

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING of MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 24th JULY 2025, AT 6:30PM IN MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr L Read, Cllr A Cross, Cllr N Lockett
Clerk – J Challis

Apologies: Cllr L Farley, Cllr G Paterson

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

Cllr Read welcomed everyone to the meeting, and apologies from Cllr Farley and 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.

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th June 2025 are a true and correct record

The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th June 2025 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 Warboys's report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

7 Public Participation Session (10 minutes set aside)

No members of the public present.

8 Chair's Report

- An email has been received from a member of the public regarding HGVs from Bartrums, using the Memorial Hall car park/access track as an area to reverse into when delivering to The Mill. The member of the public contacted Bartrums who apologised and said they have spoken to the driver. Cllr Read asked the Clerk to write to Bartrums regarding the potential damage caused to the Memorial Hall car park/access track by this, requesting a contribution towards repairs and asking them to cease using it.

- Cllr Read has emailed Andrew Moore from Highways re installation of the VAS device posts, but has not yet received a reply.
- The first meeting of EcoPower Suffolk's Community Liaison Group is due to be held online via Teams at 3pm on the 30th July. Cllr Read will attend the meeting and report back at the next meeting. Cllr Luckett is unable to attend.
- A resident has reported a notice notifying that 3 x 9m broadband poles are to be installed on Yaxley Road. The Clerk has acknowledged the resident's email, and advised that planning applications of this nature are classed as permitted development and are not received by the parish council for comment.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

- As already reported by Cllr Read a resident has emailed in relation to HGVs using the Memorial Hall car park/access track to reverse into when delivering to The Mill.
- A resident has kindly cleaned the directional signs outside the Church, and asked if the council can look at organising a clean up of other village signage. This is a separate agenda item.
- The first monthly article has been submitted to the editor of the Messenger, following a draft being prepared by Cllr Luckett, and email approval from councillors. The editor has asked for the articles to be submitted by the 10th of each month going forward.
- MSDC has advised that the Pride in Your Place funding application for the restoration work to the phone box has been successful. A formal offer letter is due to be sent out in the next few days, following which the Clerk will arrange for the work to proceed.
- MSDC CIL rate consultation: no response was submitted.
- SALC have confirmed that the LGA pay award for 2025/26 has been agreed at 3.2%, back-dated to the 1st April 2025. The back dated amount will be included with next month's payroll.
- A site meeting has been arranged with Andrew Moore from Suffolk Highways at 10am on the 7th of August, to look the viability of the requested footpath from Yaxley to Mellis, signage, and other traffic/speeding concerns in the parish.
- No response from Regener8 Power to an update request on their Red House Farm and Stone Cottages proposals. The TCPA applications were due to be submitted around the 17th of June.
- MSDC have advised that the Government has withdrawn funding for Neighbourhood Development Plan Preparation. In addition, the technical support packages that were delivered by AECOM are no longer available. BMSDCs' are currently exploring alternative funding options.
- Cllr Luckett attended a 'Wildlife in Your Community' course run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, which focused on Neighbourhood Planning and Biodiversity. Cllr Luckett has shared some information with councillors, and it will be a future agenda item to consider the creation of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Mellis.

10 Suffolk Devolution and Local Government restructuring update

Councillors reported that they have received campaign leaflets from Suffolk County Council in relation to their Alice in Wonderland/Mad Hatter themed 'One Suffolk' proposal for a single unitary council. Councillors felt the campaign to be very inappropriate and a gross misuse of public money. It is also extremely misleading and lacking transparency as the campaign information does not make it clear that it is Suffolk County Council run. It was agreed unanimously for the Clerk to formally respond to the campaign on behalf of the Parish Council with this feedback.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

11 To consider acknowledgement/commemoration of Roger Deakin

Cllr Read updated to say that a National Blue Plaque must be visible from the road, and attached to the relevant building. Cllr Cross said he has discovered that the relative of Roger Deakin he was going to approach, is not actually related, but was friends with his son. After discussing councillors felt that an alternative type of plaque located on Cow Pasture Lane, which

Roger Deakin is associated with, would be most appropriate. Cllr Read will look at alternative types of plaques.

ACTION – Cllr Read as above.

12 Installation of footpath from Mellis to Yaxley update

A meeting with Andrew Moore from Suffolk Highways is due to be held on the 7th of August to assess the viability of this. Cllr Read and Cllr Lockett agreed to attend the meeting with the Clerk.

ACTION – Cllr Read, Cllr Lockett, Clerk, as above.

13 Planning

To consider: None.

To receive an Update on:

- DC/24/05535 - Full Planning Application - Erection of a Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure including access, drainage, landscaping and other incidental works. Land South of Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Castleton Way, Yaxley, Suffolk, IP23 8AW - **GRANTED.**
- DC/25/02216 – Full Planning Application – Construction of open-sided agricultural building. West End Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, IP23 8EF – **AWAITING DECISION.**
- DC/25/02215 – Full Planning Application – Construction of open-sided agricultural building. West End Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, IP23 8EF – **AWAITING DECISION.**
- DC/25/02355 – Application for Listed Building Consent – Removal of cement render and replacement with lime render. Hall Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, IP23 8EF – **GRANTED.**
- DC/22/00416 – Application for Outline Planning Permission (All matters reserved) – Erection of petrol and electric charging facility with associated shop; roadside restaurant with drive through facility; E(g) (formerly B1) and B8 starter units; HGV lorry parking facility for rest area and drivers’ facilities as a phased development. Land Adjacent North Roundabout A140, Ipswich Road, Brome Part in the Parish of Thrandeston, IP23 8AW – **AWAITING DECISION.**

14 Tree Warden’s Report

No report.

15 Footpath Wardens’ Report

No report.

16 Memorial Hall Car Park Update

The funding application to the Progress Power Community Benefit fund for the work to the car park has been submitted, but will be deferred for consideration in the October round, due to the Clerk needing to include full details of the two comparable quotations obtained for the work. Cllr Read provided copies of these which the Clerk will forward to MSDC.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

17 To discuss ongoing speeding and traffic concerns in the village, including quotations for village gateways

As already reported, a meeting is due to be held with Andrew Moore from Highways on the 7th August, to look at the council’s concerns, in addition to the requested footpath from Mellis to Yaxley.

Andrew Moore has provided contact details for the department responsible for installation of the VAS device within SCC, and the Clerk has contacted them to ask if they are able to help with installation of the posts in the four approved locations. Awaiting their reply.

Cllr Read has reported that only three sets of posts were delivered with the VAS device. Upon checking, only three were ordered because it was assumed that one set was included with the

device itself. Cllr Lockett proposed expenditure up to £200.00 for an additional set of posts. Seconded by Cllr Cross and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange purchase/delivery of additional set of VAS posts, and pursue installation with Suffolk County Council.

18 Village signage

Signage in need of repairs/replacement will be discussed during the meeting with Andrew Moore from Highways. An audit will also be carried out to identify signage in need of cleaning.

19 Mellis Garden update

Deferred.

20 Consideration of a Parish Meeting to discuss energy projects and other village concerns

Councillors noted that Ed King from the River Waveney Trust has booked the Memorial Hall on the 23rd of October, and it was agreed to speak with Ed to see if the Parish Meeting could be combined with this. Once confirmed the details will be published in the next edition of the Messenger. Cllr Lockett volunteered to speak to Ed King, and asked the Clerk to forward his contact details.

ACTION – Cllr Lockett/Clerk as above.

21 Finance

i) A list of payments and receipts, expenditure against the budget, and bank reconciliation to 24th May was sent to councillors. Barclays bank account balance as of 24th June 2025 - **£27,976.20.**

ii) Review and authorisation of payments presented:

1	J. Challis	Clerk Admin July	£475.20
2	J. Challis	Expenses - mileage	£5.94
3	Memorial Hall	Rural Coffee Caravan July hire	£20.00
4	Memorial Hall	July PC hire	£30.00
5	L. Curtis	Bus shelter cleaning	£20.00
6	C. Beecroft	Grass cutting	£48.00

Cllr Cross proposed approval of all payments above, seconded by Cllr Lockett and approved unanimously.

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

22 Matters for future consideration

- Digitisation of the History of Mellis
- Printing of more Common leaflets for new residents
- Electric vehicle charging points outside the Memorial Hall
- Consideration of a Neighbourhood Plan
- Mellis Biodiversity Action Plan

23 The date of the next meeting is Thursday 21st August 2025 at 6:30pm in Mellis Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.

