

**MINUTES OF THE YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT 7:00 PM AT YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr. Russell Pearce – Chair  
Cllr. Paul Ashton – Vice Chair  
Cllr. Laura Greenberg  
Cllr. Ian Shaw  
Cllr. David Tower  
Cllr. Janet Gardner  
Cllr. Sarah Barrett  
Cllr. Hazel Wheeler  
Cllr. Nicoll McCallum

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Ian Patterson – written and accepted  
Cllr. David Childs – written and accepted

**In attendance:**

County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes  
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
1 member of the public

**2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Public Forum**

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith said that during the Chancellor's Autumn Statement he announced that Suffolk will have a County Deal which will devolve some powers and funding from central government. The Chancellor said that Suffolk will have a mayor which the Leader of the County Council refuted and said that the Leader will be directly elected with no associated bureaucracy. Cllr. Smith said Mayors do not work well in rural areas. The deal will hopefully be signed off next week and the details are embargoed until a public announcement is made in due course.

Cllr. Smith also reported that the County Council is working hard to reach a balanced budget but it is challenging. The Chancellor announced that there are extra funds for social care but the actual amount will not be announced until 21<sup>st</sup> December. The Scrutiny Committee will meet the following day to review the budget so the proposed increase to Council Tax will be in the public domain then. Service reductions are expected as there is a budget gap of up to £50 million this coming year. County Councils have the power to increase Council Tax by up to 5%. Cllr. Paul Ashton said complaints were being received about the number of dirty and fallen road signs. Cllr. Smith replied that Highways need to rigorously prioritise how their budget is spent and cleaning was cut as the budget was constrained.

b) District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes reported that the District Council is also considering its budget for next financial year and there are considerable savings to be found. East Suffolk Services will take over from East Suffolk Norse on 1<sup>st</sup> July as the final part of the long-term business plan to implement this. There will be a change to the logo but it is hoped the handover will be streamlined. The Council requested that East Suffolk Services regularly sends a road sweeper to Yoxford.

With regard to refuse collection, the trade union asked for a substantial pay increase. A deal, which is fair and agreeable to all parties, was negotiated which prevented strike action. A 14% rise, an extra day's leave and other entitlements have been agreed which sounds a lot but the workers have been low paid for some time. A new Chief Executive, Chris Bally, has been appointed as Stephen Baker retires at the end of the year. The Ease the Squeeze initiative was rolled out last week. People need to say they need help and the District Council will try to advise and support them.

With regard to the Cullcott Close boundary issue, Cllr. Burroughes said that the District Council is adamant that the boundary has not been encroached and the Assets Team will not provide any further information as they consider the matter closed. Cllr. Burroughes recommends that the Council submits a Freedom of Information request for further details about the process followed to establish where the boundary sits. Cllr. Russell Pearce said that the fence marks the boundary of his land and District Council land. 1 Cullcott Close used to be separated from this boundary by a hedge and a footpath but their driveway has been

extended to include this land. Cllr. Paul Ashton said it was an important point of principle to ensure the boundary has not been encroached. The Council recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr. Burroughes for all his help with this matter.

#### **4. Meeting Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. Nicol McCallum, seconded by Cllr. Laura Greenberg, and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 are approved. All in favour.

#### **5. Parish Matters**

a) The Council noted the correspondence received from ESC regarding the boundary line of 1 Cullcott Close and agreed to submit a Freedom of Information request to obtain a copy of the instruction letter to the independent surveyor and for a digital copy of the survey.

**ACTION: Clerk to progress.**

b) The Council accepted a quotation from the grass contractor to cut the cemetery hedge for £680.

#### **6. Energy Projects**

a) Cllr. Paul Ashton briefed the Council about the National Grid Sea Link and Euro Link consultation and agreed to draft a response. The Council agreed to sign the Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP's petition to the government to consider alternative brownfield sites for the interconnector land falls and convertor stations.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to progress.**

b) Cllr. Paul Ashton informed the Council that he will attend a meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils next week to discuss EDF and SCC Highways' proposed interventions to the B1122 and the B1125 during the early years' phase of Sizewell C.

#### **7. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports**

a) Christmas Event – the Council gave thanks to Peggs for donating the Christmas tree free of charge. It will be delivered to the Village Hall next week. Cllr. Russell Pearce agreed to put the tree up. The Clerk was authorised to buy lights and a star. Cllr. Hazel Wheeler, Cllr. Sarah Barrett and the Clerk agreed to meet next week to plan for the carol singing event.

**ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Peggs.**

b) 20mph Speed Limit – Cllr. Paul Ashton said a petition calling for SCC to rewrite its 20 mph speed limit policy and for the Police and Crime Commissioner to do more to tackle speeding has been posted on social media and it has received around 30 signatures so far. Cllr. Ashton intends to take the petition door to door next week and to mention it at the joint B1125/B1122 Parish Councils' meeting. The intention is to extend the petition county-wide. 3,000 signatures are required to force the issue to be discussed at a County Council cabinet meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to progress.**

c) Yoxwood – Cllr. Russell Pearce said he advised the Steering Committee to put any requests for funding in writing to the Council.

d) Police – the Clerk said four crimes were reported in the parish in October 2022. There were two violence/sexual offences in Little Street and on the B1122, and two thefts on the High Street and at Darsham station.

e) Future Projects – Cllr. Paul Ashton informed the Council that he attended the latest quarterly meeting of the ESC Community Partnership. Each year they agree to focus on three key areas. This year's areas are rural transport, intergenerational skills exchange, and mental health. Cllr. Ashton said he is particularly interested in improving rural transport but he will also monitor the outcomes of the other two

areas. With regard to the strategic plan, Cllr. Ashton and the Clerk have arranged to meet next week to discuss climate change actions.

## 8. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position.
- b) The Council agreed to renew the Business One Year Bond of £5,488.26 at United Trust Bank
- c) The Council agreed to donate £500 to the IP17 Good Neighbours Scheme.
- d) It was proposed by Cllr. Hazel Wheeler, seconded by Cllr. Nicol McCallum, and resolved to authorise the following payments. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£606.40	LGA 1972 s.112
Youth Club Sports Equipment	Sharon Smith	£65.57	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19
Benches x 2	Broxap Ltd	£2,119.20	OSA 1906 s.10
HSBC	Bank Charges	£13.00	LGA 1972 s.111

- e) The benches have been delivered to Cllr. Russell Pearce's home address. They will require fixings. Cllr. Ian Shaw agreed to arrange a work party to clear the area of vegetation by the Bowls Club for one bench.

**ACTION: Cllr. Ian Shaw to progress.**

## 9. Administration

- a) The Council agreed meeting dates for 2023. The January and February meetings were moved to the first Wednesday of the month due to the renovation of the main hall ceiling.
- b) The Council conducted the annual review of the Risk Assessment and approved the minor changes.
- c) The Council agreed to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils as internal auditor.

## 10. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Cllr. Paul Ashton agreed to put a message on social media advising residents that a public meeting will be held if and when any planning applications are received regarding Cockfield Hall's masterplan.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Ashton to progress.**

## 11. Questions to the Chair/Items for the next agenda

Cllr. Ian Shaw reported that the climber by the primary school gate is overgrown and it is blocking the footway and wet leaves are causing a slip hazard. Cllr. Shaw also asked if the renovated swimming pool is to be made available for community use as stipulated in the school's successful funding bid.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to the primary school.**

## 12. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

## Appendix I - Financial Position

### Bank Balances

HSBC Community Account as at 4 November 2022	£53,465.89
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 31 July 2022	£7,442.22
United Trust Bank Business Bond as at 19 December 2021	£5,420.50
	<u>£66,328.61</u>

### Earmarked Reserves

Strickland Manor Hill Play Area	£1,170.85
Mulberry Park	£5,000.00
Youth Club	£4,180.00
CIL 2020-2021	£5,483.43
CIL 2021-2022	£17,090.94
CIL 2022-2023	£3,732.47
Meet Up Tuesday Grant	£860.00
Teenagers' Shelter Grant	£603.54
	<u>£38,121.23</u>

**Bank Balances less Reserves** **£28,207.38**

### Income – November 2022

NS&I – Bank Interest	<b>£1.99</b>
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### Payments – December 2022

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£588.20
Sharon Smith – Leaflet Printing	£26.56
HMRC – Clerk's PAYE	£18.20
HSBC – Bank Charges	£13.00
Broxap – Benches	£2,119.20
Yoxford Village Hall – Share of Insurance Premium	£638.40
Royal British Legion – Donation	£23.00
	<u>£3,426.56</u>

**Net Balance** **£24,782.81**