

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29th July 2021 @ 6:30PM MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr G Paterson, Cllr A Cross
CC Cllr J Fleming

Apologies: Cllr S Barr

Meeting started at 6:40pm

1 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting and approved apologies received from Cllr Barr.

An attempt was made to use the Hall Wi-Fi, by attaching 3 devices, so that we could 'zoom' our Parish Clerk into the meeting. The Parish Clerk was having to self-isolate and so could not be physically present at the meeting. However, it was not possible to connect to the Wi-Fi and we had to abandon the attempt. The minutes were therefore taken by Cllr Read and the meeting started at 6:40pm.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None received.

3 To consider requests for Dispensations on agenda items

None requested.

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th June 2021 are a true and correct record.

The minutes for 24th June 2021 were approved unanimously.

5 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming highlighted some of the information in her report, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

There was a discussion around the cost/revenue and facilities around Waste Services.

There are apparently cracks appearing on the old Yaxley bridge which are being monitored.

Cllr Read commented that the new Eye roundabout system on the A140 is not working and quite dangerous. Apparently Yaxley have also made the same observation and Highways are looking into it.

7:10pm CC Cllr Fleming left the meeting.

6 Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboys was not in attendance.

Cllr Read read out some pertinent sections of his report, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes, noting the statements around Locality Grants, temporary use of land for campsites and the Mental Health initiative around neurodiversity.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No members of the public present.

8 Chair's Report

Chair will, in future, provide updates on any council issues, via the agenda items and will use this item for mistakes/apologies/updates on minor items.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

No report given due to Clerk being unable to attend.

10 Mellis School request for funding.

Cllr Read has spoken to the school about their requirement; they are seeking funding towards an outdoor learning shelter project and are now £1,000.00 short of their target. MSDC Infrastructure Team have already confirmed that the project is eligible for CIL funding. Discussion ensued around current unallocated CIL funds and the full £1,000.00 was unanimously approved by Councillors.

Action – Clerk to arrange for payment to be made to Mellis Primary School.

11 Wellhead Reconstruction

The drawings for the wellhead are in progress, with Cllr Cross having put together a semi-technical drawing.

Cllrs Paterson and Cross will get together to now move this to the next phase – materials costing.

Cllr Paterson was of the opinion that there were at least 2 people in the village who could construct the wellhead.

The Wellhead design does seem to incorporate everything we have discussed so far – bench seating, information board etc.

Cllr Fleming has indicated that she could be approached to part-fund the project.

Councillor's opinion was that the final cost would probably be in the region of £4-5,000 and that some funding should be requested – initially through Cllr Fleming. This will enable an approval of spending for the project to be agreed.

ACTION – Cllr Cross and Cllr Paterson to continue work on the drawings and to request quotations for the materials and work required.

ACTION – Clerk to send speculative letter to Cllr Fleming to request funds (after discussion with Cllr Read).

ACTION – approval of spending for Wellhead project to be an August agenda item.

12 MSDC Tree, Hedge, and Wildflower Planting Initiative

This is ongoing. Suffolk Wildlife Trust have advised, after discussions with Cllr Read, that they would not condone tree planting on the Common (despite early photographs showing that they were an integral part of the environment). However, they are quite happy with any move to enhance the boundary hedges.

ACTION – Cllr Paterson to order a selection of trees/hedging for planting, possibly in January.

13 Signage repairs/replacements

Despite logging with MSDC some time ago, it was noted that both the Carnser sign and the one in Earlsford road had still not been dealt with.

ACTION – Cllr Read to chase.

14 Speeding within the village

Deferred to next meeting.

15 Finance

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance was £31,790.77 As of 24th June 2021.

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

HMRC PAYE - **£61**

Admin payment (Clerk) - **£244**

Agreed unanimously

iii) Internal audit of accounts

Cllr Cross agreed to conduct the quarterly internal audit of accounts starting July 2021.

ACTION – Cllr Read and Cllr Barr to pay agreed payments via online banking (dual authorisation)

ACTION – Clerk to send relevant paperwork to Cllr Cross for July 2021 internal audit of accounts

16 Matters for future consideration

- Review of Budget 2021/22
- Action/maintenance around Newsteads Land including potential access via the Openreach hard standing area
- Phone box repair (due to vandalism of one of the panels)

17 The date of the next Meeting will be Thursday 26th August 2021 at 6:30pm Mellis Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm

County Councillor Report

July 2021



Mellis Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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Independent Review of Suffolk County Council's SEND services – A report by a multi-agency team from Lincolnshire which is carrying out an independent review into the council's Special Education Needs and Disabilities services will be published in September. About 18,000 young people use SEND services, including 5,900 with Education Health and Care Plans, about twice the 2014 number.

To input to the review please share experiences of the of the SCC SEND services by email prior to mid August to SendReview@suffolk.gov.uk.

Suffolk Recycling Centres Update – Post July 19th social distancing requirements at recycling sites are being relaxed, as are some other limitations such as the 2-axel trailer rule Please refer to the accompanying flyer: Bookings can be made online via <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/where-to-recycle/recycling-centres/suffolk-recycling-centres-booking-page> or by calling 0345 606 6067.. Further changes are planned after 16th August.

Locality Budgets – The County Council locality scheme is now open again for applications. Please get in touch if any local projects need financial support.

Highways – A140 Road Safety – Enquiries about lorry overturns on the A140 have been sent to the Speed Management Team and the problem has been assigned unique reference number CR No: 327137. An initial response from Suffolk Highways does not consider that the camber of the road is the cause of the accidents. A road safety audit has been completed for the new configurations and some minor adjustments are being made to signage.

Womens Bike Tour - The 6th and final stage of the tour runs from Haverhill to Felixstowe via Stowmarket on 9th October, it will be the first time since 2014 that Suffolk has hosted the final stage. The full route can be found here: [The Women's Tour | Stage Six \(womenstour.co.uk\)](https://www.womenstour.co.uk)

Covid-19 Update – The Prime Minister has announced that [step 4 of the easing of COVID restrictions in England is to go ahead](#), from Monday (19th July). SCC bulletins are available on [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

Walk-in vaccination centres are open at locations throughout Suffolk with the full range of vaccines available, these and change daily; refer to [SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#)

