

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7:00 PM AT YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr. Russell Pearce – Chair  
Cllr. Paul Ashton – Vice Chair  
Cllr. Ian Shaw  
Cllr. David Tower  
Cllr. David Childs  
Cllr. Laura Greenberg  
Cllr. Sarah Barrett  
Cllr. Janet Gardner

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. John Sutherell – written and accepted  
Cllr. Nicoll McCallum – written and accepted  
Cllr. Stephen Siddall – written and accepted  
District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

**In attendance:**

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

**2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Public Forum**

County Cllr. Richard Smith said the decision on Sizewell C had been postponed until 20<sup>th</sup> July due to the current political situation, however EDF continue to submit late ancillary plans including a wetland habitat at Eastbridge and parking spaces at Bentwaters. Cllr. Smith said the creation of the wetland habitat will require buses to ferry the workers to and from the car park to the site which concerns him as there is currently a lack of bus drivers as they are being lost to the HGV industry and they will be further lost to EDF who will offer higher wages. He does not know where the backfill will come from for local bus services. Cllr. Smith reported that EDF are being nationalised by the French government and it is rumoured that they will take a 20% stake in Sizewell C. Cllr. Smith said the County Council voted unanimously to oppose National Grid's proposals to increase the pylons from two to three from Sizewell. Cllr. Smith said he had asked if the pylons would be increased numerous times during public consultations and he was always assured they would not. Cllr. Smith also reported that the County Council's budget was underspent by £9 million last year due to a cut in services during the pandemic. In this year's budget, the County Council estimated that inflation would rise by 2%, whereas it is currently at 9%, so the £9 million in reserves will help to cover this. The budget process for next year has begun and it is expected to be the most difficult budget to balance in the last 10 years. The message from central government is that expenditure must be reined in so Cllr. Smith is pessimistic about the level of government subsidy this year. He said the County will not raise their portion of Council Tax therefore they will be investigating ways to fill the hole in the budget and difficult decisions will need to be made.

**4. Meeting Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. Russell Pearce, seconded by Cllr. Paul Ashton, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be approved. All in favour.

**5. Sizewell**

a) Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that he and Cllr. Sarah Barrett attended a site visit to the A12 with EDF, SCC and ESC to consider traffic mitigation if Sizewell C goes ahead. Cllr. Ashton raised concerns that, during the early years phase, all the HGVs and LGVs from the south will be using the A12 to reach the B1122 and the southern park and ride site will be operational before the Sizewell Link Road is completed therefore all the workers' buses will also use the A12. In addition, for the entire duration of the project, all the HGVs, LGVs and buses from the northern park and ride site will use the A12 to reach the B1122 via the Yoxford roundabout. People living along the A12 will be severely impacted, particularly with noise and pollution, for a considerable amount of time. Cllr. Ashton asked for traffic calming and noise mitigation measures such as quiet road surfaces, triple glazing and door seals. Steven Merry from SCC Highways

said the road surface cannot be furthered quietened as the surface in place is as good as it gets. Cllr. Ashton said that all present were happy with the plans for a pedestrian crossing on the A12 which will have traffic calming measures such as zigzag lines built in, however these measures are proven to be not very effective. Cllr. Ashton said the B1122 was already included in the noise mitigation scheme but EDF have not yet worked out the details. The Council agreed with the Clerk's suggestion that the Council joins the B1122 Early Years Working Group with Middleton and Theberton Parish Councils. Cllr. Ashton said the A12 was not automatically included in the noise mitigation scheme but the noise levels will be measured and, if the criteria are met, it will be included. A comparison will be made between noise levels pre-project and during the project and there will need to be a significant change to meet the eligibility criteria.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact EDF about the B1122 Early Years Working Group.**

b) The Council decided not to respond to planning application DC/22/2273/FUL - creation of wetland habitat for wildlife on land in the vicinity of Lower Abbey Farm, Eastbridge within the EDF Sizewell Estate.

c) The Council decided not to appoint a member to the Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group. Cllr. Paul Ashton noted that the Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme provides funding to communities to mitigate against the impact of decommissioning Sizewell A.

## **6. Yoxwood**

a) The Council noted the volunteers' intention to register with the Charity Commission as a Community Group. It was agreed, however, that this may create an onerous administrative burden and a Management Group may be more suitable.

b) The Council noted the annual accounts for the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## **7. Progress Reports**

a) Damaged Village Sign – Cllr. Russell Pearce reported that he received a quote from JT Peggs for £2,175 plus VAT to remove, repair and replace the sign. The Council agreed that it would be difficult to source another quote therefore Peggs' quote was accepted. The Clerk said she had reported the matter in full to the insurance company and had started a claim.

**ACTION: Clerk to accept quote and forward to insurance company.**

b) Teenagers' Shelter – Cllr. Russell Pearce reported that the foundations have been completed and the steel has been ordered to build the frame. The site needs to be cleared again.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to spray the nettles and kill the wasps' nest.**

c) Traffic Calming – Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that he is charging and moving two Speed Indicator Devices between five posts. Residents on the B1122 have requested a permanent Speed Indicator Device but studies have shown that the device is more effective at slowing traffic if it is a temporary feature.

d) Basketball Units – the Clerk informed the Council that East Suffolk Norse's sub-contractor reports that the timber backboards are not in stock with the manufacturer and there could be a delay of two to three months. An alternative is to have steel backboards which should be available in mid-August but this would increase the cost by approximately £200. Cllr. Russell Pearce proposed that the Council proceeds with steel backboards. Cllr. David Tower seconded. All in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform East Suffolk Norse.**

e) Church – Cllr. John Sutherell reported by email that, apart from an animal service, June was a quiet month after the Jubilee celebrations.

f) Police – Cllr. John Sutherell reported by email that the latest crime data was not available.

g) Future Projects – the Council agreed to convene another meeting to further discuss the strategic aims.

**ACTION: Clerk to arrange.**

## **8. Play Areas**

a) The update about the Meadowlands play area was postponed until next month.

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

b) The Council appointed David Bracey to conduct the annual safety inspection of the Little Street play area.

**ACTION: Clerk to arrange.**

## **9. Planning**

a) Cllr. Russell Pearce proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/22/2481/TCA – crown raise one tree, reduce height of three trees and fell two trees – Coach House Cottage, High Street. Seconded by Cllr. Ian Shaw. All in favour

b) The Council noted Cllr. Stephen Siddall's previously circulated note about Cullcott Close. Cllr. Siddall is following up, with the SCC Public Rights of Way team, to see what if anything they can do about the removal of the hedgerows on either side of a section of public footpath 21 and the incorporation of the footpath into the vehicular driveway to the rear of number 1. Cllr. Siddall met with the PRow team on site and it is clear that, in their opinion, (a) the footpath is available and unobstructed and the removal of the hedge on the south side and cutting back on the north side has actually increased the usable width; and (b) they are not concerned that the precise location of the footpath on the ground is not clear; and (c) they do not automatically object to situations where there is a shared vehicular access and public right of way as this very common with private accessors. Cllr. Siddall is also following up, with ESC, to get them to accept that there has been an attempted land grab by number 1 and that they must enforce their property rights. Cllr Siddall reported that the ESC estates department have accepted that there is an issue which will not go away and they have agreed to appoint an independent land surveyor to investigate and report.

## **10. Consultations**

a) Cllr. Paul Ashton agreed to review the ESC Consultation: Draft Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document and consider whether a response is necessary.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to review and circulate a draft response if necessary.**

b) The SCC Rural Transport Conversation is scheduled for later this month.

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

c) Cllr. Paul Ashton reported that he attended the ESC Community Partnership Priority Review Workshop. Following a presentation of statistics from 2019, the attendees were tasked with suggesting priorities for the partnership going forward. Cllr. Ashton's group put forward housing for younger, local people and interventions for older people who are less mobile and therefore isolated and excluded. All the suggested priorities will be voted on and communicated in due course.

## **11. Finance**

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipts.

b) The Council agreed to use the remaining £2,233.05 of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts from the financial year 2018-2019 to fund the cladding boards for the Village Hall.

c) The Council reviewed the report from the Internal Auditor. The Council noted that in accordance with the Practitioners Guide, it is recommended that smaller authorities should use secure e-mail systems and gov.uk addresses which are owned by the authority rather than relying on the use of personal email addresses that can change regularly. This reduces the risk of correspondence going astray or being delayed. After due consideration, the Council considered the risk was minimal and the cost of approximately £66 per annum per email address was not justifiable.

d) The Council supported a request for a donation from Yoxford History Group. Cllr. David Tower proposed that the Council allows for up to £300 of expenditure for storage supplies and a filing cabinet. Seconded by Cllr. Russell Pearce. All in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact the History Group.**

e) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Qtr1 2021-2022.

f) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Qtr1 2021-2022.

g) The Council agreed to renew the 1 year fixed deposit for £7,364.89 held at United Trust Bank.

h) It was proposed by Cllr. Russell Pearce, seconded by Cllr. Laura Greenberg, to authorise the following payments. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£612.30	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£15.99	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk's PAYE	HMRC	£21.40	LGA 1972 s.112
Bank Charges	HSBC	£19.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Grass Cutting	RSC Landscapes Ltd	£564.00	OSA 1906 s.10
Internal Audit	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£298.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Russell Pearce	Teenagers' Shelter Materials	£638.40	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19

## 12. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

## 13. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

## Appendix I - Financial Position

### Bank Balances

HSBC Community Account as at 10 June 2022	£40,148.46
N S & I Investment Account as at 1 January 2022	£11,043.90
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 31 July 2021	£7,364.89
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 19 December 2021	£5,420.50

**£63,977.75**

### Earmarked Reserves

Strickland Manor Hill Play Area	£1,170.85
Mulberry Park	£5,000.00
Youth Club	£4,180.00
CIL 2018-2019 – Village Hall/Speed Indicator Device	£2,233.05
CIL 2019-2020 – Village Hall	£441.74
CIL 2020-2021	£5,532.68
CIL 2021-2022	£17,090.94

**£35,649.26**

### Bank Balances less Reserves

**£28,328.49**

### Payments – July 2022

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£612.30
HM Revenue and Customs – Clerk's PAYE	£21.40
Sharon Smith - Clerk's Expenses	£15.99
HSBC – Bank Charges	£19.00
RSC Landscapes – Grass Cutting	£564.00
SALC – Internal Audit Fee	£298.80

**£1,531.49**

### Net Balance

**£26,797.00**