

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th JANUARY 2022 AT 7:00 PM AT YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Paul Ashton - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Ian Shaw
Cllr. Sarah Barrett
Cllr. John Sutherell
Cllr. David Tower
Cllr. David Childs
Cllr. Laura Greenberg
Cllr. Nicol McCallum

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Russell Pearce – written and accepted
Cllr. Stephen Siddall – written and accepted
Cllr. Kara Cowie – written and accepted
District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
County Cllr. Richard Smith
No members of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that the Secretary of State has granted the Planning Inspectorate's request for a three month extension to the examination of Sizewell C. Cllr. Smith said that a final decision about whether to grant a Development Consent Order will not be received until the end of May 2022. Cllr. Smith said high energy prices may make Sizewell C more likely to receive approval but conversely it may not as Sizewell C will be paid for by a levy on energy bills which are already shooting up.

Cllr. Smith reported that the County Council's budget process for 2022-2023 was underway. The Scrutiny Committee will examine the proposals on 11th February and they will then be put in front of the Cabinet and Full Council for endorsement. Cllr. Smith said the proposed 2.99% increase is likely to be approved and this is the maximum the County Council can increase its precept without calling a referendum. The County Council do not intend to cut any services this year as central government has been more generous than expected which has helped to balance the budget with only £1.5 million drawn from reserves. Highways still has a relatively small budget of £15 million. Cllr. Paul Ashton asked Cllr. Smith if a 2.99% increase would be sufficient to meet the expected 5% cost of living pay rise for Council employees and contractors. Cllr. Smith replied that the pay bargaining for the current year is still to be concluded and then the process will begin again for next year. He said good staff cost money therefore the County Council will use reserves if necessary but this has been considered and they have contingency. Cllr. Ashton said it may cause further cuts and constraints in the budget.

4. Meeting Minutes

- a) It was proposed by Cllr. Laura Greenberg, seconded by Cllr. Sarah Barrett, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2021 be approved. All in favour.
- b) It was proposed by Cllr. Sarah Barrett, seconded by Cllr. Laura Greenberg, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2021 be approved. All in favour.

5. Planning

- a) Cllr. Paul Ashton proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/21/5451/FUL – use of former agricultural land for the provision of a caravan and camping site, including the erection of shower block/toilet building – Willowdene, Willow Marsh Lane. Seconded by Cllr. David Tower. All in favour.
- b) Cllr. Ian Shaw proposed that the Council has no objection to planning application DC/21/5522/TCA – one leylandii approximately 35 years old on north side of property, 40 cm from brick wall to the adjacent

property. Complete removal to avoid future damage to wall and neighbour's house – The Retreat, High Street. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Ashton. All in favour.

c) Cllr. Ian Shaw proposed that the Council has no objection to planning application DC/21/5696/TCA – two yew trees close to drive entrance, trim tops and sides especially where overhanging A1120 by 30% - The Retreat, High Street. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Ashton. All in favour.

d) Cllr. Paul Ashton proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/21/4811/FUL – to put in two hard wood windows and one velux window to the front of the house – Hilside, Annexe at Station Road. Seconded by Cllr. David Tower. All in favour.

e) 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. David Tower reported that revised plans had been submitted which showed the Public Right of Way access in the middle of the road. Cllr. Tower said residents of Cullcott Close were submitting further objections about this to the planning authority. Cllr. Paul Ashton said that, if the application is to be decided by a Planning Committee, he has agreed to speak at the meeting on behalf of the residents and the Council.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to meet with residents to discuss representation.

6. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, attached as Appendix I, including receipts of £150 for cemetery fees and interest from NS&I of £1.10.

b) Cllr. Paul Ashton proposed to increase the Clerk's salary rate to SCP 17 from April 2022. Seconded by Cllr. Sarah Barrett. All in favour.

c) The Council discussed the draft budget for the financial year 2022-2023. At Cllr. Nicol McCallum's suggestion, the Council agreed to add £2,000 for teenagers' provision and approved the budget for the purposes of setting the precept for 2022-2023. The Council discussed projects for 2022 which could be funded by general reserves. Suggestions included paying for verges and skirting to be cleared, sign cleaning, hedge cutting, community access to public transport, Christmas tree and lights, Britain in Bloom competition and children's play equipment for the Village Hall. It was agreed to consider further ideas for discussion at the next meeting and to add these to the budget.

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

d) Cllr. Paul Ashton proposed a 0% change to the parish precept for 2022-2023 which will be set at £14,382.94. Seconded by Cllr. John Sutherell. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.

e) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 3 2021-2022.

f) It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Ashton, seconded by Cllr. Ian Shaw, to authorise the following payment. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£588.00	LGA 1972 s.112

7. Councillors' Reports

a) Yoxwood – the Clerk agreed to ask Cllr. Russell Pearce to order the materials for the teenagers' shelter.

b) Energy projects – Cllr. John Sutherell reported that the meeting with Declan Burke, Director of Nuclear Projects for BEIS, has been rescheduled for 4th February and he and Cllr. Paul Ashton will attend.

c) Footpaths – Cllr. Ian Shaw reported that a resident had complained about the footpath from Oak Tree House to Drum House which is flooded at the entrance between two fields. A drainage pipe is

necessary to join one end of a drainage ditch with the other. Cllr. Shaw agreed to ascertain if landowners are responsible for drainage and, if so, whether it is enforceable.

d) Church – Cllr. John Sutherell reported that the Parochial Church Council had scheduled a meeting to discuss the future use of the Church. Cllr. Sutherell said it was the duty of the Church to serve the community and he asked the Councillors to send him ideas.

e) Police – Cllr. John Sutherell said 7 crimes were reported in the parish in November 2021. There was one anti-social behaviour and one violence/sexual offence in Elmsley Way, one violence/sexual offence at the junction of the A12/A1120, one drugs offence at the junction of the A12/B1122 and one public order offence, one possession of weapons and one violence/sexual offence on the A12 near Darsham station.

f) Cemetery – the Clerk reported that another plot had been reserved.

g) Village website – Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that the new website was live and asked the Council to inform him of dates of events to populate the calendar.

h) Garden of Suffolk map – the Clerk agreed to ask the artist for the high resolution digital copy of the map and ask for his advice on the optimal size for printing. Cllr. Ian Shaw said he would look out previously obtained quotes for printing. The Council discussed additional sites for the map and agreed that the layby on the A12 overlooking the Yoxman might be a suitable site, subject to obtaining the necessary permissions.

8. Consultations

a) The Council agreed to submit Cllr. Paul Ashton's draft response to ESC's Cycling and Walking Strategy consultation. The submission relates to community comment 408 about the footpath from Yoxford to Darsham station. The modal shift score has been assessed as zero and the Council agreed to challenge this as the footpath is so narrow (effectively 0.5m or less) and dangerous (immediately adjacent to the A12 in a 40mph zone) so as to make it virtually unsuitable and it is unknown whether the difficulty of parking at Darsham station has been taken into account. The car park is frequently full so, for many people, walking, cycling on the narrow footpath or driving to the station are not viable options. An improved walking and cycling option would ensure reliable access to Darsham station to enable more journeys to be made by train and facilitate a much more environmentally impactful modal shift from car to train.

ACTION: Clerk to submit.

b) The Clerk summarised the Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and Instalment Policy consultation. The Council had no comments.

9. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 26th November 2021 to 30th December 2021.

ACTION: Clerk to recirculate the username and password to the correspondence email account.

10. Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

Cllr. John Sutherell, Cllr. Paul Ashton and Cllr. Stephen Siddall agreed to meet to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan.

11. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Thursday 3rd February 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 3 December 2021	£39,937.03
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>£63,711.54</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	£150.00
	<u>£34,569.26</u>

Bank Balances less Reserves

£29,142.28

Income – December 2021

United Trust Bank - Interest	£53.67
Plot Reservation - Parsons	£200.00
	<u>£253.67</u>

Payments – January 2022

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£588.00
Village Hall – Transfer of Reclaimed VAT	£526.38
	<u>£1,114.38</u>

Net Balance

£28,281.57