



YAXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

April 2021

OUR TRIBUTES TO THE PASSING OF THREE STALWARTS - SEE PAGE 4

Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Council Meetings

REVISED DATES

The April Parish Council and Parish Charity Meetings are now on Thursday 29th April at 6pm over Zoom*

This change is in line with the period of mourning for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Parish Charity meeting will be at 6pm: considering grant applications including for the renovation of the Play Space by the Village Hall.

The Parish Council meeting will be at 6.15pm

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 6th May at 6pm over Zoom*

This is the meeting where the Parish Council presents its annual report & accounts, and other parish organisations report on their past year.

The Parish Council Annual Meeting is on Thursday 6th May at 6.30pm over Zoom*

This is when the Parish Council elects its Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Thursday 22nd July Parish Council meeting is planned to be in the Village

Hall at 7.30pm – meeting face-to face again!

**These meetings are “virtual”, under the Covid-19 Regulations, using “Zoom” over the internet. To attend please email the Clerk for a link – yaxhamparishclerk@gmail.com.*

PLANNING MATTERS

Dumpling Green, Hopkins Homes plans for 255 new houses REFUSED at Appeal!

Yaxham residents, the Parish Council and NP4Yaxham Working Group have been fighting this application since 2010. It was finally refused by Breckland in 2020 – and then Appealed. The Appeal has now been dismissed. After recent disappointments this was a very welcome success. Thank you to all who helped.

Other Planning Matters:

Yaxham Waters Middle Field 3PL/2019/1430/F Revised Application for 17 lodges (6 current + 11 new) rather than the original 28 - **approved**.

The Old Post Office 3PL/2020/0793/O Application to demolish the Old Post Office and build 4 new dwellings – **refused**.

The Old Post Office 3PL/2021/0301/O New application for two x 2 storey dwellings.

Land North of Homefield 3PL/2020/1254/D Reserved matters for six new bungalows on Dereham Road – **approved**.

Elm Close 3PL/2018/0021/D This was refused by Breckland in 2019 and was then appealed. **The Appeal was successful**. The Parish Council considered going for Judicial Review, but on barrister advice did not proceed. This development will now go ahead. The Parish Council is working with Flagship Homes to address the related issues of surface water drainage and sewage issues.

SEE INSIDE FOR PLAY AREA PROPOSALS

Play Space – A New Start!

In 2020 the Yaxham Village Amenities Association (YVAA) trustees did not re-open the play area because of safety concerns. The Parish Council has been working with the YVAA to agree a project to rejuvenate the Play Area and re-open it safely. This has now been agreed.

The Parish Council has set up a Working Group, led by Cllrs Chris Couves and Bob Gust, and is seeking to include volunteers from the community to work with us to make this happen.

The first phase, subject to grant funding, is to re-open safely around the start of the school summer holidays. To do this it is proposed to:

- Replace or refurbish the two sets of swings;
- Refresh/replace the climbing frame and slide;
- Clean, refresh, replace or encapsulate the safety matting;
- Include picnic benches; and
- If funding allows, add an extra piece of equipment such as a see-saw.

If you would like to help and/or have ideas about what is needed, then please contact the Parish Clerk at yaxhamparishclerk@gmail.com.

Further project phases will be subject as always to funding, community consultation and working closely with the YVAA.

Sadly, before the Play Area can be re-opened safely it will remain closed and padlocked. During that time, neither the YVAA or the Parish Council can take responsibility if anyone enters the play area and has an accident.

YAXHAM CARES STILL HERE FOR RESIDENTS!

Set up over a year ago to support vulnerable residents in the parish during the Covid-19 restrictions – it has been a great success. It is now a “Good Neighbour Scheme” to help the elderly and vulnerable in our community. Huge thanks to Louise Dye for stepping forward to be the volunteer coordinator.

If you need help – or if you know of a neighbour that needs help, please call 07765 263389 or email yaxhamcares@gmail.com

Yaxham Cares



Village Hall Re-opening

The Yaxham Village Amenities Association (YVAA) Trustees – who run the Village Hall and Playing Field – plan to reopen on 17th May 2021

The YVAA is now taking bookings over the new online booking system. *For more information see <https://www.yaxhamvillagehall.co.uk> or email yaxhamvh@gmail.com*

Yaxham Community Café is re-opening on 10th June 2021 and a **Craft Fair** on 3rd July. Contact yaxhamcommunity@gmail.com, 07990 725728.

All of course subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

Parochial Church Charities

These are the Townlands and the Fuel Allotments charities. The Trustees have met, elected a new Chairman, Rev. Mark McCaghrey, and is developing proposals for providing grants to the needy in the parish. For more information email: yaxhamparochialcharities@gmail.com

Yaxham Social Club Funds

The Social Club raised significant funds over the years. Since its closure, the Committee has been considering how to disburse the remaining funds. The Parish Charity is hugely appreciative of the £12,000 grant to it. We also understand that the Football Club, and the Evangelical Congregational Church, amongst others, have received similar grants. Our thanks to the Social Club.

FLAGSHIP HOMES

There are 4 major issues that the Parish Council has been working on with Flagship Homes – the biggest developer and homes owner in the Parish. We can report some progress is being made.

Flagship has agreed to reinstate and clear the drainage ditch that runs from St Peter’s Close north towards Cutthroat Lane and the river Tudd. This will be at their expense even though they do not own most of the land through which the ditch passes. This will hopefully help relieve the surface water flooding – and the consequent sewage problems at St Peter’s Close.

For the Elm Close development, Flagship has agreed to re-route the surface water drainage proposals so as to avoid, and not make matters worse, at the Norwich Road/Whinburgh Road junction and sewage pumping station. There are still issues relating to the route for the handling of the sewage from the site, and we are working with Anglian Water and also Highways to see what the best solution for all concerned can be.

Elm Close offsite Highways proposal to narrow the entrance to Church Lane. We have made strong representations to leave the entrance to Church Lane alone as it works. Here's hoping!!

Lastly, after strong representations by the Parish Council, **Flagship has withdrawn its planning application (3PL/2020/1358/F) for the proposed ground-source heat scheme.** The Council does not oppose new green energy initiatives, but this one involved sinking 25 bore-holes up to 110m, taking 6 months of the summer, disrupting the elderly and vulnerable residents of the bungalows on St Peter's Close and those opposite in Elm Close, seriously disrupting the Norwich Road – and would only have provided heating for 16 of the 55 properties in St Peter's Close. And there had been little or no consultation with residents.

We will continue to work closely with Flagship and keep you informed as matters progress.

November Consultation Update

In November we consulted on number of issues – this is where matters currently stand:

- **Clint Green Bus-Shelter** – this is on hold until Highways can provide detailed drawings demonstrating whether the new location is on NCC land or that of the neighbours.
- **Traffic Calming on Norwich Road, Yaxham.** Highways rejected the idea of pinch-points, but support pedestrian refuges in the middle of Norwich Road, either side of the Elm Close entrance. This is included in the Flagship planning permission. When this was consulted on previously, residents were mixed about these refuges, as many considered this to be a greater urbanisation of our village, but also saw the safety argument. We have made it clear that if

these do go ahead that the “Keep Left” signs should have reflectors rather than be lit. There are no street-lights in Yaxham, and no other Highways signs are lit.

Flagship has to pay for these rather than the Parish Council or Highways – and we are told they should help reduce traffic speed – which is a major plus point. Let's see how this develops.

- **Gigabit Broadband.** As we went to print in November, BT Openreach were ahead of us. It appears that residents in Yaxham, Clint Green, Cutthroat Lane and elsewhere now have access to Full Fibre To The Premises (FTTP). There may be a connection fee, but domestic Ultrafast Broadband could then be available. We will be following this closely and welcome any feedback on your experience of connecting to full fibre broadband.

Flooding & Sewage

In addition to the flooding and sewage at St Peter's Close and at the Whinburgh Road junction, many parts of the parish have suffered in the last few months – long term floods on Cutthroat Lane and Well Hill; Paper Street and Spring Lane running like rivers and their respective sewage pumping stations overwhelmed; and flooding in Station Road. We are working with local landowners and farmers, George Freeman MP, Anglian Water, the Flood Authority, Highways, Environment Agency etc together to help our village.

Other News...

- New footpath finger posts, blue-circular walk signs and other improvements have been made throughout the parish. These are Parish Council requests installed by Highways
- New grass cutting contract has been put in place with CGM of Downham Market.
- Potholes – we continue to report these to Highways and many are being dealt with. You can also report these yourself at: <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/default.aspx>.
- Fly-tipping – please report this via Breckland website <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/flytip>

For further information, please email the Parish Clerk on yaxhamparishclerk@gmail.com or go to www.yaxham.com

In a short space of time, we have lost three stalwarts of the parish and
HRH Prince Philip – a true stalwart of the nation and of Her Majesty the Queen.
We paid tribute to David Myhill in the last Newsletter, and here we pay tribute to HRH Prince Philip,
Joan Thurgill and Peter Bennett. We will miss them. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.



It is with deep sadness that the nation and Her Majesty the Queen has lost the stalwart who was
His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Breckland Council's on-line book of condolence for residents to pay their respects

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/prince-phillip-remembrance-book>

For the national book of condolences and more information please see <https://www.royal.uk/>



Joan Thurgill

Joan was born in Yaxham, and went to Yaxham primary school. She and her husband Norman lived and brought up their children, Colin and Jayne, at Petersfield, Church Lane.

Joan was involved in St Peter's Church: as a member of the Parochial Church Council, Sunday School teacher, and organised coffee mornings and events, as well as the flower rota. For years she sold local eggs and produce to raise funds for the Church. She also through many years took the responsibility of opening and closing St Peter's every day – until Covid.

She played an active role in the Mothers Union and Women's Institute – becoming President. She led on Macmillan Coffee Mornings. She was a Parish Councillor and a founder member of the YVAA – working with David Myhill and Peter Bennett and others to help successfully deliver the village dream of a new Village Hall and Playing Field.



Peter Bennett

Peter was a key member of the Yaxham community for many decades. A Pig Farmer and Haulier, Peter was born and lived in Clint Green all his life, where with Barbara they raised their three daughters.

Peter was part of the Yaxham Silver Jubilee Committee in 1977 and following this he along with others formed the YVAA, with the aim to create a Playing Field and Village Hall for the community.

With David Myhill, Peter led in fundraising, building and maintaining the Jubilee Park and the Village Hall – a lasting legacy for the residents of Yaxham.

Peter and David worked together as a great team for 40 years. When they were presented with their long service awards, David was quick to point out that whilst he may have been "Captain" he could not have had a better "first-mate" than Peter.

A Parish Councillor for over 35 years Peter was not daunted by Zoom where he & Barbara attended meetings after he stood down in 2019. His dedication and voluntary services to the village were outstanding and he will be missed by many in the community.

His Funeral is 30th April at 1.30pm, St Peter's Church.