



YAXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE JUBILEE PARK MEETING ROOM AT 7.30 pm ON 16 APRIL 2015

Present: Cllrs Lowings (Chairman), Bennett, Crummett, Dimoglou, Faircloth and Harvey.
In attendance Mrs F Needham (Clerk), Cllr Jordan (NCC and Breckland Council) and members of the public

15/54. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Myhill.

15/55. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests/disclosable pecuniary interests and requests for dispensations from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

Cllr Dimoglou declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 15/59b, the Yaxham Waters planning application as the applicant. As the item was information only, Mr Dimoglou did not leave the room for the item.

15/56. To hold a public session.

A member of the public asked whether SAM2 could provide information on numbers of vehicles and speed. The clerk said that the sign was purchased without a data collection device which would have cost extra.

Cllr Faircloth speaking as a member of the public asked for an update on the Community Car Scheme. A bank account has been opened and one person has requested transport. A member of the public spoke about an incident involving a fire at Yaxham Waters on the previous Sunday night and asked what the owner of Yaxham Waters and the police were doing about this incident and asked what residents who had evidence of the incident should do. Cllr Lowings said that he had spoke to the owner who had apologised to all the residents of Priors grove and offered to pay for valleting of their cars, and that it was a civil matter, and not an issue for the Parish Council to get involved in.

A member of the public reported that the loose chippings on Station Road have caused damage to his vehicle and asked if the Parish Council could ask Highways to remove them as soon as possible. The clerk will follow this up.

15/57. To receive matters of interest from the District/County Councillor.

Cllr Jordan said that this would be his last appearance as the District Councillor for Yaxham, having been a District Councillor for 24 years. Cllr Jordan will still be the County Councillor for Yaxham. Cllr Lowing thanked Cllr Jordan on behalf of the PC for all his work for the PC and residents of Yaxham

15/58. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 12 March 2015.

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15/59. To discuss Planning Matters:

- a. **To review any new planning applications.**

3PL/2015/0387/F Mr John Joss – Land adj. Woodbine Stone Road NR19 1RR – Retrospective planning application for retention 3 timber outbuildings/sheds and 1 metal container

It was AGREED to make no objections to this application.

3PL/2015/0131/F Diocese Of Norwich (Director Of Education) – Yaxham Primary School Norwich Road NR19 1RU – To provide a new outdoor artificial surfaced pitch

It was AGREED to support the application.

b. To note any planning decisions.

3PL/2015/0073/F – Mr Cliff Ward – 7 Norwich Road NR19 1RP – Proposed two-storey side extension – Permission

3PL/2014/1162/F - Thpd Properties Ltd - Yaxham Waters Holiday Park Dereham Road NR19 1RF - C/U of Priors Field for stationing of 6 holiday lodges, creation of 2 lakes & improve highway access – Permission

c. Update on planning applications.

Amendments to **3PL/2014/0820/O** – Mr & Mrs William Morfoot- Land off Elm Close - Residential development for up to 45 dwellings

The application was not discussed at the Planning Committee on 13th April but may go to the Committee on 26th May. The clerk read out an email from Mr and Mrs Gillions asking why the Parish Council's comments on the amended application were so different to the comments on the original application. The chairman closed the meeting to allow comments from members of the public present. Members of the public made the following comments: residents of 1 and 5 Elm Close had no communication from Breckland Council about the application. Some residents were under the impression that after the PC agreed its comments in October 2014 to the original application, this was the end of the matter and were not aware the PC would be considering the application again. Some residents said they could not understand why the PC's view had changed from strong objection to agreement in principle to the application.

Parish councillors made the following comments in reply: the original application was for 45 dwellings which the PC felt was too many. The amended application was for an unspecified number of dwellings. The PC felt that the site is suitable in principle for a smaller number of dwellings. If permission is granted, an application will need to be submitted for the detail, including the number of dwellings. If people want to influence the PC's decisions, they need to attend the meeting, or write to the clerk before the meeting, at which an application is considered. Details of planning applications are on the agendas. The PC can only take into account views which are communicated to it. Residents should contact Breckland Council about not being informed of the application as neighbouring residents should be informed. The chairman re-opened the meeting. It was agreed the clerk will speak on behalf of the PC at the planning committee to express the view that the PC does not object but does not want to see a large development on the site.

15/60. To note that the Parish Partnership Scheme bid for 50 % funding for 20 mph signs near the school to NCC has been successful.

The success of the bid was noted: the clerk will complete the paperwork.

15/61. To note that the Spring Clean bid to Breckland Council has been successful.

The bid for plants, compost and preservative for the village planters, and for litter pickers has been agreed.

15/62. To discuss Financial Matters.

a. To approve receipts

Breckland Council – 50% precept	£4850.00
Breckland Council – 50% grant	

To approve payments

F Needham – clerk’s pay April 2015	£275.60
F Needham – clerk’s expenses April 2015	£23.10
Glasdon UK Ltd – dog waste bin	£260.50
Norfolk ALC – subscription	£156.98
YVAA – Room hire Apr 14 – Mar 15	£157.50
Geoff Osborne – sound system for public meeting	£100.00

b. To approve bank reconciliations. None

15/63. To receive an update on Highway matters.

a. To receive an update on work reported to Highways

Mr Youngman’s hedge on Station Road has not yet been cut and will soon be causing an obstruction.

The flooding outside Boundary House, Norwich Road, Clint Green has been reported, work to clear out the silted ditch is programmed.

The chevron road sign on Watering Farm bend, and broken sign to the village hall on Norwich Road is broken have been referred to Highways services.

The clerk has given Paul Sellick the contact details of Cllr Faircloth to arrange to meet him to look at the ditch near Field Cottage and drainage problems on Norwich Road.

The clerk has asked Highways to look at the hedges on along the Diocesan land on Cutthroat Lane and if they deem it necessary they will contact the owner.

The clerk reported to Highways the broken kerb on both sides of the road on the Norwich Road corner near the Station Road junction. Highways have replied that no works are planned to amend/replace these kerbs as the kerbs are not posing a hazard to highway users and replacement would involve works which could reduce the structural strength of the road and potentially increase the likelihood of the road surface failing sooner and in turn increase the maintenance liability in the future. The verge behind the kerbs will be reseeded.

Works have been ordered to the collapsed drain outside Beech Farm, Norwich Road. The clerk was asked to report that the drain has been set too low.

b. To note other maintenance work required

The clerk will report the following: the road surface with loose chippings on Station Road from Norwich Road to Priors Grove.

It was agreed the clerk will write to thank Mr Young for his work on the planters and Mrs Young and Monica Mathews for their litter picking work.

15/64. Report back from public meeting on planning issues in villages and rural areas held on Thursday 9th April at Yaxham Village Hall.

The clerk reported that Rev Mark McCaghrey sent his apologies for the meeting. Paul Snowling, Drainage Engineer (Developer Services Drainage East), Anglian Water and Oliver Cruickshank, Communications and Engagement Manager, NHS South Norfolk CCG also sent apologies saying they could not attend in the period before an election, but would be happy to at another time. It was agreed the clerk will invite Paul Snowling and Oliver Cruickshank to meet the PC.

The clerk reported that there have been two emails of thanks to the PC for organising the meeting and one email complaining about the structure of the meeting and subject matter of the questions.

15/65. Update on Breckland Council's Local Plan consultation including possibility of Yaxham being designated as a Local Service Centre.

The clerk reported that Iain Withington's report to the Local Plan Working Group on the Issues and Options Consultation for the Local Plan includes a suggestion that Yaxham become a Local Service Centre. This is because Yaxham has five of the facilities criteria for a Local Service Centre (school, shop, village hall, public transport and employment, and it is being proposed that the threshold number of inhabitants criteria is removed. The implications if Yaxham were designated a Local Service Centre are not known, but it is likely that the parish would have a higher amount of housing development allocated in the Local Plan. It was AGREED to invite Iain Withington to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss this.

15/66. To discuss whether Yaxham should have a Neighbourhood Plan.

The clerk reported on the workshop she attended on Neighbourhood Plans run by NALC. Funding is available, up to £8,000 from DCLG and £4,000 from Breckland Council. Neighbourhood Plans are much more complex than Parish Plans but do have weight in the planning process and have to be taken into account by Breckland Council when making planning decisions. The process includes independent scrutiny of the plan and a referendum before a plan is accepted. It was felt that there is a general wish for Yaxham to have a Neighbourhood Plan, and this will be discussed further in May. Andy Maule has invited councillors and the clerk to attend a Mattishall Matters meeting to what is involved. It was agreed this would be useful: the clerk will contact MM and circulate details.

15/67. To receive correspondence.

1. Norfolk Constabulary Crime Statistics: no crimes in February, 1 crime in March
2. Gary Lake has contacted the clerk to report dog fouling on Jubilee Park. The clerk will investigate using spray paint.

15/66. To receive items for the next agenda.

Siting of defibrillator, dog fouling including on Jubilee Park, to discuss a policy for councillors and the clerk for dealing with communication and issues arising between meetings.

15/67. To decide whether to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on a different date to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (14th May)

It was AGREED to keep to the APM at 6.30 pm to be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The clerk will invite parish organisations.

Parish Council election: The clerk reported that the election is to be contested and there are ten candidates. The Notice of Poll will be displayed on noticeboards. All councillors will retire on Monday 11th May, 2015 and the newly elected councillors will take office on Monday 11th May, 2015. On the 21st May the Monitoring Officer will be holding two briefing sessions at the Breckland Council offices at Elizabeth House, Dereham giving an overview of the Code of Conduct, Standards in general and the completion of the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form. The sessions are open to all councillors and clerks and will run from 4.00pm – 5.00pm and 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

To confirm the date of the next meeting: **Annual Parish Meeting 6:30 pm on Thursday 16th April 2015, to be followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:50 pm.