

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 31st MARCH 2022 AT 7:00 PM AT YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Russell Pearce - Chair
Cllr. Ian Shaw
Cllr. John Sutherell
Cllr. David Tower
Cllr. David Childs
Cllr. Nicoll McCallum
Cllr. Stephen Siddall

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Laura Greenberg – written and accepted
Cllr. Paul Ashton – written and accepted
Cllr. Sarah Barrett – written and accepted
District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
County Cllr. Richard Smith
One member of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that the County Council has received wide support for its stance regarding the Ukraine conflict. At a recent full meeting there was only one motion to condemn Russia's actions and it received unanimous support. Cllr. Smith also reported that a Council Tax rebate of £150 from the government will be given to households in Bands A-D to help with rising fuel costs.

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 3rd March 2022 be approved. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

With reference to item 9d, the Clerk said she looked into nominating a Community Champion to take part in the Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay on 29th May 2022. The Community Champion would be required to carry the torch in a rickshaw for a short distance through Yoxford and participate in publicity around the event. The Clerk said the nominee's prior approval must be obtained and she was unsure whether the nominee would be willing.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the nominee.

6. Casual Vacancy

Cllr. Russell Pearce introduced Janet Gardner who applied to fill the Council's casual vacancy. Cllr. Pearce proposed that the Council co-opts Ms Gardner. Seconded by Cllr. David Childs. All in favour. Ms Gardner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk, and joined the Council with immediate effect.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council of the appointment.

6. Planning

a) Cllr. Stephen Siddall proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/22/0740/FUL – construction of a two storey side extension – 2 Strickland Manor Hill. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

b) Cllr. Stephen Siddall proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/22/0917/FUL – two storey side and single storey rear extension – 12 Groveside, High Street. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

c) Cllr. Stephen Siddall proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/22/0883/FUL – to convert existing garage, re-roof and extend, also to build a separate, detached garage/cartlodge – Satis Coach House, Station Road. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

d) Cllr. Stephen Siddall proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/22/1004/FUL – replacement larger front porch extension, removal of previous two storey rear extension and conservatory, new single storey rear extension – Rosemary Cottage, High Street. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

e) Cllr. Ian Shaw proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/22/1098/TCA – Spindle – fell, tree rubbing on building, Holly – reduce 2m below overhead wires, Yew- reduce 2m below overhead wires, Oak – 35% reduction and shape, Mulberry – remove two minor limbs to regain shape – Brook Cottage, Brook Street. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the planning department.

f) With reference to planning application DC/21/3894/OUT, Cllr. Stephen Siddall reported that District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes has arranged to speak with an ESC Senior Estates Manager who he will put in touch with Cllr. Siddall to arrange an onsite meeting to discuss the land grab. County Cllr. Richard Smith provided contact details for a representative from Public Rights of Way to whom Cllr. Siddall has requested a meeting. Cllr. Siddall said that Parish Councils have certain powers in respect of Public Rights of Way which he will look into if the County Council does not take any action.

7. Yoxwood

a) Cllr. David Childs reported that the volunteers are preparing for the music event to be held as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

b) The Council authorised payment of a £500 grant, agreed in November 2021, for the music event.

c) The Council agreed to purchase an official plaque to mark the Queen's Green Canopy.

ACTION: Clerk to order.

d) The Council agreed to service the ride-on mower.

8. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

a) Cllr. John Sutherell reported that he, Cllr. Ian Shaw, Cllr. Nicol McCallum and the Clerk attended a briefing with Tom McGarry, Andy Mower and Michelle Emmerson-Grey from EDF about the terms of the Sizewell C Deed of Obligation. If the DCO is granted in May 2022, EDF would like to be well-positioned to deliver on its commitment to maximise the benefits of the project for the communities of East Suffolk. They aim to commence construction in autumn 2023 which will allow time for any judicial reviews and a final investment decision. EDF summarised their commitments to the community, in the form of eleven pledges, which are conditional in the DCO. EDF then listed the main issues raised in the Council's relevant representations, mostly concerning transport impacts and governance and monitoring. The main features of the DCO and the Deed of Obligation were outlined. The signatories to the Deed of Obligation are EDF, the County and the District Councils. It includes a number of mitigation measures to make the project acceptable in planning terms which are not already embedded in the DCO. The Deed of Obligation sets out levels of governance including a Planning Group, a Transport Review Group, an Environment Review Group, a Social Review Group and an Economic Group. A number of working groups and forums will report to these governance groups. Yoxford is included on the Transport North, Transport South and Main Site Forums and these will be the mechanism to flag any problems. Yoxford will also be included in the B1122 Repurposing Scheme which will include improvements to the Yoxford to Darsham rail station footpath. EDF's overall financial commitment to the community is £250 million. EDF spoke about the Community Fund of £23 million which will support projects that promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of East Suffolk. The fund will be administered by the Suffolk Community Foundation with public representatives on the funding panel. There will also be a £12 million Tourism Fund to support the East Suffolk tourism economy and a £12 million Housing Fund to increase the supply of bed

spaces to house the construction workforce. There will be funding to support the emergency services in East Suffolk and a 24/7 occupational health service for Sizewell C workers. £7.8 million will be provided to fund education and training providers in East Suffolk and there will be £1.6 million for employment outreach activities. A £12 million environmental improvement fund will be in place to mitigate the visual impacts and focus on the AONB. The next steps for EDF are to develop the governance arrangements so that key groups are in place ahead of commencement of the project. Cllr. Sutherell said it was a good, positive meeting and it was clear that Yoxford was an engaged and knowledgeable parish.

b) Garden of Suffolk map – Cllr. Russell Pearce reported that he had removed the old sign.

c) Provisions for teenagers – the Clerk reported that the two consultation events were successful and a number of youngsters came along to let the Council and CYDS know of their wishes. A mix of indoor activities including pool, table tennis, gaming, cooking and crafts together with outdoor activities including basketball, football, hide and seek and trampolining were requested. The preferred evening was Thursday and CYDS recommend 6–8 pm given the age group of mostly 11–13 year olds who attended the consultation events. CYDS suggested outreach work could perhaps be carried out at the Yoxwood shelter from 8-9 pm. The Clerk said the youth club would be staffed by two DBS checked and trained youth workers costing £67.60 per week. The club usually runs for 50 weeks per year, with one week off in summer and one at Christmas, therefore the annual staffing cost will be £3,380. The Clerk listed the start-up equipment required which will cost approximately £1,773. CYDS have secured a grant for £1,000 towards start-up equipment. The Clerk said that, in the longer term, grants could be applied for basketball stands, football goals and perhaps an in-ground trampoline. Following a discussion, Cllr. Ian Shaw proposed the Council commits to funding the staffing costs of £3,380 for one year and £800 towards the start-up equipment. Seconded by Cllr. Nicol McCallum with the condition that the club's attendance is reviewed after six months. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Ian Shaw to order a Youth Club sign for the external signpost. Clerk to check eligibility of equipment for ESC Outdoor Playing Space Fund or Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

d) Queen's Platinum Jubilee – the Council noted the poster displayed around the village outlining all the events occurring over the Jubilee weekend. Cllr. Russell Pearce said he had ordered bunting to decorate the church, the village sign and the Jubilee seat.

e) Hedge cutting – the Council approved Cllr. Paul Ashton's letter to residents with hedges overhanging the pavements asking them to cut their hedges back to the boundary of their properties to allow pedestrians to pass by more easily.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to deliver letters.

f) Traffic calming – Cllr. Paul Ashton's previously circulated report was noted. A new Speed Indicator Device has been ordered with delivery expected at the end of May 2022. The new and existing SIDs can use the same brackets. The new SID posts for the B1122 and Little Street are being progressed.

g) Footpaths – Cllr. Russell Pearce reported that he spoke to the estate manager at Cockfield Hall regarding the complaints received about the footpath being cultivated. The estate manager said that a wildflower meadow was being planted and the footpath will be reinstated. He explained that the farm manager had put up a 'no access' sign but the estate recognises that it is a permissive path and they do not object to people using it. Cllr. Ian Shaw suggested that the sign is perhaps there to dissuade non-locals from using the path to visit the Yoxman.

h) Church – Cllr. John Sutherell said that every fourth Sunday there will be a general service instead of the Holy Communion which will hopefully improve attendance. The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting is scheduled for 26th April 2022. All are welcome to attend.

i) Police – Cllr. John Sutherell said 5 crimes were reported in the parish in February 2022. There was a report of criminal damage/arson in the High Street, one violence/sexual offence in Meadowlands, one violence/sexual offence and one anti-social behaviour offence on the A12 near Cullcott Close, and one anti-social behaviour offence on the A12 near the level crossing.

j) Cemetery – the Clerk reported there has been one interment, two internments of ashes, and permission granted for a memorial headstone this month.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up report of subsidence with grave digger.

k) Work party – Cllr. Ian Shaw reported that he had undertaken cutting and clearing work at Mulberry Park and the churchyard. A work party was organised for the weekend to complete the boule court.

9. Parish Matters

The Council postponed consideration of employing a contractor to carry out parish maintenance.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

10. Consultations

a) The Council decided not to respond to the ESC Community Governance Review.

b) The Council noted Cllr. Paul Ashton's previously circulated report about the ESC Community Partnership Rural Proofing Workshop. Cllr. Ashton is compiling a list of assets (village hall, cricket club, youth club, etc). The list will be shared with all the parishes in the Community Partnership to enable better use of nearby facilities.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to circulate the draft list for comments.

c) The Council noted Cllr. Paul Ashton's previously circulated report about the ESC Community Partnership Meeting. Cllr. Ashton attended the latest meeting and noted that only core parishes who attended the initial meeting to set up the Community Partnership were invited to subsequent meetings. Cllr. Ashton asked the parishes present at the meeting to vote in favour of inviting all parishes in the Community Partnership to every meeting which was successful.

11. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipts.

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Russell Pearce, seconded by Cllr. John Sutherell, to authorise the following payments. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£529.90	LGA 1972 s.112
Magazine Subscription	CommuniCorp	£12.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Website Domain Name	Zen Internet Ltd	£11.99	LGA 1972 s.111
Data Protection Registration	Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Bank Charges	HSBC	£14.50	LGA 1972 s.111

12. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received from 25th February 2022 to 25th March 2022.

13. Items for the Next Agenda

14. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and times of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council which are scheduled for Thursday 5th May 2022 at 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Appendix I - Financial Position

Bank Balances

HSBC Community Account as at 4 March 2022	£40,545.26
N S & I Investment Account as at 1 January 2022	£11,043.90
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 31 July 2021	£7,364.89
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 19 December 2021	£5,420.50
	<u>£64,374.55</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
SCC Locality Budget Grant – Garden of Suffolk Map	£69.00
Queen’s Platinum Jubilee	£1,000.00
	<u>£35,488.26</u>

Bank Balances less Reserves

£28,886.29

Income – March 2022

Cemetery – Interments/Headstone	£340.00
Dr Lynch – Share of Water Charges	£24.14
	<u>£364.14</u>

Payments – March 2022

Sharon Smith - Clerk’s Salary	£529.90
Communicorp – Magazine Subscription	£12.00
HSBC – Bank Charges	£14.50
Zen Internet – Website Domain Name	£11.99
ICO – Data Protection Registration	£35.00
	<u>£603.39</u>

Net Balance

£28,647.04