

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2024 @ 6:30PM IN MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr A Cross, Cllr Paterson, Cllr L Farley
DC Cllr Warboys, Clerk – J Challis, 4 members of the public

Apologies: None

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

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies received from Cllr Farley advising she may be late arriving.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None received.

3 To consider requests for Dispensations on agenda items

None received.

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th March 2024 are a true and correct record.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting of 14th March 2024 were approved unanimously, with one abstention (councillor who was not present at the meeting).

5 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming's report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

6 Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboy's report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

The members of the public were present to raise their objections and concerns to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury proposal. They requested that the Parish Council holds a separate meeting in relation to the current statutory public consultation, and looks at a 'back up' plan depending upon the outcome. Other points made were that the FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) is encouraging business owners to include the detrimental affects of the proposal in responses, and the importance of listing all human impacts within individual's responses, no matter how trivial. The Clerk advised that Wortham & Burgate Parish Council are organising a Parish Meeting in May to allow residents to raise their concerns, and gather information to aid in completion of their responses to the consultation. DC Cllr Warboys has invited Bron Curtis Chief Planning Officer for Mid Suffolk District Council to attend, and CC Cllr Fleming has invited a representative from the County Council, and Richard Rout MP. Neighbouring parishes are welcome to attend the meeting, and councillors agreed it would be better for a combined meeting to be held, rather than

organising a separate one. The Clerk will share details of the meeting once the date has been agreed.

Cllr Read thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and sharing their views.
7:21pm 3 members of the public left the meeting.

The fourth member of the public made comment that they are not in favour of the new Carnser signs. Cllr Read noted their comments, and thanked them for their feedback.

7:22pm 1 member of the public left the meeting.

8 Chair's Report

- Cllr Read said he felt the Parish Council should officially thank Surinda Warboys for the time she has taken to assess the condition of the stained-glass panels in the phone box, and Mr Spence for allowing the council to take temporary possession of his history of Mellis photographs and documents in order for them to be digitised. Councillors agreed and asked the Clerk to send letters of thanks.
- Memorial Hall Car Park maintenance – Cllr Read has obtained one quotation for the work which is approximately £9k, and is the process of seeking two further ones.
- The Clerk's annual review was conducted on 12th April 2024.

7:36pm Cllr Farley arrived.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

- A remittance advice received from MSDC confirming payment of the first half of the precept; £4,347.50.
- Cllr Cross attended the first meeting for the Progress Power Community Fund on 20th March 2024. His report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.
- The Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner election is due to be held on 2nd May 2024. The Notice has been displayed on the PC noticeboard, and full details are available here: <https://suffolkparro.onesuffolk.net/2024-election/>
- MSDC have sent details of new Community Development grant funding which is open to constituted community groups and organisations: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding-1>
- PC Adam Ferguson, the new Local Police Community Engagement Officer, has sent his apologies in advance for being unable to attend the Annual meetings in May. He will attend a future meeting, and is hoping to arrange monthly online meetings with parish clerks and councillors.
- The Clerk has contacted Joshua White from Suffolk Highways for advice regarding the traffic and parking issues outside the school, and a telephone meeting has been arranged for 26th April 2024.
- MSDC have sent details of a Hackney Carriage Consultation running 23rd April to 4th June 2024. Full details sent to councillors.
- Wild Heritage Suffolk have sent an email seeking land for community space. The Clerk has replied to confirm that unfortunately there is no suitable space in the parish.
- The Citizens Advice recently held a Cost of Living Forum 2024 and have sent details of the full report for Mid Suffolk; <https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Cost-of-Living-Forum-Findings-in-Mid-Suffolk-March-2024.pdf>
- The Clerk contacted Historic England to enquire about funding for the repairs to the stain glass panels in the phone box. Unfortunately, only Grade I or II properties are eligible.
- Cllr Farley has reported that Mellis Canicross Group have suggested that the top of Cowpasture Lane would be a better location for a new dog bin. This location has been sent to MSDC for approval, in order for a decision to be made by the Parish Council at the next meeting.
- An email has been received from a local resident regarding welfare concerns for ponies being tethered on the Common. The Police and World Horse Welfare are aware, and the situation will be monitored. The ponies are currently being tended to daily by the owners.
- A resident has emailed with concerns regarding councillors paying for, and then submitting expenses for expenditure for works agreed at parish council meetings. Proper practice has been adhered to as per the Financial Regulations. This has also been confirmed by SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) who act as the council's internal auditor. The

resident has also raised concern that the original footpath posts have been removed and replaced with the new metal Carnser signs. The original footpath posts will be reinstated and were taken down because the finger posts were missing and they needed to be repaired.

- A quotation was received just prior to the meeting for the repairs to the stained-glass panels in the phone box; the details will be shared with councillors and this will be a future agenda item.

10 National Grid Norwich to Tilbury update

The statutory consultation is now live until 11:59pm on 18th June 2024. Full details, including public information dates and venues, can be found on National Grid's website:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>

Councillors agreed to confirm their stance at the next meeting, before compiling a detailed response to National Grid.

11 Planning

To consider:

- DC/24/01862 – Full Planning Application – Construction of open-sided agricultural building. West End Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8EF.
- DC/24/01863 – Full Planning Application – Construction of open-sided agricultural building. West End Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8EF.

After discussing, councillors agreed unanimously that they have no objection to either application.

ACTION – Clerk to add comments to MSDC Planning Portal.

To Receive an Update on:

- DC/22/2190/HYB – Land at Shepherds Grove, Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk – **REFUSED.**
- DC/22/05647 – Approval of details reserved by Requirement 16 (Construction Hours) pursuant to the Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015. Progress Power Ltd, Potash Lane, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HE – **AWAITING DECISION.**

12 To discuss Memorial Hall car park maintenance quotations

As advised by Cllr Read within his Chair's Report (agenda item 8), this will be deferred to allow two further quotations to be sought. Cllr Read also suggested a height restriction barrier which will be looked into further at a future meeting.

ACTION – Cllr Read as above.

13 Newsteads Land including approval of expenditure and official opening arrangements

Cllr Warboys has agreed to fund the cost of a commemorative bench, which was agreed at the 14th March 2024 meeting, from his Locality budget 2024/25. Cllr Cross agreed at this meeting to speak to Paul Browne, the local maker who made the new gates at this meeting, and obtain a design proof.

The bbq is now being held on the 8th June 2024 for the official opening of Newsteads Land, rather than on the 6th June (agreed at the 14th March 2024 meeting). Cllr Farley reported that the local Scouts Club has indicated that they may be available to run the bbq, which they have experience of from previous events. Cllr Farley and Cllr Cross will discuss this further with them, including the health and safety and liability implications.

The Mellisians will be invited to sing at some point during this day.

ACTION – Cllr Cross/Cllr Farley as above.

14 D-Day80 Anniversary plans 6th June 2024, and approval of expenditure

Residents will be invited to gather at the Railway Tavern at 7:00pm on Thursday 6th June. An event tent will be set up outside the Railway Tavern for Gislingham Silver Band if the weather is inclement. At 9:15pm the beacon will be lit.

The Railway Tavern have organised a food van as the bbq is now being held on the 8th June. No further expenditure for approval.

15 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 30th May 2024, at 6:30pm in the Memorial Hall. It will be immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at approximately 7pm, although this start time may be delayed if the Annual Parish Council Meeting finishes later. The Clerk will invite reports from organisations within Mellis for the Annual Parish Meeting.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

16 Finance

A list of payments and receipts, expenditure against the budget, and bank reconciliation to 24th February 2024 were sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance as of **23rd February 2024 - £29,680.32.**

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin April, & holiday pay 2023/24	£773.19
2	J. Challis	Expenses – mileage February meeting & appraisal meeting	£11.85
3	HMRC	PAYE/NIC	£91.80
4	Memorial Hall	April meeting	£30.00
5	Memorial Hall	Rural Coffee Caravan April meeting	£20.00
6	Suffolk Cloud	Annual hosting/support	£120.00
7	L Curtis	Bus shelter cleaning	£18.00
8	SALC	Annual subscription, inv 28660	£272.08
9	A. Cross expenses	2 x Carnser signs made by Paul Browne	£243.00
10	Mellis PCC	Utility donation for January to December 2023, as agreed at 26 th January 2023 meeting	£627.86

Cllr Read proposed approval of all payments above; seconded by Cllr Farley and approved unanimously with one abstention against A. Cross expenses (Cllr Cross).

ACTION

- **Cllr Read and Cllr Cross to pay agreed payments above via online banking (dual authorisation).**

17 Matters for future consideration

- Wellhead Project
- Traffic/speeding concerns within Mellis
- Phone box-stained glass repairs
- Memorial Hall car park maintenance
- Digitisation of the History of Mellis

18 The date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting is Thursday 30th May 2024 at 6:30pm in the Memorial Hall

Meeting close at 8:21pm.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2024

Council of the Year Award	Mid Suffolk, with a Green Party administration, and Babergh, with a coalition administration, were jointly awarded Council of the Year at the Public Sector Transformation awards last month. The awards are made by iESE, a not-for-profit organisation created by local authorities as a shared resource to transform public services, and we received the award for our collaboration and transformation over the last few years.
Homelessness strategy	Council has now adopted the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy 2024 and the associated delivery plan. Together with Babergh the councils want to aspire to go beyond the minimum required provision, and aim to provide a bespoke person-centred and proactive service.
CIL expenditure framework	Full council recommended approval of the amendments proposed to the Community Infrastructure Levy Expenditure Framework following the sixth review. The main changes include allowing applications for District CIL from sports clubs, community shops and cafes with provisos to ensure that any profit made by such businesses goes back to the community, allowing more flexibility for community project costs. For all CIL Bid car parking projects consideration will need to be given to EV charging points and also the provision of cycle parking. Greater use of Community User Agreements and Statements of Community involvement for some community development proposals to ensure that maximum community benefit is derived from these CIL Bids.
Suffolk Devolution deal consultation	The County Council has now opened the consultation period on the proposed Level 3 devolution deal for the county. MSDC councillors debated this issue at last week's Council meeting, our views will be fed back but we are not directly involved in the decision to go ahead, which will be made by County Councillors in July. The deal would mean the county council would have some more powers alongside an investment fund of £480M over a 30 year period. If agreed, there would also be a directly elected leader of the County Council, to be elected in May 2025. More information and public consultation can be found here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution .
Nationally significant Solar Farm proposal	Proposals have emerged for a new 2000MW solar farm, this would be on farmland in Mendlesham, Thwaite and Wickham Skeith parishes – and close to the edge of Cotton parish too. Due to the size of this proposal it is deemed a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) meaning that the application will be decided at a national level by the Secretary of State, advised by the national Planning Inspectorate. MSDC will only be a consultee, but will work with the developer to provide clarity for local communities about the application. We are expecting further large solar farm applications aiming to connect into the proposed new Norwich to Tilbury pylon line (which has not yet been approved by government).
Local elections	An election will be held on Thursday 2nd May to elect Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner for the next four years. The position has been held by Tim Passmore since 2012. There will also be a district by-election for the Chilton seat in Stowmarket. There will be a general election sometime in the next few months. Mid Suffolk's elections team oversee all these elections. A reminder that you need to bring approved photo ID if you want to vote in-person at a polling station, or you may apply for a postal vote via the council's website or over the phone, or the council will provide a free voter authority certificate. Use the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Deadline for May2nd elections is 5 pm 24th April

Cllr. Rowland Warboys Chair Mid Suffolk District Council 2023/24, Green Party, Gislingham Ward
Email: rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk

County Councillor Report



Mellis Parish Council, April 2024

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division. Tel. 07714-597980 Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

Consultation on Devolution Proposals - A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government runs from 18th March until 26th May. The consultation is available through our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and social media. The matter will be debated later this summer at full council.

National Grid Pylons Consultation – Commenced on 10th April and runs for 10 weeks until 18th June. Note that in 2023, National Grid committed to review its Norwich to Tilbury proposals against the conclusions of ESO's Offshore Coordination Study. For details including the preliminary environmental impact report (PEIR) and a survey refer to: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

The following public events will be held:

Tuesday 30 April 2024 12-5pm	Gislingham Village Hall, Mill Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JT
Wednesday 1 May 2024 11am-4pm	Copdock Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock, IP8 3JN
Friday 3 May 2024 1-6pm	Needham Market Community Centre, School St, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8BB
Saturday 4 May 2024 11am-4pm	Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Bromley Road, Lawford, Manningtree, CO11 2JE
Thursday 9 May 2024 2-7pm	Thorpe Hall, Ashwell Thorpe and Fundenhall Community Centre, Muskett Road, Ashwellthorpe, NR16 1FD
Friday 10 May 2024 1-6pm	Tibenham Community Hall, Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX
Wednesday 15 May 2024 1-6pm	Diss Town Football Club, Diss, IP22 4QP

Electricity Supply Operator Offshore Coordination Study - The [ESO East Anglia Network Study](#), was published on 12 March 2024 by The National Grid Electricity System Operator, this was set up to explore options for transmitting power in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex including onshore, offshore and hybrid schemes, and undergrounding. In summary, ESO options include:

Following the preliminary screening assessment, network configuration options have undergone holistic assessment using the above methodology. These are set out below:

1. Predominately offshore option – variation without EACN (connection point in N. Essex)
2. Predominately offshore option – variation with EACN

3. Onshore option

4. Alternative onshore option – variation without Bramford to EACN

5. Alternative onshore option – variation without EACN b. Alternative onshore option – variation without EACN – sensitivity

6. Hybrid onshore and offshore option – variation with EACN

7. Hybrid onshore and offshore option – variation without EACN

8. Onshore High Voltage (HVDC) option

9. Predominantly offshore option – Utilising Bradwell as a landing point.

Aura/ Marsh Lane 30 MW Solar Farm PDC/23/05426 - Land North Of Lion Road, Palgrave Part In The Parishes Of Wortham And Diss. Up to 30MW of solar arrays; site access tracks; inverters and transformers; containers; underground cables; security fencing; an electrical substation; also a temporary construction compound comprising in total 58 hectares. Waiting on committee date.

White Elm 200 MW Solar Farm (NSIP) with Battery Storage in Mendlesham, Thwaite and Gislingham area – The White Elm proposal is Nationally Significant Infrastructure as it exceeds 50 MW and will be determined by the Secretary of State. The next step is for a Scoping Opinion to be issued, anticipated shortly. *The site is located 7.5 Km north of Stowmarket and west of the A140 between the settlements of Wickham Skeith (north), Thwaite (east), Mendlesham (south) and Cotton (west). The site area is approx. 750 acres. There are 3 landowners.*

Suffolk's Local Transport Plan The plan sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk, and is under review. Feedback is currently sought on key themes in the fourth version of the plan to cover the period until 2040. Please do respond although the official deadline of 8th April has passed. Refer to <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4>.

Suffolk Walking Festival - Kicks off on Saturday 11 May and takes place over two weeks with walks to suit all ages and backgrounds. Tickets for this year's walk are now on sale, visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk for more details on the programme and to buy tickets.

Brome Reservoir, near Eye - Request for a Scoping Opinion (EIA) DC/24/00515 - Currently awaiting a decision, with multiple constructive comments submitted during the relevant period. The reservoir would supply water from the Waveney River for Cranswick's chicken processing factory's proposed Phase 2 expansion and a new mill building DC/24/00513 on the Eye Airfield.

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980
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