Device at different positions on the A1120 and the B1122. Cllr. Ashton said he intends to ask the residents along the A1120, and other residents, for their views on reducing the speed limit to 20 mph as it would need a consensus of opinion before campaigning.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to speak to residents.**

## **7. Planning**

The Council further considered planning application DC/21/3894/OUT – outline application for up to 5 dwellings including means of access – land to rear of 1 Cullcott Close. Cllr. Stephen Siddall proposed that the Council writes to the County Council to remind it of its obligations, under Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980, to protect public rights. Under the Act, it is the duty of the highway authority to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway, including any roadside waste which forms part of it. All in favour.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Siddall to write to SCC Highways.**

## **8. Energy Projects**

a) The Council agreed to sign a Deed of Covenant with NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Stephen Siddall explained that the Council is not party to the principal Deed of Obligation therefore it was necessary to draw up Deeds of Covenant as a means to enforce representatives from Parish Councils to attend meetings, engage and perform the obligations of the governance groups. Cllr. Siddall added a clause to the draft Deed of Covenant to ensure the Council is not

obligated to perform any unlawful acts and changed the signing arrangements in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

b) Cllr. John Sutherell reported that the meeting with Declan Burke, Director of Nuclear Projects for BEIS was unfortunately cancelled due to illness. The intention is to reschedule the visit for early next year. Cllr. Sutherell also reported that representatives from Stop Sizewell C attended an Ipswich Business Club lunch that was addressed by the Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for BEIS. At the end of the lunch and Kwasi Kwarteng's speech, questions were taken in a public forum. There was strong opposition to Sizewell C with questions about the damage to the local tourist economy and impacts to communities close to the development site. When asked about the French government considering ordering simpler small modular reactors, Kwasi Kwarteng said that there was still a significant way to go before any Sizewell C development will go ahead but continued to stress that the government believed another large new nuclear power station was needed, partly to bridge a skills gap to the implementation of small modular reactors. Cllr. Sutherell also reported on problems with the design of the reactor in Taishen which may impact the development of Hinkley Point C and indicate to the government that Sizewell C is a high risk project.

## 9. Garden of Suffolk Map

Cllr. Russell Pearce informed the Council that East Lake was actually named Yoxmere. The Council approved the final version of the Garden of Suffolk map with this change.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the artist.**

## 10. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, attached as Appendix I, including receipt of £1,703.96 of recovered VAT from HMRC and a grant for £150 from SCC for the Garden of Suffolk Map.
- b) The Council approved the Community Infrastructure Levy Report for 2020-2021.
- c) The Council agreed to renew the fixed deposit of £5,420.49 at United Trust Bank.
- d) It was proposed by Cllr. David Tower, seconded by Cllr. Sarah Barrett, to authorise the following payments. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£461.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Garden of Suffolk Map	John Roberts	£1,500.00	LGA 1972 s.144
Quarterly Contribution	Yoxford Village Hall	£240.50	LGA 1972 s.19
Grass Cutting	RSC Landscapes Ltd	£54.00	PHA 1936 s. 87

## 11. Administration

The Council agreed meeting dates for 2022.

## 12. Correspondence

- a) The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- b) It was agreed to ask Cllr. Ian Shaw to review the Draft Cycling and Walking Strategy Consultation and to respond if necessary.  
**ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr. Ian Shaw to review the consultation.**
- c) The Clerk agreed to review the Community Infrastructure Charging Schedule and Instalment Policy Consultation and report back to the Council.  
**ACTION: Clerk to review the consultation.**

d) The Council noted the County Council's response to the outline planning application for 110 homes on land south of Darsham station and its recommendation that the footpath should be 3 metres wide and set back from the A12.

e) It was agreed to apply for a free oak tree from the District Council to be planted in the churchyard.

**ACTION: Clerk to apply.**

### **13. Next Meeting**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

## Appendix I - Financial Position

### Bank Balances

HSBC Community Account as at 5 November 2021	£40,188.77
N S & I Investment Account as at 1 January 2021	£11,042.80
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 31 July 2021	£7,364.89
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 19 December 2020	£5,366.82
	<u>£63,963.28</u>

### Earmarked Reserves

SMH Play Area	£1,170.85
Mulberry Park	£5,000.00
Village Hall Refurbishment Project (allocated CIL)	£5,624.79
Community Infrastructure Levy (unallocated)	£22,623.62
	<u>£34,419.26</u>

### Bank Balances less Reserves

**£29,544.02**

### Income – November 2021

SCC Locality Budget Grant – Garden of Suffolk Map Cemetery - Interment	£150.00
	£150.00
	<u>£300.00</u>

### Payments – December 2021

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£461.20
RSC Landscapes – Grass Cutting	£54.00
John Roberts – Garden of Suffolk Map	£1,500.00
Yoxford Village Hall – Quarterly Contribution	£240.50
	<u>£2,255.70</u>

### Net Balance

**£27,588.32**