

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 28th JULY 2023 @ 6:30PM IN MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr A Cross, Cllr L Farley, Cllr Paterson
Clerk – J Challis, DC Cllr Warboys

Apologies: None received.

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

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 Parish Council meeting held on Friday 23rd June 2023 are a true and correct record.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting of 23rd June 2023 were approved unanimously.

5 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming sent her report in advance of the meeting, with her apologies for being unable to attend. A copy can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

The Clerk commented that the appointment of Ancestry to Digitise Historic Data, may be useful to the Parish Council when considering electronic storage of the history of Mellis photos and documents.

6:36pm Cllr Farley arrived.

6 Report from District Councillor

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

Councillors were particularly interested in the report regarding Suffolk Waste Partnership, and there was a discussion on current measures to improve recycling in the county.

In addition to his report, DC Cllr Warboys asked councillors if they felt there would be an interest in regular surgeries being arranged. This would enable residents to meet with DC Cllr Warboys directly to address any concerns or questions they may have. Councillors agreed this to be a good idea and suggested combining the surgeries with an opportunity for residents to discuss National Grid Norwich to Tilbury. DC Cllr Warboys will provide more information when available, with the first surgery potentially being arranged for September 2023.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No members of the public present.

8 Chair's Report

Cllr Read reported he has received a proof for the new Memorial Hall Car Park sign which has been forwarded to councillors. The overall costing is within the budget agreed so once all councillors have approved the proof, the company can be instructed to go ahead.

ACTION – Councillors to email approval of the sign proof.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

- An invitation has been received from the Yaxley Synchronous Condenser Community Forum Secretariat to attend their next meeting on 16th August 2023. The invitation has been circulated to councillors in order for them to rsvp if they would like to attend.
- BMSDC Grants have advised that there is currently £8,806.87 of Eye Wind Turbines S106 funds available for Mellis. Up to £5,000.00 can be applied for per project, and the funding can be accessed by all eligible organisations and projects in the parish. The details have been shared with the Chair of MMHC (Mellis Memorial Hall Committee).
- An email has also been received from the Thrives Renewable Community Benefit Programme regarding funding available for community buildings within a 20-mile radius of the Eye wind turbines, which are a Thrive Renewables site. The details have again been shared with the Chair of MMHC.
- MSDC Infrastructure are running online CIL fund training sessions in July and August. The full details and dates have been circulated to councillors.
- NSIPS (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) - For some time SALC have been calling for sector specific guidance that enables local councils of all sizes to understand, plan and prepare their approach for future major projects. An NSIPs Centre of Excellence for the East of England has been set up by Suffolk County Council, who are sharing its Reference Guide to support other local authorities. SALC are running online focus groups to help SALC consider the merits of adapting, in collaboration with Suffolk County Council, this Reference Guide for the local council sector, and provides an opportunity for both councillors and clerks to provide feedback from their perspective. Further information and dates have been forwarded to councillors.
- Walsham le Willows Parish Council have forwarded their July e-newsletter. They are seeking to set up a working party made up of councillors and other interested parties from local communities to investigate and to determine if this might be supported, particularly in the light of the Shepherd's Grove developments. The newsletter has been circulated to councillors.
- Cllr Cross has reported that at the recent MMHC meeting thanks was expressed to the Parish Council for the recent Parish CIL fund donation towards their new projector and screen equipment. It is due to be delivered and installed next week.
- Parish Council email addresses: NALC advise that to comply with GDPR, councils should provide official email accounts for their councillors as well as for their Clerk and other officers. The Clerk will provide further information and costings for councillors' consideration at the next meeting.

10 National Grid 'Norwich to Tilbury' Second Non-statutory Public Consultation

National Grid has now launched the second non-statutory consultation on Norwich to Tilbury which runs for 8 weeks until 21st August 2023. They are asking for feedback on their preferred draft alignment, which shows potential positions for overhead lines and associated pylons, underground cables, cable sealing end compounds (where overhead lines are joined to underground cables) and connection substations. They have published an interactive map and consultation materials with the latest project information on their website, along with details of public information events and online webinars: [Norwich to Tilbury | National Grid ET](#)

The Clerk emailed CC Cllr Fleming following the discussion at the previous meeting, to ask if she is able to help coordinate a joint response from local parishes, and the District and County Councils. CC Cllr Fleming advised that she will look into this further and suggested South Norfolk parishes should be included too. She also reminded to keep up to date with information from the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylon Group.

Cllr Cross said he attended the public information event held in Diss on 7th July 2023, which he reported was very disappointing and indicates that this consultation is not a consultation at all, but just a point of information for National Grid's intentions.

The Clerk will reiterate the Parish Council's objection to Norwich to Tilbury in response the consultation.

Residents are strongly advised to complete the feedback forms to ensure their views are received by National Grid.

11 Planning

To Receive an Update on:

- DC/22/2190/HYB – Land at Shepherds Grove, Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk - **AWAITING DECISION.**
- DC/2301494 - APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Proposal: Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Planning Permission DC/22/04021 dated: 20/02/2023 - Construction and operation of Synchronous Condensers with ancillary infrastructure, and associated works including access and landscaping. Location: Land At The Leys And Ivy Farm, Mellis Road, Yaxley, Suffolk IP21 4BT – **GRANTED.**
- DC/23/02291 – APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION. Householder Application – Erection of single storey rear extension (following removal of conservatory). Location: 11 Earlsford Road, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8DY - **GRANTED.**

To Consider:

- DC/23/03439 Proposal: Approval of Details reserved by Requirement 22 (Amendments to Approved Details) of the pursuant to The Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015 -The submission concerns six requested alterations: 1. Gas Receiving and Metering Station (GRMS); increase in height from 5m to 6m (with a single item up to 7m) and minor increase in length; 2. Exhaust Stack; increase in width and length for lower section of stack (up to 16.5m above datum); 3. Portable Control Container (PCC); increase in width and length; 4. Fin/Fan cooler; increase in width and length; 5. Combined Water Storage tank and Fire Water Storage Tank; increase in diameter and height; 6 Modifications to the cross-section of the landscaping earth berms and addition of a berm on the Eastern side of the site Location: Progress Power, Potash Lane, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7HE.
- DC/23/03148 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Yew (T1), Fell 2 No. Cypress (T2 and T3), Fell 1 No. Ginko (T4) Location: The Old Rectory, Earlsford Road, Mellis, Eye Suffolk IP23 8DY.

After discussing councillors agreed unanimously, they object to DC/23/03439, but that without further information on the exact location of the trees in DC/23/03148, no comment would be made and the council will defer to the opinion of the MSDC Arboricultural Officer.

ACTION – Clerk to add comment for DC/23/03439 to MSDC Planning Portal as above

12 Tree Warden's Report

Nothing to report.

13 Footpath Warden's Report

Cllr Farley reported that the footpaths are generally well kept, but that the signage is yet to be repaired/replaced. The Clerk will request updates for the missing/damaged signs, (SCC Highways report numbers 00404345-48), and advised that Claire Dickson, SCC Area Rights of Way Manager,

has yet to confirm when the Area Officer will inspect the routes in Mellis, and provide feedback on their findings and arrange any works required.

Cllr Cross reported that a ditch by the Carnser needs to be cleared. Part of it runs under the road requiring permission from SCC Highways, which the Clerk will request, and part from the Landowner, which Cllr Read will ask for. Once permission has been received a working party will be arranged to carry out the work.

ACTION – Clerk and Cllr Read as above

7:55pm DC Cllr Warboys left the meeting

14 History of Mellis electronic storage

Cllr Read will request an indicative cost from the specialist company in Diss. The Clerk will also speak to Suffolk Archives to see if they are able to provide any assistance or advice. Cllr Cross suggested using the Memorial Hall to catalogue the documents to provide enough space to spread everything out, and will speak to Mr Spencer to arrange a convenient time to do this. Cllr Read said he will also speak to the National libraries he is a member of, for advice on the best way to catalogue and archive.

ACTION – Clerk, Cllr Read and Cllr Cross as above

15 Mellis Village Sign maintenance

A resident has made complaint that the village sign has had plastic imitation flowers permanently placed on it. Cllr Paterson has now kindly removed the flowers.

16 Newsteads Land update

Cllr Read has spoken to a local contractor regarding wood chippings for the pathways, and has been advised that approximately 10 tonnes are required, but that the paths should be treated first. Cllr Read has obtained quotations for 10 tonnes of wood chippings which range from £350.00 to £1,000. There was a discussion on the best way to treat the paths with Cllr Paterson and Cllr Farley feeling strongly that any form of chemical weedkiller contravenes the ethics behind creating a natural well-being space. Cllr Cross suggested laying a terram membrane instead. There was a discussion on the ongoing maintenance of the land, and inclusion of any costs within the annual budget, as well as investing more funds to use a digger to define the pathways. The Clerk also said that wheelchair accessibility should be taken into consideration. Cllr Paterson, Cllr Cross and Cllr Read agreed to meet tomorrow morning to look at the pathways.

ACTION – Cllr Paterson, Cllr Cross and Cllr Read as above

17 Traffic/Speeding concerns within the village including update

Cllr Read contacted the Headteacher of Mellis Primary School to make him aware of the recent complaints regarding dangerous and inconsiderate parking around the school at drop off and collection times, as discussed at the previous meeting. The headmaster has responded by apologising, and advised he will address it with the parent body again in a forthcoming email.

18 To consider new VAS device and Village Gateway quotations

The Clerk obtained three quotations for new VAS devices which were shared with councillors. More information on the type of village gateway councillors would like to see is required because there are so many different types and styles. The locations also need consideration. After discussing, councillors agreed that they feel it may be preferable to have only village gateways and not VAS devices. On entering the village from Wortham they agreed the best place to site a gateway would be on the corner of Drury Lane. Entering the village from Yaxley requires more consideration because the entire stretch of road is a 30mph zone, and therefore councillors

agreed the gateways include 'Welcome to Mellis' as well as the 30mph speed limit sign and that it could be sited on the common just before the school.

ACTION – Clerk to provide further information and costs for village gateways at next meeting

19 Finance

A list of payments and receipts, and expenditure against the budget, both to 23rd June 2023 were sent to councillors.

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance as of **23 June 2023 - £34,325.35**

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

1	MSDC	Dog/litter bin emptying	£305.50
2	Gislingham PC	CiLCA training 50% share inv. 15	£95.92
3	Gislingham PC	CiLCA training 50% share inv. 18	£56.84
4	J. Challis	Clerk Admin July	£355.25
5	J. Challis	Expenses – mileage	£5.94
6	JC's Cleaning Services	Bus shelter	£18.00
7	SALC	New Cllr Training	£144.00
8	Memorial Hall	Hire July meeting	£24.00

All payments above were approved unanimously.

iii) King's Coronation event – to consider funds made

Cllr Cross reported that a bbq is being held at the August Mellis Music Festival, during which the remaining frozen burgers will be cooked and sold. A risk assessment has been conducted and all health and safety requirements will be adhered to, as at the King's Coronation event. Any funds made will then be added to those from the King's Coronation event, and consideration will be a future agenda item.

iv) Budget monitoring and review of Reserves

Deferred to next meeting.

ACTION - Cllr Read and Cllr Cross to pay agreed payments above via online banking (dual authorisation)

20 Matters for future consideration

No further matters to add.

21 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is Thursday 24th August 2023 at 6:30pm in the Memorial Hall

Meeting close at 8:45pm

