

# MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MELLIS PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 @ 7:15PM MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

**Present:** Cllr L Read, Cllr S Barr, Cllr A Cross, Cllr G Paterson  
Parish Clerk – J Challis, DC Cllr Warboys, CC Cllr J Fleming, thirteen members of the public.

**Apologies:** None received

The meeting commenced at 7:22pm due to the Annual Parish Council Meeting being held first.

### **1 Welcome from the Chair of Mellis Parish Council**

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited them to partake in the refreshments at the end of the Memorial Hall provided by Mellis Parish Council.

### **2 To resolve the draft minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting (via Zoom) held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 are a true and correct record.**

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved unanimously.

### **3 To receive Suffolk County Councillor's Report – CC Cllr J Fleming**

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

There was a discussion regarding National Grid's East Anglia GREEN Energy Enablement proposal which all members of the public present expressed objection to. CC Cllr Fleming advised that Suffolk County Council considers the marine option to be the best one, and has asked the National Grid for a breakdown of the costs for both options. A member of the public asked if Yaxley power station would become redundant if the proposed pylons were to go ahead. CC Cllr Fleming said Yaxley power station would remain in use because it would be needed for renewable downtime. Cllr Cross commented that there is a lack of a National Energy Policy in response to the energy crisis.

Cllr Cross asked if there was any community help in place in Suffolk to help residents hosting families from Ukraine. DC Cllr Warboys commented that there is a very strong community group over the border in Diss, which would be a good model to use. The Clerk confirmed this as both a resident of Diss, and a host for a Ukrainian family.

Cllr Read thanked CC Cllr Fleming for her report.

7:45pm CC Cllr Fleming left the meeting

### **4 To receive Mid Suffolk District Councillor's Report – DC Cllr Warboys**

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

DC Cllr Warboys said it is very important that residents submit their own individual responses to the East Anglia GREEN consultation by the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, in addition to the Parish Council submitting theirs.

7:55pm DC Cllr Warboys left the meeting

## **5 To receive the Parish Council Chair's Report, including update on 'Newsteads Land' – Cllr L Read.**

- **Newsteads Land**  
Cllr Read reported that various options have previously been discussed for making the best use of Newsteads Land, but inaccessibility and financial costs meant no plans had so far been progressed. At the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022, councillors decided to look at creating a garden/well-being area open for use by all residents. The land has been cleared and is now ready to be replanted. Cllr Read asked for input from residents as to how they would like to see the garden/well-being area developed, and invited them to send any thoughts or ideas to the Parish Clerk.  
A member of the public said they thought this was a really good idea because although Mellis has the Common, due to the nature of its management, it cannot be enjoyed either as a pedestrian or as somewhere comfortable to sit. They suggested looking at the well-being garden which has been created in Rickinghall. Another member of the public suggested it should include features for wildlife such as an owl box.  
The Parish Clerk's email address is [mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com).
- **East Anglia GREEN Energy Enablement Consultation**  
Cllr Read said that as advised by DC Cllr Warboys, it was important for residents to submit their responses individually in addition to the Parish Council, and Richard Young confirmed that Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be submitting a response. There was a further discussion on National Grid's proposed route from Norwich Main substation to Tilbury substation. Points were raised regarding National Grid rejecting the off shore option without presenting it for public consultation, and the lack of information on the different types of pylons available. A member of the public said that in 1984 overhead cables were removed and rerouted underground, which should act as a precedent against new overhead pylons. They also commented that the Common has been written about by two nature writers; Robert MacFarlane and Patrick Barkham, and the proposed route would be devastating to this special landscape.

## **6 To receive Reports from those within the community involved in Mellis**

- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements** – Cllr Cross reported that the beacon has been positioned in the area by the village sign, and will be lit at 9:45pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, which is the official lighting time for all the beacons across the country.  
On the Sunday afternoon (5<sup>th</sup> June 2022), there will a 'party on the Common' involving a live band, a performance from the Mellisians, a vintage car display, face painting, children's races and games, and a fancy-dress competition. Food will be provided by Burger Jam who make gourmet burgers for adults and children, including a vegan option.
- An Annual Report was provided by the Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee, and can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.
- An Annual Report was given by Betty Wells the Church Warden, and can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.
- Richard Young from Suffolk Wildlife Trust presented a report which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes. A member of the public asked whether the pond by the church could be cleared. Richard advised that due to the pond being only part owned by SWT, they would need to seek the permission and co-operation of the landowner. Cllr Cross asked if SWT could look at the damage caused along Cowpasture Lane by Network Rail, and Richard Young said he would pass the request to his head office.

Cllr Read gave his thanks for all the Reports received.

## **7 Resident's questions**

The Churchwarden asked if the Parish Council could consider replacing the noticeboard which is in a very poor condition, and include it as a future agenda item.

There being no further business, Cllr Read declared the meeting closed at 9:32pm