

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr. Russell Pearce – Chair  
Cllr. Paul Ashton – Vice Chair  
Cllr. Ann Lambert  
Cllr. David Tower  
Cllr. Ian Shaw  
Cllr. John Sutherell  
Cllr. Stephen Siddall  
Cllr. Sarah Barrett  
Cllr. Kara Cowie  
Cllr. David Childs

**Apologies for absence:**

None.

**In Attendance:**

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

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr. John Sutherell declared an interest in any discussions about Donkey Meadow.

**3. Public Forum**

a) Cllr. Richard Smith reported that the County Council have announced £300,000 of funding to install 100 electric vehicle charging points in rural parts of the county. The funding will be on a competitive basis and Town and Parish Councils, and other non-profit organisations, are invited to submit an application. The funding will cover installation and set-up costs and may create a small income stream. Cllr. Paul Ashton said that the charging points are likely to be used by visitors, not residents, therefore they would be best placed in places where the data shows there are high visitor numbers rather than by a competitive process. Cllr. Stephen Burroughes replied that as Yoxford village hall is just off the A12 it may be a reasonable site.

Cllr. Smith referred to his previously circulated report with the latest coronavirus statistics from the Director of Public Health. He said the number of incidences in East Suffolk remains low but precautions are still needed.

With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith said he has registered as an Interested Party as a Councillor and as a concerned resident. He said he was happy with the County Council's position and an offer has been made to EDF Energy to meet at any time to thrash out the issues.

In response to a question from Cllr. John Sutherell regarding which Council was involved in the provision of social housing, Cllr. Smith answered that the Local Authorities had a combined approach as the County Council identify where social housing can be built. Cllr. Stephen Burroughes explained that the District Council historically did not have the capability to provide social housing as all its housing stock was transferred in the late 1980s. However, Waveney District Council retained their housing stock therefore the combined East Suffolk Council has control over the housing reserve account and is now in a position to build social housing for local people. Cllr. Burroughes agreed to provide Cllr. Sutherell with a point of contact so that he may discuss this further.

With regard to Remembrance Day and V-J Day, Cllr. Smith said there would be limited commemorations this year due to the coronavirus pandemic but he planned to lay a wreath at Yoxford if the Benefice Remembrance Service is held there. Cllr. John Sutherell replied that Reverend Tim Rogers is reviewing the restrictions and he will let him know.

b) Cllr. Stephen Burroughes apologised for missing last month's meeting. Referring to Sizewell C, he said the Local Authorities had a difference of opinion. The District Council's perspective is that they want the best possible outcome. Cllr. Burroughes said he personally agreed with the County Council's stance that the disbenefits outweigh the benefits. He said the costs of nuclear were rising and a conversation needs to be held at ministerial level and then to consult with the Local Authorities. Cllr. John Sutherell said that he hoped there would be very firm engagement with people at every level and that Sizewell C was not considered to be inevitable. He said strategic planning in central government does not seem to exist and its energy strategy is 10 years out of date. He is encouraged that the Local Authorities, as our elected representatives, will remain engaged and hold EDF Energy to account.

Cllr. Burroughes then summarised his previously circulated report. Highlights included the news that the swimming pool in Bungay has received a £3.4m refurbishment. It will offer state-of-the-art leisure facilities to the public and nearby schools and is now named the Waveney Valley Leisure Centre. The District Council have reviewed their coronavirus policy for the number of refuse collection operatives in a cab. He said East Suffolk was the only District Council in the country to reduce the number of operatives to two but they were now happy to return to three. Cllr. Burroughes said that the District Council are now enforcing parking restrictions and a new app has been introduced to enable drivers to pay online for a parking space in advance. Lowestoft's third river crossing has been given the go ahead. A local primary school won a competition to name it Gull Wing. The crossing is planned to reduce traffic congestion and to help attract investment.

#### **4. Casual Vacancy**

No applications have been received.

#### **5. Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. John Sutherell, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Siddall, and agreed that the minutes for the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

#### **6. Matters Arising**

Cllr. John Sutherell reported that he and Cllr. Stephen Siddall met at Donkey Meadow to discuss options. The site may be too low-lying to build upon but they concluded that it may be worthwhile obtaining professional advice for the very long term and to inform the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. David Childs reminded Cllr. Sutherell that the main sewer from Peasenhall runs through the site. Cllr. Sutherell and Cllr. David Childs also spoke to the tenant and improvements continue to be made. The fence is secure and the hedge overhanging the footpath has been cut back and it is now accessible.

#### **7. Councillors' Meetings and Progress Reports**

a) Yoxwood – Cllr. David Childs reported that the group considered the offer of free oak trees but were unable to find space for them.

b) Cemetery – the Clerk thanked Cllr. David Childs for obtaining a copy of the burial chart. This has now been brought up-to-date with the latest burials and plot reservations. The Clerk has received an enquiry about three plot reservations and a kerb surround. The Clerk and Cllr. Russell Pearce met on site to agree the positions of the plot reservations. The Clerk informed the Council that the plot reservation book only has 10 certificates remaining so she has approached Leiston Press for a quote to reproduce a similar book.

c) Church – Cllr. John Sutherell reported that due to the government's coronavirus 'rule of six' the Trio Concert had to be cancelled. The installation of Reverend Tim Rogers successfully went

ahead and was ably supported by the bell ringers. Worship continues in small groups. Cllr. Sutherell and Cllr. Ian Shaw discussed the offer of free oak trees and have identified a possible site in the churchyard at the junction of the footpaths. Permission will need to be obtained from the Diocesan authorities.

d) Police – Cllr. John Sutherell said that 10 low level crimes were reported in the parish in August 2020. 6 crimes were reported in Meadowlands – 4 violence/sexual offences, 1 criminal damage/arson and 1 public order crime. There was 1 violence/sexual offence on the A12 south of Darsham, 1 burglary on Old High Road, 1 criminal damage/arson at The Griffin Inn and 1 anti-social behaviour offence on the B1122. Cllr. Ian Shaw reported that there had recently been a break-in at a shed at a home on Main Road and a bicycle was taken from inside.

e) Flagship Homes – Cllr. John Sutherell said that he followed up the letter received from Flagship in February 2020 about their intentions for ownership of the playing field. An acknowledgement was received stating that the matter has been passed to their legal team. Cllr. Sutherell followed this up with a telephone call and spoke to the Learning and Resolution Team but there is no answer yet. The playing field is in good order and Cllr. Sarah Barrett reported that she often hears children playing happily.

f) Work Party – no update.

g) Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that his initial research into the proposed changes to planning regulations identified that neighbourhood plans are still relevant and supported but there may be aspects that do not need to be produced. Cllr. Ashton proposed that he responds to the government's 'Planning for the Future' consultation. Cllr. John Sutherell seconded. All in favour.

h) Sizewell – Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that the Council's Relevant Representation was submitted on time. A vote of thanks to Cllr. Ashton for writing the response was recorded.

i) Defibrillator – Cllr. Ian Shaw inspected the cabinet and found that the lock required new batteries. The heater is receiving electricity but it is not working. Cllr. Russell Pearce inspected the electricity supply and found that there is live power but no neutral. Cllr. Ian Shaw informed Geoff Wood, of the East of England Ambulance Service, that the cabinet is operational and is ready for the defibrillator to be reinstalled.

**ACTION: Cllr. David Childs to repair the electricity supply and the Clerk to diarise an annual change of batteries.**

## **8. Planning Applications**

a) Cllr. Ian Shaw proposed no objection to planning application DC/20/3537/TCA – yew trees x 2 crown reduce to 15 feet, dying cherry tree remove, unknown tree crown reduce to 10 feet and cherry tree remove dead wood and shape crown – Magnolia House, High Street. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

b) Cllr. Ian Shaw proposed no objection to planning application DC/20/3596/TCA – leylandii x 10 fell to ground level and replace with 1m pale fencing and laurel hedge – Shirley Cottage, Brook Street. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the planning department.**

## **9. Finance**

a) The Council noted the latest financial position.

b) The Council reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 1

2020-2021.

c) Expenditure of £100 each was authorised for Cllr. David Tower, Cllr. Kara Cowie and Cllr. Sarah Barrett to undertake online Councillor training delivered by SALC.

**ACTION: Clerk to send link to training and Councillors to book directly.**

d) The Council conducted the annual review of the cemetery fees and decided not to make any changes. Expenditure of £40 was authorised for the Clerk to undertake online cemetery management training delivered by SALC.

e) It was proposed by Cllr. David Tower, seconded by Cllr. David Childs and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£443.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£5.60	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£33.43	LGA 1972 s.111
Defibrillator Electricity Contribution	Horner's Store	£30.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Insurance Premium	Business Services at CAS Ltd	£574.56	LGA 1972 s.111
Village Hall Contribution – Qtr 2	Yoxford Village Hall	£240.50	LGA 1972 s.111

## 10. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020. With regard to the response received from the freeholder of The Griffin Inn, it was agreed to monitor the situation and make contact again in a month's time if there is no change.

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

## 11. Questions to the Chair

a) Cllr. Ann Lambert asked if there was any update about the empty house on the High Street.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr. Stephen Burroughes.**

b) Cllr. David Tower reported that a branch has fallen from a lime tree in the churchyard on to the power lines.

**ACTION: Cllr. Ian Shaw to inspect and liaise with Cllr. John Sutherell and Suffolk Coastal Norse.**

## 12. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next virtual meeting which is scheduled for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm.