

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2024 @ 6:30PM IN MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr A Cross, Cllr Farley, Cllr Paterson
Clerk – J Challis, CC Cllr Fleming, CC Cllr Warboys

Apologies: Cllr Lockett

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

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting, and apologies received from Cllr Lockett 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 22nd August 2024 are a true and correct record

The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd August 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 Warboy's report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No members of the public present.

8 Chair's Report

All covered on the agenda.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

- Remittance advice received from MSDC confirming payment of the second half of the precept; £4,3470.50.
- Exemption status has been confirmed as logged by the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn.

- MSDC have confirmed that the next meeting of the Progress Power Community Benefit Fund will be 27th November 2024. The September meeting was postponed due to the legal agreement taking longer to complete than expected. The first application round will open 23rd September 2024.
- The Parish Council's interest in the Suffolk Climate Action 'Keep the Heat' project, has been registered, and an email received asking if anyone would be interested in attending two hours of training. Cllr Farley said she was happy to volunteer for this.
- A local allotment holder has asked if the council would be interested in two Christmas trees. They are approximately 20-25ft, and free to cut and collect from Thornham allotments. After discussing councillors agreed that are interested in one for the village, but need to look at the logistics first. The Clerk will advise the allotment holder.

10 Planning

To Consider –

- 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.

After discussing, councillors approved unanimously that they object to this application for the following reasons:

Negative visual amenity; light impact at night.

Unsustainable infrastructure; there are two existing petrol stations within a mile radius.

Increase in construction traffic using Mellis Road.

ACTION – Clerk to update MSDC planning portal as above

To Receive an Update on:

- DC/24/03612 Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 2 No Lime trees (T1 and T3) as they have outgrown position. Location: 6 Robinsons Mill, The Common, Mellis, Eye Suffolk IP23 8DN – **GRANTED.**
- DC/24/03590 Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Dismantle 1 No Ash tree (T1) to stump level (rear garden of no. 2) and dismantle Twin stem Ash tree (T2) to stump level (in rear garden of No 3). Location: 2 Aggas Acre, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8DP – **GRANTED.**
- DC/24/02322 – Application to amend working hours to include Saturday-Sunday 7:00-19:00. National Grid Yaxley 400kV Substation, Leys Lane, Yaxley, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8DX – **GRANTED.**
- DC/23/05647 – 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 – **GRANTED.**

11 Tree Warden's Report

Nothing to report; Cllr Paterson is carrying out a review of trees in the parish for the next meeting.

12 Footpath Wardens' Report

Nothing to report.

13 Progress Power – Community Benefit Fund (Cllr Cross)

No report; as per item 9, the September meeting was postponed to 27th November 2024.

14 To discuss Memorial Hall car park maintenance work and quotations

In light of the first round of applications for the Progress Power Community Benefit Fund being delayed, there was a discussion on whether to apply for this funding option, or a Capital Grant. It

was agreed to speak to MSDC Grants Team for their advice. The three quotations for the work will be discussed at the October 2024 meeting, and the preferred option approved.

ACTION – Clerk to contact MSDC Grants Team as above.

15 Speeding and traffic concerns within Mellis, including:

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

Deferred to next meeting as Cllr Lockett is taking the lead on this item.

16 Mellis Garden (Newsteads Land) update, including:

- Consideration and approval of commemorative bench quotations

Cllr Read obtained quotations for recycled benches, which were sent to councillors prior to the meeting. There was a discussion on whether to proceed with a metal bench commissioned from a local craftsman, as looked into previously, or a plastic recycled bench. Councillors decided unanimously to proceed with a recycled bench which they agreed fits in with the ethos of the garden.

Cllr Farley proposed the purchase of two large Hyde benches with backs at £560.00 plus VAT each, from NBB Recycled Furniture. Seconded by Cllr Paterson, and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange purchase of the two recycled benches as above.

- Ongoing maintenance work contract

As reported at the 22nd August 2024 meeting by Cllr Read, Hubbard Garden Services are unable to take on this work. Cllr Paterson has spoken to two local gardeners who may be interested. One is able to carry out a one-off clearance of the pathways and overgrown areas for a cost of £150.00. They are unable to take on the work on an ongoing basis though. The second gardener has expressed their interest in taking on the work next year on an ongoing basis, and will provide a quotation for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Paterson proposed asking the first gardener to proceed with the one-off clearance at a cost of £150.00. Seconded by Cllr Cross, and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk/Cllr Paterson to arrange for one off clearance to be carried out as above. Cllr Paterson to obtain quotation for on going maintenance for next meeting.

17 New dog bins update

Still awaiting approval from MSDC for the three locations; the Clerk pressed for a decision prior to the meeting, without a response.

18 Phone box stained glass repair quotations

Councillors discussed the repairs required, and whether to proceed with the quotation received from the stain glass specialist, or to pursue the involvement of local residents under the supervision of artist Hilary Beale, who oversaw the original project. It was decided to proceed with the latter, to continue with the community spirit of the project. Councillors acknowledged that this option will require more organisation and time, but Hilary Beale has confirmed that she is willing to supervise. Cllr Paterson volunteered to contact the original villagers involved, and the Clerk knows an artist who may be able to provide some of the materials required.

ACTION – Clerk to thank the stain glass specialist for their quotation and advise the council has decided to ask residents to be involved with the repairs. Cllr Paterson to contact residents involved in the original project, and Clerk to speak with artist regarding materials, as above, prior to the next meeting.

19 To discuss quotations for defibrillator signage

Cllr Read has contacted Diss Signs, who have provided a quotation of £52.00 plus VAT to create three vinyl 'defibrillator' panels for the top of the phone box. Cllr Cross asked if they are complete panels, or to be fixed to the existing panels. Cllr Read will clarify this with Diss Signs.

Councillors discussed additional directional defibrillator signage, which can be purchased online, to be fixed at various locations including the noticeboards and outside the Mill. Cllr Cross proposed approval of expenditure up to £300.00 for the three panels from Diss Signs, plus the directional signage. Seconded by Cllr Farley, and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Cllr Read to clarify how the three panels are fixed with Diss Signs. Cllr Read/Cllr Cross to confirm number of directional sign locations. Clerk/Cllr Read to organise purchase of all signage, as above.

20 Finance

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

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance as of **23rd August 2024 - £27,845.58**

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin September	£397.46
2	J. Challis	Expenses – mileage August meeting	£5.94
3	SALC	Internal audit	£212.40
5	Memorial Hall	September hire	£30.00
6	Memorial Hall	Rural Coffee Caravan August hire	£20.00
7	NBB Recycled Furniture	Two benches for Mellis Garden	£1,344.00

Cllr Cross proposed approval of all payments above; seconded by Cllr Paterson 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

22 The date of the meeting is Thursday 31st October 2024 at 6:30pm in Mellis Memorial Hall.

Meeting close at 8:10pm.

District Councillor Report: Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, The Thornhams, Wickham Skeith, Wortham & Burgate

September 2024

Thurston By-Election	Following the resignation of Austin Davies, there will be a by-election held on the 24 th September in Thurston Ward. Whilst this by-election is underway, some council business will be limited, especially in and around Thurston, in order to avoid the council being involved in party politics.
Council meeting	There was no scheduled council meeting during August. The next meeting is due to take place on the 26 th September.
Cabinet meeting	The Cabinet met on the 6 th August. This primarily involved discussing updates regarding the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Project (LCWIP) across Mid Suffolk; a scheme to assist with improving and regenerating the walking and cycle paths across the district.
Sports Facilities at Chilton Fields	Work has begun on the development of the sports facilities in Chilton Fields in Stowmarket. This is part of a multi-phase project to improve sports and health facilities across Stowmarket and will continue over the coming weeks.
Sale of former Needham Market offices	Part of the former Mid Suffolk office site in Needham Market have been put up for sale this month. The funds created from selling the buildings is intended to be re-invested into social housing across the district, including in Needham Market.
Discussions on new waste collection service	The district is planning the roll-out of a weekly food waste collection service, and expanding the list of recyclables that the council accepts. Although this scheme will not be introduced until 2026, there have been further talks with council stakeholders this month to ensure plans for its smooth rollout.
CIL Update (Community Infrastructure Levy)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities are set to see more than £836,000 injected back into local projects – including major investments in helping to protect local heritage and village hall improvements. This week, cabinet members at B&MSDC's voted to approve the latest round of CIL bids which includes a total of £200K towards Stowmarket's Food Museum, in addition to projects such as footpath and bridleway upgrades, improvements to village halls, sports pavilions and parks.
Norwich to Tilbury – update.	Research by Suffolk Mind, and the experiences of the county council, show that the wellbeing of local residents and communities suffers when NSIPs are proposed in a local area, especially when multiple projects are on the table. Feelings of fear, mistrust, anger, and frustration are all reported, along with impacted sleep, and inability to plan for the future, due to the uncertainty created by the proposed development. As part of their NSIP teams work and in response to an incident believed to be related to an East Suffolk project, Suffolk County Council have published guidance for developers relating to community wellbeing (link here).

Rowland Warboys MSDC Cllr. Gislingham Ward

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County Councillor Report



cils, September 2024

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

Abnormal Load on A140 – On Sunday 6th October a 164-tonne 71-m long transformer will be transported from Ipswich Docks to the Synchronous Condenser Plant in Yaxley on behalf of Conrad Energy and National Grid. Suffolk Police will enforce a rolling roadblock on the A14 eastbound between junctions 52 and 53 between approximately 10am and 10.30am, and on the A140 from approximately 11am until 6pm; however, these timings will be subject to change.

Retro-fit Conference – Suffolk Preservation Society is holding a one-day workshop at Haughley Park Barn, Haughley Park, Stowmarket, IP14 3JY on Tuesday 12 November. 10am – 4pm. The workshop will deliver practical advice and examples of successful Retrofit projects of different building types, and will provide 6 hours of CPD. [DETAILS OF SPEAKERS AND HOW TO BOOK](#)

Back to School - While many children and young people will be looking forward to going back to school some families may be feeling anxious. There is a lot of support out there to help children manage the transition back into school, including a suite of top tips for families on the Suffolk County Council website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/wellbeing-in-education.

‘Simpler Recycling’ - Suffolk County Council is preparing for changes to national statutory recycling and waste collection which will come into effect by the end of March 2026. “Simpler Recycling” requires plastic, metal, paper and card plus glass (new) to be collected from homes, flats, workplaces and schools across England along with separate kerbside food waste collection which will be a new programme. Major infrastructure and service changes are needed at the County Council which is responsible for disposal, these include alterations to waste transfer stations to enable the separate collection of food waste, glass and enhanced recycling as well as treatment facilities for food waste which do not exist in Suffolk at present. Refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-bin-collections-for-england-to-boost-recycling>

Flood Investigation Reports Suffolk County Council is publishing its investigation reports into extreme flooding during storm Babet, Framlingham and Needham Market are now available Refer to <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/two-suffolk-flood-investigation-reports-published-in-latest-response-to-storm-babet>

Anyone who suffered internal flooding as a result of Storm Babet can still apply for the £5k resilience grant until April 2025, and anyone interested should make contact with floodgrants@suffolk.gov.uk.

Engagement with Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable - There is an on-line public meeting planned for Tuesday November 6th at 6pm via Microsoft Teams. Please email spcc@suffolk.police.uk to register and an invite will be sent through in advance of the meeting.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylons – National Grid is reviewing the results of its recent survey, and has stated ‘Over the next 12 months we will prepare an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). When we submit our application, we will publish a Consultation Report which will set out how we have considered the feedback we received during

statutory consultation.' This presumes that the overground option will be taken forward without consideration of other options, as Grid previously committed to do. Preliminary investigative work to support the DCO application continues.

Government to Purchase the Electricity Supply Operator (ESO) - The Government is to purchase National Grid's ESO arm for £630m. ESO will be incorporated into the new National Energy System Operator, a public body designed to aid clean energy transition and support energy security, to be launched on October 1. Also the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) is being wound up.

Rosie Pearson (Pylon Group) was a guest speaker at on 18th September at the **Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference: Next steps for grid infrastructure in the UK**. Follow this group on:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/pylonseastanglia/?multi_permalink=1235491340824452

Bramford to Twinstead Pylon Scheme - National Grid's Bramford to Twinstead pylon project was approved on 12 September by the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

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