

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11th JANUARY 2024 @ 6:30PM IN MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

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

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 received.

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th November 2023 are a true and correct record.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting of 30th November 2023 were approved unanimously.

5 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming's report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

6 Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboy's read through his report, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

Cllr Read thanked DC Cllr Warboys for his report.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No members of the public present.

8 Chair's Report

- Cllr Read thanked councillors and the Clerk for their work and support during 2023.
- The Clerk from Yaxley Parish Council has said that they did not receive a response regarding an offer that Thrandeston Parish Council made to cut the grass verges on Mellis Road to the end of the straight before the corner which comes on to the Common. Thrandeston Parish Council is taking on this work as part of the Highways Self Help Scheme and there would have been a charge of £100. The Clerk said that the PC has

previously advised Yaxley PC that they did not wish to participate in the Highways Self Help Scheme, and will contact the Clerk again to confirm.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

- MSDC Call for Land for Nature Recovery Scheme- the district's tree canopy cover is well below the national average and would need to increase by at least 5% to get closer to that average. MSDC do not own enough land to do that, even assuming they could plant trees on all of it. Therefore, they will need the help of other landowners wanting to plant trees on their land to meet this target. These landowners could be farmers, parish or town councils, businesses, or individuals, all wanting to do something with their land to benefit the natural environment and the wildlife this supports: [Tree planting - Mid Suffolk District Council - Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils - Working Together](#)
- SALC have shared their first NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) newsletter: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects \(NSIPs\) NEWSLETTER \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)
- Police and Crime Commissioner proposal to increase precept to fund Constabulary in 2024/25; there is a survey running until 25th January 2024 for feedback against the proposal [surveymonkey.com/survey-](#)

10 Tree Warden's Report

Cllr Paterson reported that some trees have been felled, for which we have not received planning consultations from MSDC. Cllr Paterson will check with MSDC to see if planning permission was required.

11 Footpath Warden's Report

The SCC Area Rights of Way Manager has now provided details of the footpaths SCC are responsible for cutting. Cllr Cross and Cllr Farley will check whether there are any footpaths not included on this list, that the PC needs to maintain. They reported that the Gittings Lane footpath (FP 4) has been cleared by SCC. Cllr Cross suggested it would be a good idea to create a footpath map which could be sited in the Memorial Hall car park. It was agreed to approach the company who made the new car park signage for an estimate.

ACTION – Cllr Cross as above.

12 Planning

To Receive an Update on:

- DC/22/2190/HYB – Land at Shepherds Grove, Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk - **AWAITING DECISION.**

13 National Grid Norwich to Tilbury update

National Grid provided an update in December 2023, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

14 Flooding in the village update

The Clerk advised that SCC are only conducting flood assessments in parishes which have reported five or more properties with internal flooding. As Mellis does not meet these criteria, the Parish Council be responsible for organising any kind of drainage assessment/survey.

CC Cllr Fleming has forwarded a response from Highways regarding the reports raised for flooding on Earlsford Road. They advise that report 438286, for a blocked drain, has been categorised as not warranting action within a defined timescale so they will continue to monitor the location as part of their routine inspections, but are not planning to undertake any works at present. They further advise that the Highways Assessment Officer is due to carry out another site visit as they have received reports of further issues in this location, regarding flooding due to a blocked ditch. If after carrying out an assessment, the Highways Assessment Officer finds the blocked ditches

are causing flooding to the road, this issue will be passed to the Highways Enforcement Team who will contact the landowner requesting that the ditch be cleared.

Cllr Cross said he has made a further report to Highways because the flooding reported is due to a blocked gully, and not a blocked ditch. One property in this location has had issues with flood water at the bottom of their driveway for over five weeks. This will become hazardous if it freezes. Cllr Cross has also asked CC Cllr Fleming to take this information back to Highways.

15 Rural Coffee Caravan update

The next 6 meetings at the Memorial Hall have been arranged as follows:

6th February 10-12pm

5th March 10-12pm

2nd April 10-12pm

7th May 10-12pm

4th June 10-12pm

2nd July 10-12pm

The Rural Coffee Caravan will forward posters and flyers to advertise each date.

16 Traffic calming measure in the village and outside the school

No update. The Clerk will look at the possibility of the PC erecting 'No HGV' signs on Mellis Road.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

17 Newsteads Land including approval of expenditure, and Orchard Application update

The new gates have now been installed with councillors commending the local craftsman commissioned to make them for doing such a great job. Cllr Cross reported that the current fencing each side of the new gates is now not really suitable, and said the craftsman could provide a section of metal railings to match the gates for each side. This would also enable the current fencing to be moved down further to allow it to meet the perimeter edge. After discussing, Cllr Farley proposed approving expenditure up to £500.00 to commission two sections of fencing for either side of the new gates. Seconded by Cllr Paterson, and approved unanimously. Cllr Read has some surplus concrete slabs which he suggested could be used as weed suppressants, and then as a base should the PC decide to look at adding a shed. It was agreed to look at the slabs at the weekend.

Richard Parmee, MSDC Biodiversity Project Manager, has advised that the hedging, birch and holly trees are ready to deliver. Cllr Farley has arranged for the fruit trees being provided by the Orchard Project, to be delivered at the end of February. After discussing, it was agreed to ask Richard Parmee if he could arrange delivery in time for councillors to plant the trees and hedging on 3rd February 2024. Cllr Farley suggested a community planting day for the fruit trees, which was agreed for 9th March 2024. A volunteer risk assessment form will need to be completed by participants.

ACTION

- **Clerk/Cllr Cross to arrange for fencing sections to be made as above.**
- **Clerk to arrange for trees and hedging to be delivered in time for planting on 3rd February.**
- **Cllr Farley to create poster asking for volunteers for a Community Planting Day on 9th March 2024. Clerk to create volunteer risk assessment form.**

18 Village Gateways

No update.

19 To discuss Wellhead project

Photographs of the original wellhead were discovered when the history of Mellis documents were looked at in December. Cllr Paterson and Cllr Cross will use these and the plans previously created before the project was temporarily put on hold, to start pricing up the work/materials required.

ACTION – Cllr Paterson/Cllr Cross as above.

20 To consider phone box maintenance/improvements

After discussing, it was agreed unanimously to move the defibrillator from the phone box, to a more prominent position in the village. The owners of the Mill have indicated their permission to place it on the side of the building. Councillors agreed this to be a much better location, and written permission will be sought. Cllr Paterson shared his idea to split the phone box in half, to allow the light to shine through and show off the stained-glass panels to best effect. A bench could be installed in between each side. Councillors discussed the suggestion with mixed responses. DC Cllr Warboys said that such a proposal would need to be consulted widely upon, to gauge resident's support. Cllr Cross said he could see the merits of the proposal but felt that the opinion of the stained-glass artists was needed. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

21 To discuss plans for D-Day80 Anniversary on 6th June 2024

Cllr Cross proposed involving the Memorial Hall Committee, The Railway Tavern, and the PCC in making arrangements, which was agreed unanimously. Notification has been received from Bruno Peek, the Pageant Master, that there will be an official beacon lighting ceremony at 9:15pm on 6th June 2024. It was agreed to light the beacon at this time, and look at a bbq and other events to be held on the same evening. Cllr Cross will speak to the other village organisations to ascertain their support and ideas.

ACTION – Cllr Cross as above

22 Village Calendar of Events

Cllr Farley will create a village calendar of events for 2024 which can be shared on the website, and through other platforms such as the Messenger. It will include Parish Council dates such as the Annual Meeting in May, as well as village events organised by the Council.

23 Digitisation of History of Mellis

Following the meeting in December to sort through the photographs, Cllr Read advised that there are approximately 200. The next step is to decide on the best format to use to digitise them. The Clerk will speak to Suffolk Archives for their advice.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

24 To consider and approve Precept Request 2024/25

The precept request has remained the same for the last 3 years, and any deficit between the Budget and precept amount requested, has been taken from the Parish Council's reserves. After discussing, it was agreed to request a precept figure of £8,695.00. This is an increase of £795.00 from 2023/24, and reflects an increase to cover 50% of the deficit between the previous precept figure requested, and the approved Budget for 2024/25. Whilst mindful of the impact on the tax base for the Parish, Councillors felt it was not prudent to further deplete reserves.

Precept request 2024/25 of £8,695.00 proposed by Cllr Farley, seconded by Cllr Read, and approved unanimously. The Clerk completed and signed the precept request form, which was also signed by Cllr Read.

ACTION – Clerk to send precept request form to MSDC by 31st January 2024 deadline.

25 Finance

A list of payments and receipts, expenditure against the budget, and bank reconciliation to 22nd November 2023 were sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance as of **22nd December 2023 - £30,957.80.**

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

December 2023			
1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin December	£323.40
2	J. Challis	Expenses – mileage Nov meeting	£5.94
3	Memorial Hall	November hire, Dec meeting for History of Mellis archiving	£30.00
4	A. Cross expenses	Newsteads Land gates & fixings	£560.70
January 2024			
1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin January	£313.20
2	Memorial Hall	January hire	£30.00

The December 2023 payments were approved unanimously by email on 22nd December (quorate approval received, with one abstention against A. Cross expenses), as agreed at the 30th November 2023 meeting.

Cllr Read proposed approval of all payments above; seconded by Cllr Paterson and approved unanimously, with one abstention against A. Cross December expenses.

iii) Barclays bank account reclassification:

Ongoing; the Clerk has been advised by Barclays that they need to speak to an account signatory, so Cllr Read will call Barclays Business Team again.

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

26 Matters for future consideration

- Official opening of Mellis Community Garden (Newsteads Land).

27 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is Thursday 8th February 2024 at 6:30pm in the Memorial Hall

Meeting close at 9:30pm.

County Councillor Report



Mellis Parish Council, January 2024

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division. Tel. 07714-597980 Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

Flood Recovery – Resilience Grants have been announced through Defra for eligible properties affected by Storm Babet. Eligible property owners can apply for up to £5,000 (including VAT) to help make their property more resilient to future flooding, however a survey and other steps are required to receive the funds, properties should have reported internal flood issues to the council web site to be eligible. This Scheme is open from the end January until May 2025. Web page: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/property-flood-resilience-grant>

Initial Recovery Grants of £500 per household (£2,500 per businesses) are being distributed by districts, 905 eligible properties have approved for payment by 28th Jan. These properties are likely to be eligible for the Resilience Grants and will be invited by SCC to apply.

The Council is waiting on confirmation from Defra concerning additional grants contemplated for properties affected by Storm Henk (not Babet).

New flooding should be reported with photographs and relevant dates to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Budget Setting – the Council is preparing to finalise its budget for 2024/'25 which needs to respond to cost pressures from inflation and increased service demand. Pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's budget takes place on Thursday 11th January at 10.00 and will be webcast live, papers are on the Committee Database: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(11-01-2024\), Scrutiny Committee](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(11-01-2024), Scrutiny Committee)

Progress Power Liaison Group Meeting – the Community Liaison Group meeting will take place at Eye Community Centre on Monday January 29, 6.00 pm. This concerns both the power plant in Eye and the synchronising condenser. A representative from Mellis PC would be welcome, please confirm attendance to Jenny Blyth jenny.blyth@drax.com

Locality and Community Grants – My locality budget still has some funds, please ask if there are local projects which could benefit. Enquiries to the County Council concerning grants for community projects such as for the village hall may be made to Community Information Project Officer, Public Health and Communities. Phone no. 07860-832328, or emma.currie@suffolk.gov.uk

Highways – Reminder to please report any defective road signs or other defects with a photograph. All highways and flood issues should be reported on the web site: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Suffolk's Environmental Awards Open for Nominations - Suffolk County Council recognises the valuable environmental work done throughout Suffolk and invites nominations for an awards ceremony to be held on 27 March 2024, at The Hold in Ipswich. Categories for the 2024 Awards are:

- Waste Reduction and Recycling Award
- Enhancing Biodiversity and Landscape Award

- Greenest Business Award
- Greenest Small Business Award
- Greenest Community Award
- Green Hero Award (People's Choice award)
- Greenest School Award
- Green Tourism Award

Nominations are now [open online](#) at www.greensuffolk.org/awards and close on 31 January 2024.


Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980
Twitter: *@jesstfleming*


District Councillor’s Report: Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils

December 2023

Flooding	<p>After Storm Babet, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses.</p> <p>Householders are being urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council’s reporting tool.</p> <p>The government has announced some financial support and as chair of Mid Suffolk I signed 28th Nov 2023 an Urgent Notice to authorise the adoption of the necessary policies to release funds</p> <p>On the 25th October the Government triggered the Flood Recovery framework in response to severe flooding events that have occurred as a result of Storm Babet, with impacts occurring between 19 and 25 October 2023.</p> <p>The Flood Recovery Framework consists of four core support schemes:</p> <p>Community recovery grant: households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to help with immediate costs. To be eligible, households will either have been internally flooded in habitable areas (not garages, sheds or cellars) or deemed to be unliveable for a period greater than 48 hours.</p> <p>Business Recovery Grant: Small-to-medium sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 to help them return quickly to business as usual. To be eligible, businesses will either have been internally flooded or severely impacted where they have had restricted access by customers, staff and suppliers and where they have suffered a loss of earnings.</p> <p>Council Tax Discount: Households internally flooded or deemed to be unliveable for a period greater than 48 hours can claim a 100% council tax discount for a minimum of 3 months.</p> <p>Business Rates Relief: Businesses may be eligible for 100% Rates Relief for a minimum of three months, where flood water entered the property, or the flooding seriously impacted upon the ability to trade from the property for over 48 hours.</p> <p>The Government will fund these schemes through Section 31 grant. However, in order to implement these schemes speedily, the Council needed to use its discretionary powers to adopt the attached policies.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council will be reviewing their processes that are currently in place for dealing with this type of emergency situation.</p> <p>Affected businesses should also contact Mid Suffolk to register for support. Please visit https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/storm-babet-information for full details.</p> <p>Update – a second trench of money is being made available in response to the repeated flooding.</p>
Joint Local Plan	This was adopted at the MSD Council Meeting on 20 th Nov.

	<p>The JLP sets out a planning framework to guide development in the districts over the period to 2037. JLP Part 1 provides a set of strategic and local development management policies against which planning applications and appeals will be assessed. There are 10 strategic policies (such as on affordable housing, climate change and tourism) and 32 local policies (such as on biodiversity, historic environment and sustainable construction).</p> <p>More information: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/joint-local-plan#:~:text=The%20Babergh%20and%20Mid%20Suffolk,and%20the%20Part%202%20Plan.</p> <p>Also at the meeting, A revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) was also brought into effect which sets out the planned timetable 2023-2026 for the Joint Local Plan Part 2 Plan</p> <p>The Part 2 Plan, will focus on key matters including: • an up-to-date settlement hierarchy; • a spatial distribution of any housing allocations; • housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plan areas; • site allocations; • up-to-date settlement boundaries reflecting commitments and allocations; • open space designations with a relevant development management policy; • an up-to-date assessment of need for accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Show people and Boat Dwellers, together with relevant development management policies and, if necessary, allocations to provide for this need</p>
<p>Solar farms</p>	<p>At Mid Suffolk’s Council meeting on 26th October, a position statement on Solar Farms was agreed.</p> <p>This stated that solar farms should not be based on prime agricultural land and the landscape impact on our communities needed to be taken into account.</p> <p>In the absence of clear Government policy, the Council cannot make planning policy regarding renewable energy such as solar farms or solar PV on roof tops. We can only provide a statement of intent in terms of how we wish to see developments proceed. In January next year we expect to produce a full Supplementary Planning Document on this which takes longer to put together as it must be consulted on and provide relevant evidence.</p> <p>(this follows on from the Joint Local Plan that was adopted at the Full council meeting on 20th Nov.)</p>
<p>Sustainable transport</p>	<p>At the Council meeting it was also agreed to form a working group to review sustainable integrated transport in the district – particularly for walking and cycling. It is hoped to review this in relation to commencing schemes in villages in the district.</p>
	<p>The <i>Cosy Homes</i> initiative is being launched on 15th November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. <i>This insulation assistance will be free of charge to the resident.</i></p> <p>Full details to be available soon.</p> <p>Our message is helping people to save energy, save money and reduce their carbon footprint.</p> <p>Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access this via the wider Suffolk scheme, www.warmhomessuffolk.org</p>
	<p>The Council currently provides a very poor level of service for maintaining our housing stock and have a very low level of tenant satisfaction.</p>

<p>Council Housing</p>	<p>The new Administration at Mid Suffolk is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs that are needed. This backlog will be dealt with via a separate contractor allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs. We're putting £1.6m of additional funds towards accelerating repairs and improvements in our council homes</p> <p>We are also investing heavily in the repairs and maintenance service for our Council stock. We have engaged external partners to monitor our service moving forward.</p>
<p>Homelessness strategy</p>	<p>District Councils have duties with respect to homelessness and rough sleeping. It is our ambition that rough sleeping is rare, brief and non-recurring and that homelessness is routinely prevented through early upstream intervention.</p> <p>We are carrying out a general review of our service which will be validated by Shelter to ensure we offer the best service possible.</p> <p>To combat homelessness and rough sleeping the Council uses its own temporary accommodation, in so doing we don't incur additional costs faced by other authorities.</p>
	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council's consultation seeking resident feedback on the planned priorities for the District has now closed and the results are being analysed.</p>
<p>Norwich to Tilbury Project Update Dec 2023</p>	<p>“The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero has recently announced funding for three offshore projects to consider if they could deliver a coordinated offshore connection.</p> <p>A consortium of Sea Link, North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm will now undertake a series of studies and assessments to determine the feasibility, challenges and solutions to enable a co-ordinated offshore connection.</p> <p>At the same time, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), which is responsible for identifying future network requirements, is carrying out a study to assess the potential options for Norwich to Tilbury and other proposed network reinforcements across East Anglia, following the outcome of the OCSS awards.</p> <p>Once this is published we will back-check and review our proposals for Norwich to Tilbury and present our conclusions at the next stage of consultation. Any coordination of the offshore project would still require a connection for the power to come onshore at some point. And it would not take away the primary need for Norwich to Tilbury to upgrade the transmission network in East Anglia to connect new sources of renewable energy, including offshore wind projects connecting into Norfolk.</p> <p>The consortium members are continuing to develop their onshore DCO proposals in parallel with the coordination studies. Until we know the outcome of those studies, it is important that we continue to develop our proposals for Norwich to Tilbury to meet our statutory duties and responsibilities to deliver the new renewable sources of energy to homes and business across the UK.”</p> <p>Next stage of consultation March 2024</p>
<p>Who is responsible for rivers, drains and ditches?</p>	<p>Main rivers are the responsibility of the Environment Agency, and applications to work on main rivers must be submitted to them. You can use this map: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=17cd53dfc524433980cc333726a56386 to find out whether or not the application in question is on a main watercourse.</p>

	<p>The responsibility to manage flood risk from ordinary watercourses (streams and ditches, etc) in Suffolk rests with Suffolk County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Therefore, anyone who intends to carry out works in, over, under or near an ordinary watercourse in Suffolk must contact us to obtain Land Drainage Consent before starting the work. If a river, stream or ditch runs next to or through your land or property you are a 'riparian owner'.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has created a guidance booklet that explains everything a riparian owner needs to know. You can also find supplementary information on other key facts and relevant legislation. Link here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/maintenance-of-ditches-and-other-watercourses/riparian-ownership-in-suffolk</p>
<p>Community Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Community Emergency Planning is about people understanding local risks and knowing what resources they have available to help minimise the impact of an emergency on their community. Emergencies can take many forms, from house fires through to flooding or widespread power outages.</p> <p>Experience shows that those who are prepared cope better during an emergency. Communities with local knowledge, enthusiasm and information are a great asset and a Community Emergency Plan can help.</p> <p>Across Suffolk there are many community groups, towns, parishes, and wards who have produced a plan making their community better prepared to respond and recover from incidents that may happen in their area.</p> <p>County, district, and borough councils all have Emergency Planning Officers who together plan and prepare for emergencies in their areas and can support communities to prepare their own emergency plans.</p> <p>Prepare your community - Suffolk Resilience Forum (suffolkprepared.co.uk)</p>
<p>Flood Risk Management Sub Committee Wednesday 13-12-2023</p>	<p>Report from Cllr Patchett</p> <p>"Today I attended a special meeting of the Flood Risk Management Sub Committee solely based on Storm Babet. There were 33 attendees from all over Suffolk and we also had a rep from the Environment Agency (EA).</p> <p>There are a whole host of section 19 flood reports that SCC need to get through, they have recruited extra staff to deal with this and other issues that have ongoing. Once all of the reporting has been collated there will be local mapping of flooded areas, this answers Teresa's question on new EA flood maps.</p> <p>There have been a number of stop work orders imposed on developers who did not have appropriate Construction Surface Water Management plans. Think large temporary balancing pond, above ground with built up mud walls.</p> <p>The 5K flood resilience grant is still awaiting the finer details, but it is my understanding that this is fresh money and will still be accessible to people (like myself) who are imminently due to have flood measures put in. For example I am having flood doors and non-return valves fitted to my house, but I should still be able to claim the 5K to help towards building my new flood wall.</p> <p>Houses that are flooded due to run off from fields. If the field has existing ditches, streams, water courses we CAN enforce the landowner to clear and maintain them. If, however, the field has no water courses but is flooding houses we CANNOT enforce the land owner to put in preventative measures. There may be a way around this, once we have consolidated all of the reports there will be a large body of work done and many in-depth reports written spilling off from these reports will be recommendations, some of these recommendations may be that new ditches need to be put in, in certain areas.</p> <p>Debenham. The town was assessed in 2014 to be, on the whole, not at risk other than certain properties. A total of 10 houses took up the offer in Oct/Nov of free flood resilience measures which should be installed</p>

	<p>in early 24, an unlisted amount turned down the offer. The decliners have now been asked again if they want the measures. Hopefully this time they do not agree to decline!</p> <p>Late flood alert messages. I brought up that a number of Mid-Suffolk residents (myself included) had received flood alert texts very late, I was up to my knees when my text came through at 1930 on the Friday. The rep from the EA was not surprised at this, they are hoping to make some changes to avoid late alerts in the future."</p>
Suffolk Waste Partnership	<p>The Suffolk Waste Partnership regularly produces a newsletter which is emailed to approx. 70,000 countywide subscribers. It's a great way to get information on our current campaigns, news and general waste and recycling services to local people. As such, please find linked below the Winter edition which has been sent our subscribers today. It covers a range of issues including lots of Christmas waste and recycling tips, glass recycling, the safe disposal of electricals and batteries and the redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre. The newsletter can be found here –</p> <p>https://mailchi.mp/suffolk/suffolk-recycles-winter-newsletter</p> <p>If you'd like to sign up to receive future copies directly, please follow this link - https://us15.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=74a59cddf679bd70d8b9dfdc9&id=60f77be5e4</p>
Locality Award	<p>A reminder that this year's locality awards are still open for applications. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact me for an application form.</p>

Cllr. Rowland Warboys

Chair Mid Suffolk District Council 2023/24 (Green Party)

Gislingham Ward

Email: rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Storms - Useful numbers

Powercut - call 105 or go to www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut

[Report Flooding in your property](#)

[Report other types of flooding](#)

Damaged power lines – please stay away and call 105. If there is an immediate risk to safety, please also call 999.

Fallen or overhanging trees – if there is an immediate danger, please call Suffolk Highways on 0345 606 6171. If not, you can report fallen trees or debris on the road at <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>

For updates on the Orwell Bridge, please go to www.trafficengland.com or www.twitter.com/highwayseast

[Report a blocked drain](#) to Suffolk County Council.

If your water supply has been affected, please call Essex & Suffolk Water on 0345 782 0999.

If your property has been affected by sewage flooding or there is a sewerage issue, please [report to Anglian Water](#) or call their 24-hour emergency number: 03457 145 145

Floodline Telephone: 0345 988 1188 or visit [GOV.UK flood alerts](#) for more information.

Dangerous structures please contact customer services on 0300 1234 000 option 5 or out of hours call 0808 168 7794

