

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER 2024 @ 6:30PM IN MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr A Cross, Cllr Farley
Clerk – J Challis, CC Cllr Warboys, 1 member of the public

Apologies: Cllr Paterson, Cllr Luckett

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

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting, and apologies received from Cllr Paterson and Cllr Luckett were approved unanimously.

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 19th September 2024 are a true and correct record

The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th September 2024 were approved unanimously.

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 Warboys read through his report, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

Cllr Read thanked DC Cllr Warboys.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No contribution.

8 Chair's Report

- Cllr Read reported that he has received two complaints from residents regarding an unofficial memorial on Dam Lane. Although this is not a separate agenda item for formal discussion, councillors had no issues with the memorial. However Cllr Cross said that the memorial includes fairy lights which he feels are a little inappropriate for the location.

- Concern regarding the unevenness of the level crossing has been expressed by a Yaxley resident. Cllr Farley said she has reported this to Network Rail. As this was done in an unofficial capacity, the Clerk will report it on behalf of the Parish Council as well.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

- As reported by DC Cllr Warboys, MSDC has announced plans for increased bin collections and improved recycling from 2026: [Increased bin collections set to herald recycling revolution - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk)
- The Suffolk Climate Action 'Keep the Heat' project is now live, and bookings can be made for the thermal imaging equipment. Two training webinars are being held and are also now available to book. Cllr Farley is taking the lead on this and will arrange to attend the webinars and book the equipment.
- MSDC have forwarded details of the current Community Grants available which include a Living Well in Winter grant, and Food Security Fund. However the application window on the former is very short and expires on 8th November: [Mid Suffolk District Council Funding - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://babergh.gov.uk/midsuffolk.gov.uk)
- MSDC have announced the upcoming launch of an innovative new passenger transport provision in Mid Suffolk called 'The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus'. It is being delivered by Swift Taxi Cabs, with funding from a Mid Suffolk District Council Rural Transport Grant. It is an on-demand service with full details available on The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus website: [Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus | Stowmarket, Suffolk](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/taxi-bus).
- Suffolk County Council have sent details of the Local Transport Plan for Suffolk to 2040 Public Consultation launch. Access to surveys and all supporting documentation including the Local Transport Plan, fifteen Area Transport Plans and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan can be found via [Suffolk's Local Transport Plan webpage](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/local-transport-plan) on their website. The feedback window will remain open until 25th of November 2024 when the public consultation will end, and all the feedback will be collated for review.

10 UK Power Networks (UKPN) Proposed Alterations to the Electricity Network – Mellis Common

Chartered surveyors Fisher German, have written on behalf of their client UK Power Networks, regarding proposed works to the electricity network within Mellis Common, which involves replacing an existing low voltage underground cable via an open cut trench. Full details and proposal plan were shared with councillors prior to the meeting. As the Council has a registered interest in the Common, Fisher German is seeking feedback prior to an official planning application being submitted.

The member of the public was present for this agenda item as a Common Rights Holder. After discussing, councillors agreed that not enough information has been provided for any feedback to be given, and suggested Fisher German arrange a public meeting for full transparency and to allow all Common Rights Holders to be present. Cllr Cross said that as a Commons Right Holder himself, he did not receive a feedback request from Fisher German because the Commons Rights Holder registry they have been provided by Suffolk County Council, is significantly out of date.

ACTION – Clerk to respond to Fisher German as above

11 Planning

To Consider:

- DC/24/04325 – Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area – All trees to be felled as per application form and plan and prune back branches of 1 No Oak tree due to risk to buildings and of possible subsidence. The Old Parsonage, The Common, Mellis, IP23 8EE.

After discussing councillors agreed they have no objection/comment against this application.

ACTION – Clerk to add comment to planning portal as above

To Receive an Update on:

- DC/22/00416 – Application for Outline Planning Permission (All matters reserved) – Erection of petrol and electric charging facility with associated shop; roadside restaurant with drive through facility; E(g) (formerly B1) and B8 starter units; HGV lorry parking facility for rest area and drivers' facilities as a phased development. Land Adjacent North Roundabout A140,

Ipswich Road, Brome Part in the Parish Of Thrandeston, IP23 8AW – **Awaiting decision. Cllr Warboys reported that this application went before MSDC's Planning Committee who placed a holding objection against it because it is sited on a flood plain.**

12 Tree Warden's Report

No report.

13 Footpath Wardens' Report

The footbridge at the end of Cowpasture Lane has moved, and the Drury Lane bridge needs some repair work. Both will be reported to Highways.

8:00pm the member of the public left the meeting.

14 To discuss and approve Memorial Hall car park quotations

Three quotations have been obtained for the work required and were shared with councillors. After discussing it was agreed to proceed with the quotation received from MC1 Ltd at a cost of £12,300.00 plus VAT. As previously agreed, an application will be made to MSDC for funding of £10,000.00 towards the work from the new Progress Power Community Benefit Fund.

ACTION – Clerk to complete and submit application as above

15 Speeding and traffic concerns within Mellis, including:

- Updated quotations for new VAS and village gateways
- HGV signage

Deferred to next meeting.

16 Mellis Garden (Newsteads Land) update

The commemorative benches are ready to be delivered and a suitable date just needs to be arranged. Cllr Read to arrange.

The gardener conducting the one-off clearance does not appear to have carried out the work yet, and no progress has been made on the ongoing maintenance for next year.

ACTION – Cllr Cross/Cllr Read to follow up on the agreed one-off clearance. Clerk to look at contractors to provide quotations for the ongoing maintenance.

17 The Suffolk Tree Warden Network & the Woodland Trust Tree & Hedge Pack Offer 2024-2025

An invitation has been received for a giveaway event being held on 19th October near Debenham, where up to 50 trees are available per project. Full details were sent to councillors prior to the meeting. After discussing it was agreed that no more trees are needed for Mellis Garden at the moment.

8:22pm Cllr Warboys left the meeting.

18 New dog bins update

MSDC have approved two of the proposed locations, but requested the third on the bridleway by Cavalry Barn, be moved slightly so that it is closer to the Mellis Road junction. After discussing it was agreed to proceed with this location.

ACTION – Clerk to confirm location with MSDC and liaise with Suffolk Wildlife Trust who are purchasing the bins.

19 Phone box stained glass repair quotations

Deferred.

20 Finance

A list of payments and receipts, expenditure against the budget, and bank reconciliation to 23rd August 2024 were sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance as of 24th September 2024 - **£30,183.28**

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin October	£409.67
2	J. Challis	Expenses – mileage September meeting	£5.94
3	HMRC	PAYE/NIC payment	£1.00
5	Memorial Hall	October hire	£30.00
6	Memorial Hall	Rural Coffee Caravan October hire	£20.00
7	L. Curtis	Bus shelter cleaning	£18.00

Cllr Cross proposed approval of all payments above; seconded by Cllr Farley and approved unanimously.

ACTION

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

21 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
- Printing of more Common leaflets for new residents
- Grass cutting around goal posts and village sign
- Budget 2025/26

22 The date of the meeting is Thursday 28th November 2024 at 6:30pm in Mellis Memorial Hall.

Meeting close at 8:45pm.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2024

Survey of residents	The deadline for the Mid Suffolk Council informal survey has been extended to 31st October. This is an informal survey so if you have any ideas, please get in touch with either of your district councillors or visit the website here https://baberghandmidsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/tell-us-mid-suffolk
Thurston By-election	Harry Richardson (Conservative) was elected as the new ward councillor for the Thurston Ward on 24 th September.
Simpler recycling	MSDC have now agreed how they will adapt their waste collection service in line with the new government regulations. From 2025 there will be weekly kerbside food waste collections. Each household will receive a black food waste bin from 2025 collection as well as a twin stream recycling in each household. This will reduce the amount of waste in the black bins, so from 2026 we will move to twin-stream recycling so each household will have 2 recycling bins (one for cardboard and paper, the other for plastic, glass and cartons) and a black bin. These will be collected on a 3-week cycle.
Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend	The ballot is now open for our first ever Heart of Suffolk Big Weekend, in which residents can win prizes by entering a free ballot. This new event has been organised to highlight our culture, leisure and visitor attractions, and to encourage local residents to explore what's on offer. Details can be found here https://www.heartofsuffolk.co.uk
Shaping our Economic Strategy	MSDC officers are hosting a series of economic development workshops across the district. The draw is open until Monday 30th September. Anyone wishing to participate should register online for the following sessions:
Shaping our Economic Strategy	- Monday 23rd October, New Green Centre, Thurston. - Wednesday 23rd October, New Green Centre, Thurston.
CIL upgrades to footpaths	- Monday 7th October, The Mix, Stowmarket - Wednesday 23rd October, New Green Centre, Thurston.
Locality Budget	As part of the VCFSE Funding review some changes have been agreed to Locality Awards.
CIL upgrades to footpaths	- There will be enhanced monitoring for Locality Awards greater than £5,000 - Ongoing running costs / core costs as an eligible spend will now be capped at £2,000 per organisation, per councillor. - Members can now support organisations or groups rather than a specific project. - Funding for activity in schools where there is no wider community benefit and where the schools have a statutory duty (part of the curriculum) is now excluded.
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	The locality guidance and website have been updated with the changes Locality Awards - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

