

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE PARK MEETING ROOM
At 7.30 pm ON 15th September 2016**

Present: Cllrs Lowings (Chairman), Bennett, Crummett, Dimoglou,
Goldsmith and Myhill.

In attendance Mrs K Wilson (Clerk) and 22 members of the public

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Cllr Harvey

2. **To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests and disclosable pecuniary interests and requests for dispensations from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

Cllr Dimoglou declared an interest in items 11 and 16 but agreed to leave when items 8 and 9 were discussed if required.

3. **To hold a public session.**

A member of the public asked for an explanation in respect of the company known as Breckland Bridge and Mr Dimoglou's directorship of the same and whether it would have any impact on local planning applications. Cllr Claussen answered on behalf of Mr Dimoglou to explained why the company was formed and that because Cllr Dimoglou was a member of the cabinet he would automatically be appointed as a director. As Breckland owned no land in Yaxham there was no chance that Cllr Dimoglou's appointment would have any effect on local planning matters.

A local resident raised the issue of Priors Field and stated that Cllr Dimoglou had constructed a lodge on the site without planning permission as well as a static caravan at Yaxham Waters. He also questioned valid planning permission for the extension of the cafe and noted that a number of planning conditions had not been met. Cllr Dimoglou stated that he was in discussion with enforcement with regard to Priors Field.

A member of the public requested a progress report into the various complaints submitted to standards at Breckland in respect of Cllr Dimoglou and it was agreed the clerk would request an update from standards.

A member of the NP4Y Working Group reported further to the draft minutes of the 21st July 2016 meeting, Item 3, NP4Y had investigated the Breckland Local Plan proposed development numbers for Yaxham. Breckland has increased the number designated for Yaxham from 52 in the January consultation to 74 for the new consultation starting on 19th September, because of Breckland's designation of Yaxham as a Local Service Centre (LSC). Which is the reason for the newly proposed development site at the eastern end of Yaxham village, unless we stop Yaxham being an LSC.

A member of the public challenged Cllr Dimoglou for not declaring his pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 8 & 9. As regards Item 9 "Updates on LSC status", Cllr Dimoglou was required to leave the Breckland Cabinet Meeting on 30th August 2016 when the Local Plan consultation was discussed "due to owning land" that had been put forward in the Local Plan. If Cllr Dimoglou had an interest at that meeting then he has an interest in this meeting. As to Item 8 this is the Neighbourhood Plan and is in two parts a) is just a report for no decision, whereas b) is a decision on settling of NP4Yaxham invoices. Since Cllr Dimoglou has had his responsibility, as the Breckland Executive Finance Member, withdrawn for NP4Yaxham it would seem inappropriate for him to remain in the room for this item.

In response Cllr Dimoglou repeated that he did not believe he had an interest in Items 8 and 9, but if the Chair wished him to leave for those items then he would do so, which the Chair agreed and accepted.

A member of the public suggested that for Item 18. General council compliance issues, the council should consider reviewing its Standing Orders as a number have been rendered out of date by changes in the law, such as members of the public can now record or video council proceedings without requiring the council's permission. The council may wish to consider whether it is acceptable for a Cllr to secretly record a meeting without his colleagues' knowledge.

Cllr Dimoglou said in the public session that the public was using the Parish Council as a puppet and if they have issues relating to his site, they should deal with him direct.

Bob Gust from the YVAA asked to read out a letter regarding recent issues and misunderstandings in an effort to clarify/rectify. He agreed to send an electronic copy of the letter which can then be circulated to all the councillors for comment.

The public session closed at 8.15

4. **To receive matters of interest from the District/County Councillor**
There was nothing to report by the District Councillor
5. **To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16th June 2016.**
Cllr Dimoglou asked for the minutes to be amended to say 'inappropriate behaviour' rather than 'unacceptable behaviour'.
6. **To discuss planning matters**
The planning application at Homefield (3PL/2016/0868/O) was discussed at length and the Council voted overwhelmingly to reject the application for a number of reasons:-

It was felt that there are enough houses in the village and these will add further to the already considerable congestion at the Tesco roundabout.

It was felt that there were too many units for the size of plot - 10 houses on this land would significantly change the landscape entering the village. The site was deemed unsuitable by Breckland previously when put forward in the local plan.

Parishioners wish to see this piece of land retained as a 'green barrier' between the village and Dereham.

No sewerage is connected and the existing issues with sewerage in the area is well documented.

It was felt that the access to the properties was in a particularly inappropriate spot as vehicles do speed along here despite the 30mph speed restriction. In fact traffic officers use this place to monitor traffic speed and speeds of up to 56mph have been recorded.

Flooding is also a major concern – several nearby properties in adjoining Cutthroat Lane flood when there is heavy rainfall and by reducing the permeable surface, this problem will be exacerbated for those residents.

The surface water does not run off that side of the road but the opposite side further adding to the flood problem.

The footpath shown on the plan is non viable as there is a narrow point where a private driveway prevents the installation of the footpath – this means that any pedestrians will be forced to cross the busy B1135 road to use the footpath on the other side. This was deemed to be an unacceptably high risk with speeding traffic on a bend.

It was also of concern that the site was not accessed from a service road but by 10 individual driveways adding to risk of accident and also increasing the non permeable surface area.

Re: Planning application 3PL/2016/0749 Quines Farm was voted on at the previous meeting with the majority of the Parish Council against .

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8 Item 8. Neighbourhood Plan

8. a) NPlan4Yaxham Vice-Chairman gave the Chairman, Maggie Oechsle, apologies. The report confirmed that the Plan had been submitted on Breckland on 22nd August – the first Parish to do so in Breckland. Breckland's consultation runs from 9th September to 21st October. The Plan and responses will be sent to the Independent Examiner, who will then report on any changes required to take it to referendum – probably now early in the new year. Thanks were expressed to all involved and particularly Cllr Claussen for his assistance.

8. b) The NPlan4Yaxham Vice-Chairman gave a report updating the financial position, and presented an invoice for Eastern Office Equipment printing in July and August 2016.

Item 9. To discuss updates on LSC Status

The Chair, Ian Martin and Cllr Claussen briefed the council on recent meetings including the Breckland Cabinet meeting on 30th August, where the Chair, Maggie Oechsle and Cllr Claussen presented to the Cabinet, supported by a large number of villagers. Progress was made, but slow and there would need to be a concerted effort to respond to the Local Consultation opposing Yaxham as an LSC. NP4Yaxham Working Group would get the information out to the village. It was noted that the prominent role of the Chair and the Parish Council is of great importance in this process.

Cllr Claussen left the meeting before the Agenda Item on Yaxham Waters.

Cllr Dimoglou left the room for items 9., 11 Yaxham Waters, 16 Standards, and subsequent items.

10 To discuss financial matters

Payments were approved for the Clerks Hours and renewal of the Yaxham domain name

Payments were approved to Mrs Hubbard for completion of the accounts
A request was made by the clerk for the purchase of a cash book.

11. To discuss Yaxham Waters – sewerage issues and stench

There was a lively discussion regarding the sewerage situation at Yaxham Waters, a subject raised by several members of the public wanting to know when it would be resolved. Concerns over alleged leaking tanks and possible contamination of the River Tud were expressed as well as potential health issues when the tank was being emptied next door to the restaurant. One member of the public stated the stench was so bad inside the cafe she had to leave. Cllr Dimoglou said the delay in the installation of mains drainage was the fault of Anglian Water and he was unable to give a timescale.

12. To discuss Highway Matters

An email had been received from Highways regarding the request for yellow zig-zag lines outside the school. It was not possible to extend these in both directions and after having contacted the school, the school felt to increase the existing restricted parking area would exacerbate problems so did not wish for the current configuration to be altered.

Cllr Myhill said there were a number of areas where trees were overhanging paths making access difficult for wheelchairs/mobility scooters. It was agreed that he would give the addresses of the relevant properties to the clerk who would write to the respective owners. There are two sunken manholes requiring attention which will be reported to Highways.

13. To receive correspondence

There was no correspondence

14. To discuss maintenance of planters and approve payment for water

It was agreed that £20 should be paid for the water supply for the planters.

15. To discuss the acquisition of the lap top and printer from the NALC funding.

It was agreed that the clerk should proceed with the purchase of a lap top and printer.

16. To discuss the position with Standards with regard to Cllr Dimoglou

It was agreed that in the light of the inaction by Breckland Standards, it issue should be reported to the Ombudsman. The clerk agreed to send a letter of complaint.

17. To discuss future training options.

The cost of £250 was given for a individual training session at Yaxham. It was agreed that date should be booked for October/November but that the adjoining parishes should be asked to see if the cost could be spread.

18 To discuss general council compliance issues

It was agreed that compliance needed to be updated and it was suggested that help was requested to update these from the NPY4 group.

19. To consider passing a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), that the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

20. To note any items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

It was agreed to put the YVAA letter on the agenda
It was agreed to put Yaxham Waters on the agenda

21. To discuss application for charity funding.

It was agreed that the clerk should email Cllr Dimoglou to suggest calling a meeting of the charity to discuss the application .

22.To confirm the date of the next full meeting:

7:30 pm on Thursday 20th October 2016

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

