

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis
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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24th JUNE 2021 @ 6:30PM MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr S Barr, Cllr A Cross
Clerk & RFO – J Challis, CC Cllr J Fleming, DC Cllr R Warboys

Apologies: Cllr G Paterson

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

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting and approved apologies received from Cllr Paterson.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None received.

3 To consider requests for Dispensations on agenda items

None requested.

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom) held on Thursday 6th May 2021 are a true and correct record.

The minutes for 6th May 2021 (via zoom) were approved unanimously.

5 Matters Arising / Update on Actions from the 6th May 2021 meeting.

Cllr Read requested 'Matters Arising/Update on Actions' be removed as an agenda item as any matters arising/updates are dealt with elsewhere on the agenda. Agreed unanimously.

Cllr Read suggested part of item 9 (Planning), and item 7 (Report from DC) be moved up the agenda as he was aware DC Cllr Warboys needed to leave the meeting early. Agreed unanimously.

(11 Planning)

Cllr Read advised that a resident has expressed concerns over the planning application process. The resident feels that priority should be given to long term residents and was aggrieved that seemingly similar applications were receiving differing outcomes. They also questioned whether the views of the Parish Council are actually considered by BMSDC.

A discussion ensued and Cllr Warboys confirmed that the Parish Council's views are most definitely taken into account, and cases can be taken to the Planning Committee if appropriate. CC Cllr Fleming advised that she always checks the Parish Council's comments on the Planning Portal, and stated the importance of encouraging residents to talk to their District Councillor if they are unhappy with a planning decision.

DC Cllr Warboys also made the point that planning laws do change which needs bearing in mind if referencing a historic planning decision against a current one. He also reminded that there the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper was published in August 2020 and is an ongoing process for

a reform of the planning system in England, with separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing needs.

Cllr Read thanked DC Cllr Warboys and CC Cllr Fleming for their input.

ACTION – Cllr Read to convey the above to resident.

(7 Report from District Councillor)

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

DC Cllr Warboys highlighted the Footpaths and Cycleways Consultation link included within his report which he encouraged Councillors to complete:

<https://baberghmidsuffolkactivetravel.commonplace.is/>

Cllr Cross commented that lorries seem to be the issue, and CC Cllr Fleming confirmed that a Lorry Route Review is due to start over the summer to address this.

6:55pm DC Cllr Warboys left the meeting

6 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming read out her report, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

Cllr Read commented that the new Eye roundabout system on the A140 is not working and quite dangerous. This was discussed; CC Cllr Fleming noted Councillor's concerns and will forward an email address to forward comments to.

Cllr Cross advised the section of road towards Hartismere School is in disrepair and needs to be looked at. CC Cllr Fleming advised that this needs to be reported via the SCC Highways reporting tool: <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

7:10pm CC Cllr Fleming left the meeting.

7 Report from District Councillor

Provided above.

8 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No members of the public present.

9 Chair's Report

- Resident's planning concerns – addressed above.
- Signage – two finger posts are down and all signage in the village needs to be checked for any repairs/replacements required. This will be a future Agenda item.
- Platinum Jubilee 2022 – the extended bank holiday 2nd June – 5th June 2022 is providing an opportunity for public events and community activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will be a fixed Agenda item to discuss ideas for activities within the village.

10 Clerk/RFO's Report

- A summary of receipts and payments, (01/04/20 – 25/05/21), was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.
- Internal audit – ongoing and a deadline for submission has been received from the external auditor.
- The laptop is becoming very slow and difficult to use. 121 Computers in Diss can carry out a free of charge assessment to see if it is more cost effective to repair or replace. Councillors

agreed for 121 Computers to assess the laptop and noted funds set aside within the budget in case a replacement is necessary.

- CiLCA – the Clerk asked if Councillors would be supportive of her starting the CiLCA training once dates are announced by SALC. The overall cost could potentially be shared with Gislingham Parish Council. Councillors expressed their support and agreed unanimously to share the cost with Gislingham Parish Council.

ACTION

- **Clerk to take laptop to 121 Computers**
- **Clerk to advise Gislingham Parish Council re CiLCA**

11 Planning, including:

- **Planning Application DC/21/03266 – Earlsford Road, Mellis, Suffolk**

After discussing Councillors agreed they felt the details of this application were beyond their knowledge to be able to make comment and requested this be relayed to the Case Officer.

- **Planning Application DC/21/03382- Kingfisher Barn, The Common, Mellis, Suffolk**

After discussing Councillors agreed they had no objection to this planning application.

ACTION

- **DC/21/03266 – Clerk to contact Case Officer**
- **DC/21/03382 – Clerk to add no objection comment to Planning Portal**

12 Wellhead Reconstruction

The drawings for this are in progress with Cllr Cross having put together a semi-technical drawing.

ACTION – Cllr Cross and Cllr Paterson to continue work on the drawings to get them to a point where they can be used to request a quotation for the work required.

13 MSDC Tree, Hedge, and Wildflower Planting Initiative

This is ongoing. Approval for planting has been received from one landowner, but contact is still to be made with the Common Rights Committee. Permission is also needed from Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding planting of apple trees around the village sign.

The Clerk reminded that we need to confirm which trees residents/landowners would like planted.

ACTION – Clerk to contact Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Common Rights Committee

14 Festival of Suffolk 2022

A Festival of Suffolk is being planned for next year by the Countess of Euston, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Suffolk, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and local communities following the covid 19 pandemic.

Councillor's discussed ideas including a street festival and flower displays. This will be a fixed agenda item alongside the Platinum Jubilee 2022.

15 AGAR

The AGAR was approved unanimously and signed by the Chair and Proper Officer.

ACTION – Clerk to publish required documents

16 Finance

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance:

The Barclays bank account balance was £32,053.27 as of 24th May 2021

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

HMRC PAYE - **£63.40**

Admin payment (Clerk) - **£253.80**

Suffolk Cloud (annual website hosting) - **£100.00**

Agreed unanimously

iii) Staffing IN CAMERA

ACTION – Cllr Read and Cllr Bar to pay agreed payments via online banking (dual authorisation)

17 Matters for future consideration

- Signage within the village.

18 The date of the next Meeting will be Thursday 29th July 2021 at 6:30pm in Mellis Memorial Hall.

Meeting Closed at 8:01pm

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JUNE 2021

Meetings	<p>Although the council is continuing to follow working from home guidelines where possible, public meetings are now being held in person, the events are recorded and transmitted on youtube.</p> <p>The Full Council met at Wherstead Park, Ipswich and the full meeting can be viewed here: https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=154&Mid=3070&Ver=4</p> <p>Paul Ekpenyong (Con.) was elected as Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and conservative members continue to chair all but one committee and form the cabinet.</p> <p>The appointments were made on the deciding vote of the chair as the council vote was tied.</p> <p>Cllr. Welham (Green) continues as Chair of the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
Locality Awards	<p>New grants available now for 2021/22.</p> <p>Open to groups with projects that provide a clear and tangible benefit to the community. Full information available using the link, or contact me to discuss your project.</p> <p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2021-22/</p>
Reminder	<p>How would you improve cycling and walking routes in our districts? Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are developing a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan. As part of this, we want to hear your views on where and how you think improvements could be made to walking and cycling routes in your area. This consultation will remain open until Thursday 22nd July</p> <p>Link to site: https://baberghmidsuffolkactivetravel.commonplace.is/</p>
Communities	<p>£110k funding available for holiday activities for children on free school meals. These will not all be centred on Stowmarket, some to wider communities. Same being planned for 2022.</p> <p>Re-start Grants funded by MSDC, administered by CAS – total £37k. eg small grants to allow groups like WI to re-start, also arts groups, chair-based exercise etc. Advertised via social media. Also £38k for sports clubs to re-start.</p>
WSPC	<p>The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) is a statutory body with a responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an assessment of community safety issues • Produce a plan which responds to those issues • Review and report on progress against that plan • Carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews <p>The Mix, Stowmarket received a grant of £7k from WSCSP. Possibility of making bids for grants from WSCSP for 'diversionary activities'. Other bids: The Forge for detached youth work in Debenham; Kenetic Science for work in Claydon. ("It's lift off for a new science centre and kid's space academy near Ipswich after plans were granted permission by the council. Plans for the new centre, at the site of the former Age UK Suffolk offices in Claydon, were granted permission by Mid Suffolk District Council last week. Run by registered charity Kinetic Science Foundation, the centre will offer children across the UK the chance to learn more about science and technology – including the chance to experience its own space academy.</p>
Paper Banks	<p>"Dear Parish Clerks,</p> <p>Our contractor unexpectedly stopped paper bank collections in the districts on 1 May, as we understand it is no longer viable for them to continue with the service..." BMSDC have responded:</p> <p>"We have a total of approx. 130 sites over the 2 districts. The glass and textile banks remain unchanged. We have notified PC's and explained the position that Bolton's are no longer going to provide the service and that we are looking into alternativesThe smaller sites we're going to service ourselves by swapping the paper banks with wheelie bins and are in the process of working through the sites and bins are being delivered."</p> <p><i>I notice that we do not have any local Paper Banks, Some Parish Council do, Would the PC's like to suggest possible sites and I will ask if we can have one or more.</i></p>

MSDC Councillor Rowland Warboys

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County Councillor Report

June 2021



Mellis Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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New Administration: The annual meeting of the County Council took place on 27th May at Wherstead Park, Ipswich. New cabinet roles and appointments were confirmed, as follows:

Leader – Matthew Hicks

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment – Richard Rout

Cabinet Member for Adult Care – Beccy Hopfensperger

Cabinet Member for Children & Young People’s Services – James Reeder

Cabinet Member for Education & Skills – Rachel Hood

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy, & Waste – Richard Smith

Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways, & Flooding – Paul West

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection, & Communities – Andrew Reid

Deputy Cabinet Member for Fostering and Adoption – Stephen Burroughes

Deputy Cabinet Member for Highway Drainage – Steve Wiles

Deputy Cabinet Member for Property – Craig Rivett

Deputy Cabinet Member for Protected Landscapes & Archaeology – Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro

Deputy Cabinet Member for SEND – Chris Chambers

Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy – Alexander Nicoll

Committee Chairs:

Overview & Scrutiny - Michael Ladd

Health Scrutiny - Jessica Fleming

Audit - Joanna Spicer

Planning - Jenny Ceresa

Education & Young People - Graham Newman

Pensions - Karen Soons

The July Council Meeting has been postponed until September 8th. Other meetings are being held as scheduled, with key meetings now in person.

Progress Power – You may have been contacted by agents to advise that minor works will be starting on the main site near Eye on 28th June 2021. Information about the project is on <https://www.drax.com/about-us/our-projects/progress-power/> A Community Liaison Group is being set up and the parish should have been invited to join.