



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YAXHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE DAVID MYHILL ROOM AT
YAXHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Maggie Oechsle (MO) (Chairman), Peter Lowings (PL), Ben Conway (BC) and Richard Whadcoat (RW)

In attendance: Clerk and 18 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman introduced the Councillors and the Clerk, welcomed everyone and informed them that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bob Gust and Cllr Chris Couves. All approved this.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were given.

4. Public Session

MOP queried the development at the end of Westfield and the Chairman confirmed that Yaxham Parish Council has always put in its concerns including the bridge. The Chairman pointed everyone to the maps showing all the developments that would affect Yaxham including Westfield and Dumpling Green.

The Chairman confirmed that increasing the weight capacity of the existing bridge is not included anywhere. PL explained that original planning permission was given on the basis that the current 291 houses would have a road running through the estate capable of being wide enough for a Tesco lorry to pass through it and go over the bridge. The bridge would therefore need to take the weight of a 40 tonne lorry. It was not known who would bear the cost of this.

The Chairman explained that Yaxham Parish Council is very aware of what goes on in Dumpling Green, Toftwood, and Westfield because of Yaxham's geographical position.

MOP asked what is the timeline on the sites. The Chairman explained that once a site has been assessed to go into the Local Plan the developer or land agent can put in an outline application meaning development can take place. The deadline of 1st December 2022 for sites to be in and a briefing on 20th December 2022 for Councillors before publication of the sites that have been assessed as sustainable. This would then be followed by a public consultation.

A MOP raised the problem of parking at the school and speeding through the village. Austin Clarke from Norfolk Constabulary has visited the school and he feels more can be done. Parents have emailed Cllr Gust and he is collating these to pass onto Austin Clarke. The MOP has come to the meeting to see if the Parish would support this. BC is a Governor at the school and is aware of the issues and had emailed the school to put out a message to say that where parents are parking is dangerous.

BC also said that Cllr Gust was looking into getting zig-zag line road markings. BC to speak to the Yaxham Primary school headteacher to inform her the issue had been raised at the Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman stated that when the issue was raised in the past it had been suggested that the speed watch could be reactivated but no one had volunteered. This could be put to parents again as an option and the police would help with this. A MOP said she had suggested putting bollards out and taking them in again but the headteacher thought it was not an option.

A MOP asked how much of the current Neighbourhood plan would be taken into consideration. The Chairman explained that the Yaxham Neighbourhood plan is still in place but needs to be reviewed and it needs to be led by the community not the Parish Council. There would need to be a community consultation which would need funding. The Parish Council could help with getting the funding on behalf of the community.

A MOP asked if anything is different from the previous plan and the Chairman confirmed that a group would need to review the original plan and decide what needs updating. Design, Climate change and Environment are bigger issues now than they were previously. It was reiterated that volunteers from the local community were needed.

The call for sites is what the Government have told Breckland that they need to do. The new plan needs to be adopted by 2026 and unless policies are in place developers can put houses in as long as they are sustainable.

PL said the Parish Council can give leadership and advice to the community group. The group needs to be ideally 10 to 12 people.

The Chairman asked for suggestions for road names on the new Badger development and these were Martins Close, Bennetts Way and Badley View.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

CC Connolly's regular reports had been circulated.

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18.10.2022.

PL proposed and MO seconded.

6.2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20.10.2022.

PL proposed, BC seconded and all agreed.

6.3. To receive the Clerk's Report on matters since the last meeting.

A letter was written to the resident on Church Lane regarding parking.

The zoom subscription was reinstated.

The telegraph pole on the corner of Cutthroat Lane has been reported to BT.

The drain cover near Yaxham Waters was reported with Highways saying they have assessed the defect and it does not currently meet their intervention criteria. They will continue to monitor.

The drain cover on Norwich Road near Spring Lane was reported. Highways are still investigating.

An email was received from a resident reporting the 30-mph sign coming into Yaxham could no longer be seen and this was reported to Highways. Highways confirmed action is required and have scheduled it for repair in the next 6 weeks.

The Clerk has completed the forms to set up the Unity Trust bank accounts and the forms are now being processed.

The Annual return for Yaxham Parish Charity has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

The meeting dates for 2023 have been set as follows. Subject to change with the new Council in May : -

12th January - Parish Charity and Parish Council
16th February - Parish Council
23rd March - Parish Council
27th April - Annual Parish meeting, Parish Charity and Parish Council
25th May - Parish Council Annual Meeting
22nd June - Parish Council
27th July - Parish Charity and Parish Council
21st September - Parish Council
19th October - Parish Charity and Parish Council
23rd November - Parish Council

The Chairman thanked the Clerk.

6.4. To consider matters arising from minutes of previous meetings not considered elsewhere on this Agenda.

None

7. Planning

7.1. To receive and consider any new planning applications.

3PL/2022/1190/HOU - 30 St Peters Close - **No objection, all agreed**

3PL/2022/0908/VAR - The Old Post Office, Norwich Road - **No objection, all agreed**

7.2. To note any planning responses made since the last meeting.

None

7.3. To note any planning decisions.

None

7.4. Other planning issues.

The Chairman noted that Yaxham Mill is for sale and the appeal is not listed, with no decision as yet.

Tree Preservation Order

The Chairman had asked the Tree Officer at Breckland whether the TPO could be placed on the Oak Trees near the Diocese land. Breckland said they are waiting for a new planning officer to start on 5th December. The Chairman asked if the Councillors wanted the Tree Officer to come and look at the trees. RW raised the issue of needing to be careful of covering a tree which would affect the clearing of the ditches and therefore they needed to be mindful of possible drainage issues in the future. It was agreed to have the Tree Officer come out.

8. Local Plan Review / NP4Yaxham

8.1. Update

Covered in the public session

8.2. Responsibility for updating NP4Yaxham website

The Chairman said they are looking for volunteers.

9. St Peters Close flooding

Anglian Water had informed the Chairman that they had recently removed a bag full of unflushables following recent flooding.

The Chairman informed the meeting she had spoken to Anglian Water and emailed MP George Freeman about flooding. The Chairman felt the problem was joint ownership and suggested that they should look at the cumulative effect of a development, not just the development itself.

10. Recycling centre

There are plans to close recycling centres on Wednesday's and the Chairman said if anyone wanted to give their views about closing on this, they could do so on the NCC website.

11. Parking

11.1 School

BC read out an email he wrote to the school on 28th October and the response from the school saying that parents had been informed via a newsletter. Despite this, concern remains from MOP present as nothing has changed. BC to send another email and copy in Highways and Austin Clarke.

11.2 Church Lane

PL has delivered the letter the Clerk wrote and so far, there has been no change in their parking habits. The Clerk to write a follow up letter and to include the leaflet Bob Gust has received from the Police.

12. Play Area Working Group Report

12.1 To consider the weekly inspection reports and agree any actions arising.

No report provided.

12.2 To receive update on Play area and Annual inspection.

The annual inspection is being carried out on 5th December 2022. There is no news as yet on when the Playground will be installed. Cllr Couves is following this up.

13. Highways and footpath issues

13.1 Footpath between Yaxham and Dereham

The Chairman read out an email received from a resident detailing their concerns. The Chairman informed the meeting that this had been discussed many years ago and the cost would be significantly more now than it was then. Additionally, who would pay for it? - not Highways or the developers. The need to keep a strategic gap between Dereham and Yaxham is also required.

RW suggested a combined footpath and cycle path alongside the railway line. The Councillors felt it was important to have a safe path between Yaxham and Dereham and the railway line was deemed a good option but due to the local plan review they would revisit this at another time in the future.

13.2 To note any other Highways matters needing attention.

RW reported a resident of Well Hill had raised with himself the issue of the verge outside their property disappearing and asked who would be the best person to contact to sort this. RW had pointed them in the direction of Highways but told them would also raise it in the meeting. The Councillors said RW was right and the residents contacting Highways was the correct way to go.

14. Norwich Road bus stop

Highways have given permission for the bus stop sign to go on the traffic sign and no installation is yet set.

15. Finance

15.1. To agree the following items for payment (November)

To Pay	Detail Invoices available for viewing	£ Total	VAT	Ex VAT
CGM	Jubilee Field October	113.65	18.94	94.71
CPRE	Annual membership	36.00	-	36.00
Clerk	Parish online subscription	45.00	7.50	37.50
Clerk	Clerk expenses for November	68.78	6.77	62.01
Clerk	Clerk wages for November	390.50	-	390.50
Katy Marczewski	Rememerance Wreath *	20.00	-	20.00

* Payment to be taken from reserve held on behalf of the Yaxham Woodland Group

All agreed

15.2. To note any receipts

Detail	£ Total	VAT	Ex VAT
Paper Street rent	150.00	-	150.00

All agreed

15.3 To consider and agree the draft 2023/24 budget and precept

The precept and budget had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was decided that there would be no increase in the precept from the previous year.

The precept would be unchanged at £12,000. Proposed by RW, seconded by BC and all agreed.

15.4 Parish Partnership

The Chairman explained that it had to be submitted by 9th December 2022.

The possibility of including something for road markings outside the school following on from point 11.1 to be investigated before submission.

15.5 Grass cutting contracts

BC explained that Cllr Bob Gust and himself met recently with a new contractor recently and Walked around the areas that need maintaining. Both BC and Cllr Bob Gust were happy with their quote. They had had trouble getting other contractors to quote.

The Chairman said they want to be more flexible with the timing of cuts due to climate issues. It was proposed to go with the new contractor under the proviso cuts would be made as necessary during the growing season. All agreed.

The Chairman asked if everyone was happy for her to give Matthew Garner the go ahead to start cutting the hedge at Pinns Corner. All agreed.

16. Correspondence Received since last meeting

Correspondence had been circulated to Cllrs by email from NALC Newsletters, updates from CC Connolly, Rural Bulletin, CAN newsletters, CPRE newsletters, Police updates and general circulars.

17. Urgent Business

The Chairman reminded everyone that the Yaxham Townlands Charity has funds available to help residents who may be in need of financial assistance. Applications forms are available at a number of locations.

18. To note the next meeting dates of the Parish Council

12th January, 16th February and 23rd March.

The Chairman explained that emails and newsletters will be sent out when the consultation for the Local Plan begins after Breckland have met. This will give the public six weeks to comment on the Local Plan.

19. To consider the passing of 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 press be excluded from the rest of this meeting the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information.

20. Clerk annual review

The staffing committee had met to undertake the Clerk's annual review.