

# MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Jane Challis

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2024 @ 6:30PM IN ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, MELLIS.

**Present:** Cllr L Read, Cllr A Cross, Cllr Farley, Cllr Lockett  
Clerk – J Challis, CC Cllr Fleming, CC Cllr Warboys

**Apologies:** Cllr Paterson

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

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

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 are a true and correct record**

The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved unanimously.

### **5 Report from County Councillor**

No written report received.

### **6 Report from District Councillor**

DC Cllr Warboys read highlights from his report which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

6:47pm CC Cllr Fleming arrived.

DC Cllr Warboys said that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have written their joint draft response to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury consultation, which will be submitted prior to the deadline on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July. The Councils are calling for a pause to the scheme to allow alternatives to be fully considered and consulted upon.

Cllr Read thanked DC Cllr Warboys for his report and proposed retuning to agenda item 5; approved unanimously.

(5 Report from County Councillor)

Norwich to Tilbury consultation: CC Cllr Fleming highlighted the Hiorn Report, commissioned jointly by Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex County Councils, which found that the need for additional transmission capacity is more likely to be closer to 2034/35 than National Grid's programme delivery date of 2030.

CC Cllr Fleming noted that speeding and traffic concerns are an agenda item, and that a site meeting is due to be held with Joshua White from Suffolk Highways on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Fleming is unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, but will follow up with councillors at the next parish council meeting.

Cllr Read thanked Cllr Fleming, who then left the meeting at 7:30pm.

## **7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)**

No members of the public present.

## **8 Chair's Report**

- Cllr Read thanked Cllr Farley for her hard work towards the recent D-Day 80 Anniversary and Mellis Garden official opening events, (Cllr Farley was absent from the last meeting when Cllr Read thanked councillors and the Clerk).

Cllr Read proposed moving to agenda item 14; approved unanimously.

- (14 To discuss Memorial Hall car park maintenance quotations)  
Cllr Read said he has still only received 1 quotation for the Memorial Hall car park, despite approaching 4 contractors. There was a discussion on whether to look at repairing the track and not the parking area due to the cost. Cllr Cross said he feels it would be better to look at funding options to enable the whole area to be repaired. It was agreed that clarification is needed regarding the legal implications of the access track which runs through the car park.

**ACTION – Clerk to look at the deeds/Land Registry documents to confirm legal status of access track. Clerk to also look at funding options, including the new Progress Power Community Benefit Fund.**

## **9 Clerk/RFO's Report**

- Concerns have been received from residents regarding the welfare/safety of ponies grazing the common, and the damage/resulting restricted access to the common. After discussing, it was agreed for the Clerk to write to the landowners to make sure they are aware of these concerns.
- MSDC Street Naming and Numbering Department have advised that the developer of the Granary Workshop site, has proposed the development be called Railway Mews. Councillors confirmed they have no objection to this name.

## **10 National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Statutory response**

The statutory consultation is open until 11:59pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Full details can be found on National Grid's website: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure/projects/norwich-to-tilbury>

Following the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 meeting when councillors confirmed unanimously that they continue to strongly object to National Grid's proposals, the Clerk has prepared a draft response which was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

After discussing, Cllr Cross asked if the total area of land to be included in the proposed route could be included, if known. The Clerk will also add more detail regarding the impact on Dam Lane and Furze Way.

The draft response was unanimously approved, taking the above additions into account, and the final version can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

**ACTION – Clerk to submit submission by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 deadline.**

## **11 Planning**

**To consider - none**

**To Receive an Update on:**

- DC/24/02322 – Application to amend working hours to include Saturday-Sunday 7:00-19:00. National Grid Yaxley 400kV Substation, Leys Lane, Yaxley, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8DX – **AWAITING DECISION.**
- DC/24/01862 – Full Planning Application – Construction of open-sided agricultural building. West End Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8EF – **REFUSED.**
- DC/23/05647 – Approval of details reserved by Requirement 16 (Construction Hours) pursuant to the Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015. Progress Power Ltd, Potash Lane, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HE – **AWAITING DECISION.**

## **12 Tree Warden’s Report**

No report.

## **13 Footpath Wardens’ Report**

Cllr Farley reported that there is still quite a lot of dog waste on the footpaths, which will be discussed further under agenda item 17. Apart from that, the footpaths are generally in good order and clear. Quite a few have recently been cut; Cllr Farley will cross reference them against the cutting list received from Suffolk County Council.

## **14 To discuss Memorial Hall car park maintenance quotations**

Discussed above.

## **15 Speeding and traffic concerns within Mellis, including updated VAS quotations**

A site meeting has been arranged with Joshua White from Suffolk Highways, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024, to look at locations for the VAS device and village gateways, as well as other options to address the speeding and traffic concerns. The meeting will be attended by Cllr Luckett and the Clerk.

## **16 Mellis Garden (Newsteads Land) update, and approval of commemorative bench**

Cllr Read suggested that the garden is nearing the point where it is ready for residents to take on more ongoing responsibility.

Cllr Cross said he has mown the grass paths 4 times recently, and there is an ongoing maintenance requirement to prevent it becoming overgrown.

After discussing, it was agreed to approach local contractors for quotations to cut the grass and carry out any necessary annual maintenance, with a view to including this as item in the budget 2025/26.

Cllr Cross has not received the design proof or quotation for the commemorative bench yet. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

**ACTION – Cllr Read and Cllr Cross as above.**

## 17 Approval of new dog bin quotations and locations

Cllr Cross reported that a local farmer has recently lost 4 calves to neosporosis, which is transmitted to cows by ingestion of infected dog or fox faeces. Cllr Cross has been made aware by a resident, who is concerned that walkers are not picking up after their dogs on and around the common. The area of common where the cows are grazing, is owned by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The resident has contacted SWT and included Cllr Cross in the correspondence. SWT have agreed to purchase either 2 large 35 litre dog bins, or 3 smaller 25 litre bins, plus fixings, if the parish council agrees to pay the ongoing emptying cost to MSDC.

After discussing, it was agreed unanimously to approve the ongoing emptying cost for three new smaller dog bins, at the following locations around the area of common where the cows graze:

- 1) Corner of Rectory Road/Mellis Road toward Gislingham
- 2) The end of Cowpasture Lane
- 3) The bridleway at Cavalry Barn

The Clerk will seek approval from MSDC for these locations, and then liaise with Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding purchase of the bins.

Councillors agreed to see if these new locations address the overall issue, before looking at additional bins for other locations discussed previously.

**ACTION – Clerk as above**

## 18 Phone box stained glass repair quotations, and relocation of defibrillator

Deferred.

## 19 Consideration of a Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Read sent notes from the recent SALC online Neighbourhood Planning training session he attended, which was conducted by Birketts, along with a link to the relevant section of the GOV.UK website, which explains the neighbourhood planning system introduced by the Localism Act, including key stages and considerations required: [Neighbourhood planning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk).

After discussing, Cllr cross proposed that until any new information is received, the council does not proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan. Seconded by Cllr Read, with 2 abstentions. No majority vote so motion not carried.

## 20 To approve Internal Audit comments 2023/24

Deferred.

## 21 Finance

A list of payments and receipts, expenditure against the budget, and bank reconciliation to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

### i) Confirmation of Barclays bank account balance

The Barclays bank account balance as of **24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - £30,945.06**

### ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin July	£397.46
2	J. Challis	Expenses – mileage June meeting	£5.94
3	L. Curtis	Bus shelter cleaning	£18.00
4	Memorial Hall	Rural Coffee Caravan July meeting	£20.00

Cllr Cross proposed approval of all payments above; seconded by Cllr Farley and approved unanimously.

**ACTION**

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

**22 'In Camera'**

This item was discussed in camera due to its sensitive nature.

**23 Matters for future consideration**

- Wellhead Project
- Traffic/speeding concerns within Mellis
- Phone box-stained glass repairs & location of defibrillator
- Memorial Hall car park maintenance
- Digitisation of the History of Mellis

**24 The date of the meeting is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 6:30pm in Mellis Memorial Hall.**

Meeting close at 9:03pm.

**District Councillor’s Report: Gislingham Ward**

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

**July 2024**

General Election	<p>On Thursday, 4 July, hundreds of Babergh and Mid Suffolk staff helped make democracy happen by manning polling stations, counting ballot papers overnight and everything in between. The results for the three constituencies counted by the councils are now available on the councils’ websites.</p> <p>Huggins, Scott Francis Reform UK 7779  Padda, Gurpreet Labour Party 4621  Ramsay, Adrian Philip The Green Party 20467 (E)  Rout, Richard Raydon The Conservative Party Candidate 14873  Severyn, Maya Kosinska Social Democratic Party 118 Shreeve,  John Richard Liberal Democrats 1214</p> <p>MP for the Waveney Valley Constituency: Adrian Ramsey</p> <p>First surgeries Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July Halesworth and Stowupland for an appointment telephone <a href="mailto:adrian@waveneyvalley.greenparty.org.uk">adrian@waveneyvalley.greenparty.org.uk</a> or telephone +44(0) 7534933356</p>
Economic Lands needs assessment report	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk have now published an Economic Land Needs Assessment document, In doing this it determines the future employment land requirements in the Districts to support the identified growth for 2023 to 2037, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The document can be viewed at <a href="#">babergh-and-mid-suffolk-economic-land-needs-assessment-report-june-2024</a>.</p>
Stowmarket Town Gateway Fund	<p>£1.5million fund to enhance Stowmarket town centre The Stowmarket Town Centre Gateway Fund would be made possible thanks to the council’s income from its investment in the Gateway 14 business park on the edge of the town.</p>
Gateway 14	<p>Funding of £18.8m has been agreed to create a Skills &amp; Innovation Centre at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket – the latest development there to support business, create jobs, and boost the local economy.</p>
Crucial Crew	<p>Pupils from both Woolpit and Elmswell primary schools attended the Crucial Crew sessions held at The Mix in Stowmarket in June to learn about keeping safe. The programme of interactive sessions includes fire safety, internet safety and road safety give children useful advice.</p>
Council meeting	<p>The scheduled Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June was cancelled due to the forthcoming election and has been re-scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> July.</p>
Annual Council meeting	<p>The Annual Council meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The new Chair is Cllr Dan Pratt and his chosen charity for the forthcoming year will be The Food Museum in Stowmarket. Cllr Keith Scarff was appointed as Vice Chair. There were very few other changes to committees.</p>
Norwich to Tilbury (Pylons) update	<p>Draft response from MSDC was discussed in cabinet Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and will come before council 25<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>An exert from the draft:</p> <p><i>“The councils believe that a pause to the scheme is necessary to enable alternatives to be fully considered and consulted upon and that this rational delay would be more likely to enable delivery of the objectives of this and other projects in the region whilst minimizing the impacts of such developments on the districts’ communities and environment.</i></p>

	<i>However, in the intervening period, and in response to the statutory consultation, it is valuable to engage with the proposed plans as they are set out, and seek to minimise the impacts of the development on the communities and environments of the districts whilst maximising the opportunities for benefits that the districts and wider eastern region may realise as a result of the development.”</i>
Community Infrastructure Levy payout	The Neighbourhood CIL payout of over £500k was distributed last month. The Neighbourhood CIL funds are for parishes to spend on infrastructure within their parishes, but they are still able to apply for further funds from the developer contribution. The next bid round for applications to the district for CIL funds opened on 31 <sup>st</sup> May. The decisions will be taken to the Cabinet meeting in the autumn.
Swimming pool improvements	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded funding to improve the carbon footprint of the swimming pools. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre received £180k to fund pool covers, and micro filtration units
Food Waste collections from 2026	Funding to begin food waste collections in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed. The service will launch in 2026 as part of a national requirement from central government. There is approximately £250k shortfall in the funding allocated from central government. The plan will be for every household to receive a new 23-litre food waste bin, as well as a smaller 5-litre caddy for use in the kitchen. The food waste will be collected on a weekly basis. This will present challenges for the depot at Creeting and a new site is being investigated.
Community Fun Days An invitation to ‘fun days’ across the districts	Community Fun Days are coming to Babergh and Mid Suffolk this summer, giving people the opportunity to come together and have fun during the school holidays. Mid Suffolk events (from 10am to 2pm): · Friday, 26th July at Stradbroke Playing Field & Community Centre, Wilby Road, Eye IP21 5JN · Monday, 29th July at Stowmarket Recreation Ground, Recreation Road , Stowmarket, IP14 1JT · Monday, 12th August at New Green Community Centre, New Green Avenue, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 3TG UK
Locality Awards	Applications for this year’s Locality Awards grants are reopened: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards</a>

**Cllr. Rowland Warboys**

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