

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER 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. Ian Shaw
Cllr. David Tower
Cllr. Kara Cowie
Cllr. Nicol McCallum
Cllr. David Childs

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Laura Greenberg – written and accepted
Cllr. Stephen Siddall – written and accepted
District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
9 members of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) With regard to the recent planning application for five dwellings to the rear of 1 Cullcott Close, two residents informed the Council about the District Council's public notification of refusal of planning consent under delegated powers. However, the residents said this was followed shortly afterwards by an email from a Planning Officer stating that the decision to refuse had been peremptory and although the planning authority is minded to refuse, the period for determination has been extended by two weeks. The residents complained about the chaos of the planning system and said the about-face had caused considerable anger and annoyance. The residents said that many strong objections to the application had been submitted to the planning authority, including a professional representation of objection which did not appear on the planning portal. The District Council did not seem concerned that they had not received the professional representation, despite two emails being sent, which the residents said may have a deleterious effect on the decision. The Council agreed to write a letter of complaint to the District Council and to copy to District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr. Stephen Siddall to respond.

b) Cllr. Kara Cowie introduced a group of teenagers who are resident in the parish. Cllr. Cowie said the Council often considers facilities for older and younger residents but there is a deficit in the middle for young people. Cllr. Cowie said that the COVID pandemic has made it difficult for teenagers to socialise indoors so they often meet in fields which is unsatisfactory and unsafe. The two play parks in the village are not suitable as they are close to housing, there is no shelter and not enough bench seats to enable them all to sit together and parents of young children often disapprove of groups of teenagers. The teenagers asked the Council to consider providing them with a shelter, seating and solar lights in an area away from housing as they do not wish to disturb residents. They agreed to respect and look after the shelter and to help build it. The Council thanked the teenagers for bringing their proposals to them and they discussed various areas in the parish which could accommodate their wishes including Yoxwood, Little Street, Mulberry Park and Donkey Meadow. It was decided that Yoxwood would be the most suitable location. Cllr. John Sutherell asked the Clerk to contact Yoxwood Steering Group to request that a dedicated area is set aside for a shelter and asked the teenagers to form a team, with a leader to speak on their behalf, and to make decisions on the type and size of shelter and seating they require. Cllr. Nicol McCallum suggested that provision is also made for teenagers to meet in a proper space with heating, lighting, toilets and activities. The teenagers suggested that The CYDS Project in Leiston may be willing to run a Youth Club one night a week in the Village Hall.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Yoxwood Steering Group and to make enquiries with The CYDS Project.

c) County Cllr. Richard Smith said he hoped to lay a wreath at St Peter's Church, Yoxford on Remembrance Sunday this year, which was postponed from last year due to COVID.

With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith said the examination period for Sizewell C concludes this week. At the latest Issue Specific Hearing, the Examining Authority considered the proposals for the desalination plant where EDF admitted they have no long-term plans for potable water. Cllr. Smith paid tribute to the Planning Inspectorate; they have acted fairly, clearly been on top of their brief and have allowed time for observations and questions. Cllr. Smith also commended the community for all the work it has done and the arguments put forward. If the DCO is approved, EDF still needs to find £20 billion which will be difficult to raise unless the government makes the public pay. He said if Sizewell C goes ahead then he will support the efforts of the County Council to ensure the community gets the best possible mitigation and compensation for the coming years.

Cllr. Smith said that the County Council are undertaking a review of HGV routes through Suffolk. The review will begin on 22nd October, last for eight weeks, and will be conducted through Town and Parish Councils which demonstrates local democracy. The HGV routes were last reviewed in 2011. Cllr. Smith asked the Council that, if it raises issues local to its parish, it is mindful that HGVs have to go somewhere and therefore to make recommendations that do not impact greatly on neighbouring parishes. The County Council will also look at sat nav routes for HGVs.

Cllr. Paul Ashton asked Cllr. Smith if it was the County Council's policy to refuse applications for 20 mph speed limits and, if so, could that policy be changed. Cllr. Smith replied that he was not in favour of 20 mph speed limits as they are not enforced by the police. He said applications were considered on a case by case basis and it is a costly and timely process to reduce the speed limit. Any application needs approval from the parish's County Councillor and he thinks 30 mph is reasonable. He said there are plenty of parked cars in Yoxford which is an effective measure to slow traffic.

4. Meeting Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Kara Cowie, seconded by Cllr. Nicol McCallum, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2021 be approved. All in favour.

5. Planning

With regard to planning application DC/21/4006/OUT – the erection of up to 110 residential dwellings, public open space and associated infrastructure – land south of Darsham station, Main Road, Darsham, Cllr. Paul Ashton informed the Council that he, Cllr. Stephen Siddall, Cllr. John Sutherell and the Clerk met with the developer Scott Properties, their transport consultants, a representative from County Council Highways and the Case Officer from the District Council. Cllr. Ashton said the Council raised concerns about community severance, the unsuitable and dangerous footpath/cycleway to Yoxford, the speed limit on the A12 next to the footpath, the access from Westleton Road, the non-compliance with ESC's sustainable transport policy, the site design and the flood risk. Cllr. Ashton proposed that the Council objects to the outline application on these grounds. Seconded by Cllr. John Sutherell. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Siddall to draft a response and circulate for comments.

6. Energy Projects

Cllr. John Sutherell briefed the Council about the latest Issue Specific Hearings. Cllr. Sutherell said Therese Coffey MP has requested a three month extension to the examination process to allow for resolutions to questions raised by statutory consultees on a number of issues. She said that if queries are not answered before the end of the examination period there may be grounds for a judicial review. Cllr. Sutherell said that the examination process has driven EDF to provide details and that there needs to be controls in the DCO to ensure the developer is held to account. Cllr. Sutherell said the Council needs to ensure it has ongoing support from the Local Authorities and there is a need to stay engaged after the examination ends. Cllr. Sutherell also attended the latest EDF briefing arranged by SALC. EDF were asked about the arrangements being made to enable Town and Parish Councils to have ongoing dialogue with them. They replied that the Deed of Obligation will publish details about a series of fora, two transport and one community, which will meet quarterly and will include representatives from EDF, the Local

Authorities and one elected Councillor or Clerk per parish. The Community Forum will include parishes surrounding the development. The Clerk said she had been informed that this would not include Yoxford. Cllr. Sutherell said Yoxford were included in the Transport North Forum but that he believes Yoxford should be included in the Transport South Forum during the early years of construction when all vehicles will use the A12 and B1122. The Clerk informed the Council that she was aware that neighbouring parishes were making a final submission to the Examining Authority outlining a number of mitigatory and compensatory measures they required for their parishes in the absence of agreed Statements of Common Ground. Cllr. Paul Ashton agreed to prepare a final representation for Yoxford.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to draft a final representation, circulate for comments, and submit before Deadline 10.

7. Councillors' Reports

- a) Yoxwood – Cllr. David Childs reported that a new hedge is being planted by the river.
- b) Flagship – Cllr. John Sutherell reported that the broken fence is being mended.
- c) Church – Cllr. John Sutherell reported that services are back to normal and informed the Council about upcoming events.
- d) Police – Cllr. John Sutherell said that eight crimes had been reported in the parish in August 2021. There were three public order offences - one on the B1122, one on the A12 near Darsham and one at the junction of the B1122/A12. There was a burglary on the B1122, a violence/sexual offence at the junction of the A1120/A12, a vehicle crime on the High Street, and an anti-social behaviour and a drugs offence in Elmsley Way.
- e) Cemetery - the Clerk reported that two enquiries had been received regarding a plot reservation and permission to inter ashes in an existing plot.
- f) Cllr. David Childs reported that the keypad on the defibrillator cabinet is faulty.

ACTION: Clerk to order a replacement.

- g) With regard to traffic calming on Little Street, Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that the Speed Indicator Device in Sibton has been stolen. Cllr. Ashton offered to investigate security measures for the Council's device.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to progress.

- h) Cllr. Ian Shaw reported that a further inadequate response had been received from the Public Rights of Way department. The response did not answer the Council's questions on whether landowners are required to obtain permission prior to ploughing a footpath, in accordance with the law, and what exactly constitutes 'reinstatement of a footpath' so that it is 'reasonably convenient to use'. Cllr. Shaw reminded the Council that County Cllr. Richard Smith had previously agreed to look into this if an adequate response was not received.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr. Richard Smith.

- i) Garden of Suffolk Map – the artist has been asked to provide a description of the Yoxman statue for the map.

8. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, attached as Appendix I, including receipt of £7,108.23 from ESC for the second precept instalment and £1,619.14 as a reimbursement from the Village Hall of insurance premium.

- b) The Council noted the budget versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 2 2021-2022.
- c) The Council agreed to donated £200 to Citizens Advice – Leiston, Saxmundham and District. (LGA 1972 s.142)
- d) It was proposed by Cllr. David Tower, seconded by Cllr. David Childs, to authorise the following payments. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£461.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£21.88	LGA 1972 s.111
Printer and Ink	Sharon Smith	£181.98	LGA 1972 s.111
PC and VH Combined Insurance Premium	Business Services at CAS Ltd	£1,732.16	LGA 1972 s.111

9. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 28th August 2021 to 30th September 2021.

10. Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Teenagers' shelter and seating.
- b) Neighbourhood plan.
- c) Grit bins.

11. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Appendix I - Financial Position

Bank Balances

HSBC Community Account as at 3 September 2021	£28,579.83
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>£52,354.34</u>

Earmarked Reserves

SMH Play Area	£1,170.85
Garden of Suffolk Map	£1,500.00
Mulberry Park	£5,000.00
Village Hall Refurbishment Project	£5,624.79
Community Infrastructure Levy	£9,902.09
	<u>£23,197.73</u>

Bank Balances less Reserves

£29,156.61

Income – September 2021

Village Hall – Reimbursement of Insurance Premium	£461.74
Village Hall – Reimbursement of Insurance Premium	£1,157.40
ESC – Precept Second Instalment	£7,108.23
	<u>£8,727.37</u>

Payments – October 2021

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£461.20
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£21.88
Sharon Smith – Printer and Ink	£181.98
Business Services at CAS – Combined Insurance Premium	£1,732.16
	<u>£2,397.22</u>

Net Balance

£35,486.76