**Minutes of the Meeting of Thrandeston Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at Thrandeston Village Hall.**

# Present:

Councillors Alison Murton, Andrew Colchester, Martin Rickard, David Rose and Andrew Wheeler. District Councillor Tim Weller.

Philip Freeman - Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

* County Councillor Jessica Fleming.

1. To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from members on any agenda item. To consider any requests for dispensations.

* None.

1. Minutes of the previous meetings.

* The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record, proposed by Councillor Colchester and seconded by Councillor Rickard.

1. Matters arising from the minutes:

* The overflow pipe from the pond on Little Green is blocked and it was agreed that the Clerk should approach Mr Matt Bird to clear it. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* The planning status of the new farm shop on Eye Airfield was raised and the Clerk will contact the Planning Department of Mid Suffolk District Council. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.

1. Notification of any urgent business.

* The Clerk will report a potential enforcement issue in the wood behind Flavours Farm. **Action: The Clerk.**

Meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

**Public Forum.**

**Report from District Councillor Tim Weller:**

Additions made in the discussion of the report during the meeting are in red font.

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| Mid Suffolk District Council update | The July MSDC Full Council meeting was held in the Blackbourne Centre in Elmswell. Council Leader Andy Mellen spoke about short term plans. These included holding more Council meetings in the District (to make meetings more accessible to residents), making homes more energy efficient, and working to improve rural transport.  Planning committee meetings also taking place away from Endeavour House, they will be live streamed and available online. |
| Solar farms | Leader Andy Mellen gave a keynote address at the Local Government Association conference at Bournemouth in July. Cllr Mellen suggested the Government should provide a clear National Framework for the development of solar farms – one that balances delivering renewable energy, alongside food production and protecting our valuable landscape.  The plan for solar panels at Palgrave will have a significant impact on the village. There was a discussion of solar panels and its impact on farmland. Currently there have been no approval for solar farms in Mid Suffolk District Council. Solar panels should be part of any development of new buildings. |
| National Grid pylons | National Grid has launched its latest public consultation on plans for the Norfolk to Tilbury high power line, which spans Mid Suffolk District. At the July MSDC Full Council meeting, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Government to object to the scheme, due to its impact on local landscapes and communities. |
| Pride In Your Place awards launched | The cabinet member for Environment, Culture & Wellbeing has launched the Pride In Your Place awards, to support improvements in litter-picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal, and the maintenance/enhancement of open public spaces.  These projects will complement routine grounds and maintenance work already carried out by the Council and partner authorities.  Deadline for applications is 31 October 2023  For further details see: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/) |
| Holiday activities | A range of activities for children and young people were funded by MSDC during the summer holidays. These included the Fun Day in Eye on July 25th. |
| MSDC Community Grants | MSDC has a rolling grants programme to fund activity by community organisations. Forthcoming deadlines:   * **Capital grants** – Up to £10,000 for repairs and improvements to community buildings, play areas etc. Closing date **Sep** **29th, 2023.**   There will be a further opportunity in January and March 2024.   * **Pride In Your Place – Closing date** Oct 31st, 2023 * **Community development grants** – Up to £20,000 for both capital and revenue costs for local initiatives and activities. Closing date Oct 31st, 2023.   For full details see: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-district-council-funding/) |
| Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan | Progress on the D&DNP has moved to Local Referendum stage with the public referendum being held on Thursday 28 September 2023. The question on the ballot paper will be binary: "Do you want South Norfolk Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Diss and District to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’. Details of the referendum and the D&DNP itself are available on both [Mid Suffolk](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-mid-suffolk/diss-and-district-neighbourhood-plan/) and South Norfolk District Council’s websites. |

In addition, there are plans to make homes more energy efficient and this will include loft insulation. Thermal imaging will be available to be used to measure the heat loss of houses.

Report from Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division

**Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Suffolk schools** – Schools known to be affected by RAAC include East Bergholt HS, Hadleigh HS, Claydon HS and Farlingaye HS. If further schools are confirmed as affected these will be announced as soon as possible. Some schools have already had remedial work completed including Thurston Community College, Glade Academy and Newmarket Academy. The topic of school building programmes will be examined at the Educational and Childrens’ Services Scrutiny meeting on Thursday 7th October, and will now include use of RAAC.

**Upgraded Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre Opened at Wattisham –** The centre now has a tactical firefighting facility built on a former cold war missile storage site which uses real fire, and an LPG-fired facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with. The centre was formally declared open at the annual base families’ day on Thursday August 24 by Chief Fire Officer and Colonel Toby R Moore MBE, Station Commander, Wattisham Flying Station.

**Norwich to Tilbury Line Non-statutory Consultation by National Grid** –consultation is now closed; however discussions are ongoing concerning details of the route and areas that warrant undergrounding, particularly in the Upper Waveney Valley. To contact NG phone +44 (0) 800 151 0992, or [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com). If anyone has missed the deadline do continue to share comments with me and with MP Jo Churchill: [jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk)

**Electricity System Operator (ESO) Review** – the review is delayed – refer to Open Letter in link below. This report will be relevant to plans for the Norwich to Tilbury transmission system and others in the region. In the meantime, NG is proceeding with its current plans. Note that ESO is a legally separate organisation within the National Grid group. In 2024, it will transition into the Independent System Operator and Planner – a new organisation which will be owned by Government and wholly independent. Refer to National Grid’s Open Letter of August 2023 in the following link - <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/projects/offshore-coordination-project/east-anglia-study>

**NG’s LionLink Interconnector Line may come to Walberswick –** This National Grid Ventures project has identified a possible landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing to the north of Southwold. The non-statutory consultation on [National Grid Venture’s LionLink project](https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/future-developments/lionlink) will commence on the 8th September 2023 until 3rd November 2023. According to Cllr Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment: *“I'm deeply disappointed that National Grid has chosen to consider such a lengthy and complex cable route. Particularly given the Council’s longstanding position that the array of projects coming forward in Suffolk should be properly coordinated.*

**A140 Potential Improvements** - Residents are being invited to comment on ways to improve road safety and traffic flow on the A140. SCC has identified the Thornham Magna junction, the A1120 Earl Stonham junction, and the A140/B1078 (Coddenham) junction as pinch-point areas that may benefit. Assessments show these junctions may experience increased traffic congestion and safety problems in the future, and they are challenging for active travel and passenger transport.

The council is seeking the public’s feedback to inform future bids for funding from the Department of Transport to improve the junctions. A public survey will run for six weeks, closing on Sunday 15 October. More information and a link to the survey can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/a140](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/a140)

**Aura Solar Farm –** Because this proposal is located alongside the Pace Solar Farm in Palgrave parish, cumulative impacts are a key aspect of assessing local effects. These may be compounded for topics such as for wildlife and landscape/visual resources. Palgrave Parish Council has responded to a Scoping Application for the Pace/ Marsh Lane application and emphasises cumulative impacts with Aura. There may be other solar farm applications or plans in the area to be taken into account. <https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RUURSLSH0A200>

**Major Planning/ Shepherd’s Grove Stanton** – Evolution’s warehousing application DC/23/1154/OUT at Shepherd’s Grove is live with a deadline for comments by 11th October. CoPart DC/22/1290/HYB is also live although the formal deadline for comments has passed. Both applications have major traffic implications for the area and local roads (A143, A14 and potentially the A140) as well as other potential impacts such water use, contamination and fire risk.

**2023 Tour of Britain Cycle Rally** - The Suffolk stage of the tour will start and finish in Felixstowe and cover approx. 190km visiting Hadleigh, Stowmarket, Debenham and Framlingham. Race details are available on [Taste of the Tour](https://www.tasteofthetour.co.uk/) and [Tour of Britain | 2023 Tour](https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/race/2023-tour/) websites

Meeting reopened at 8:00 p.m.

1. Correspondence received.

* Various documents from SALC.
* Town and Parish Council Newsletter.
* Various emails from the Highways Department of Suffolk County Council.
* Constables’ Country
* Suffolk View.

1. Report from Committees:
   1. Village Hall Committee

* The monthly pub nights are successful and have been attended by up to 55 people.

1. The Common
   1. Report from the Commons Co-ordinator

* Chris Murton carried out the work to cut and bale the grass on Little Green. The Council agreed that he had made a good job of it.
  1. Pollarding of old ash tree and work on the willow trees.
* This work will be carried out later this month.
  1. Completion of cutting of common land grass.
* There was a discussion of potential contractors, and the Clerk will find a contractor to cut and clear the remaining uncut grass on Little Green. **Action: The Clerk.**
  1. Hedge, footpath and ditch alongside Footpath 12.
* It was agreed that the Clerk will report the problem caused by the narrowing of Footpath 12. **Action: The Clerk.** It was noted that it should be 2 m wide.

1. River Waveney Trust Strategy.

* Councillors were asked. if they wish to, to make their own comments on the strategy.

1. Opportunities arising from the two new grant opportunities:
   * + - 1. Mid Suffolk "Pride in Your Place" - £250

* It was agreed to apply for the Pride in Your Place Grant. **Action: The Clerk.** The money will be used to carry out the work to clear the areas of Little Green which have not been cut.
  1. Eye Turbine Annual Grant - £2,500
* There was a discussion of what could be funded from this grant. There was a suggestion that solar panels could be fitted to the Village Hall roof.

1. Highway matters:

* The Clerk will reply to the Consultation on the junctions on the A140 and add the problem caused by the new roundabout at the North end of Eye Airfield. **Action: The Clerk.**

1. Representation at Community Forums.

* Councillor Rickard will represent the Parish Council at the Yaxley Synchronous Condenser (Conrad Energy) Forum, Electricity System Operator and Drax Forum. **Action: Councillor Rickard.**

1. Finances and financial report.
   1. Balances on Accounts 30 July 2023.
      1. Current account: £6,342.29.
      * The bank balance was noted.
   2. Financial report and bank reconciliation.

* Detailed accounts had been given to Councillors, which recorded all items of income and expenditure, and compared them to the budget. The spreadsheet also showed both as a percentage of the budget.
* The accounts were to the date of this meeting.
* There were no questions from Councillors.
  1. To authorise cheques for signature:

N.B. Cheque signatories to initial cheque stub and invoice.

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| **Payee** | **Details** | **Cheque Number** | **Amount** | **Power** |
| P Freeman | Clerk’s Pay and Expenses. | 100718 | £314.92 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 100719 | £74.20 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| MB Farm Services | Drain Jetting | 100720 | £528.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| MSDC | Parish Council Election | 100721 | £121.48 | LGA 1972 s111 |

* It was unanimously agreed to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Councillor Colchester and seconded by Councillor Rose.
  1. Requests for financial support: SARS.
* It was unanimously agreed to donate £50, proposed by Councillor Colchester and seconded by Councillor Rose.
  1. Receipts: None.

1. Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station).

* Nothing to report.

1. Planning:
   1. Applications:

* Application for Prior Approval - Telecommunications - DC/23/04090  
  Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed development by or on behalf of an electronic communications code operator for the purpose of the operator's Electronic Communications Network in, on, or over land controlled by that operator or in accordance with the electronic communications code. Town & Country Planning General Permitted Development England Order 2015 as amended - Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A - Erection of 25m lattice mast host to 6no antennas, 2no 600mm dish which is replacing an existing compound and mast (14.5m monopole).  
  Location: Pond Farm, New Road, Thrandeston (In The Parish Of Palgrave), Diss Suffolk IP21 4BP.
* The Parish Council supports this application and hopes it will improve the ability to host 5G technologies in the area.
* Application for Works to Tree(s) in a Conservation Area - DC/23/04075  
  Proposal: Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Removal of 1No Conifer tree and it is too close to property and may cause structural damage.  
  Location: Manor House, Mellis Road, Thrandeston, Diss Suffolk IP21 4BU.
* The Parish Council supports this application and agrees that the proximity of the tree to the house may cause damage.
* Application for Planning Permission - DC/23/03447  
  Proposal: Planning Application - Retention of change of use of 2no agricultural buildings to commercial Class B8 storage use and Class E (g) (iii) light industrial commercial use.  
  Location: Church Farm, Little Green, Thrandeston, IP21 4BX.

The Parish Council supports this application subject to the following conditions:

* + - Vehicles using the local roads to and from Church Farm must keep to the local speed limits.
    - The number of journeys each week should be set at a realistic level, as the figures in the Planning Statement do not appear to be so.
    - The hours of opening for each class of business in the application must be kept to with the businesses not operating after midday on a Saturday and not at all on a Sunday.
* Application for - DC/23/03439

Proposal: Approval of Details reserved by Requirement 22 (Amendments to Approved Details) of the pursuant to The Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015 -The submission concerns six requested alterations:

Gas Receiving and Metering Station (GRMS); increase in height from 5m to 6m (with a single item up to 7m) and minor increase in length;

Exhaust Stack; increase in width and length for lower section of stack (up to 16.5m above datum);

Portable Control Container (PCC); increase in width and length; Fin/Fan cooler; increase in width and length; Combined Water Storage tank and Fire Water Storage Tank; increase in diameter and height; 6 Modifications to the cross-section of the landscaping earth berms and addition of a berm on the Eastern side of the site.

Location: Progress Power, Potash Lane, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7HE.

* The Parish Council has no comment to make on this application.
  1. Applications – no decisions to date:
* Application for Planning Permission Without Compliance of Condition(S) -

DC/23/01494

Proposal: Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Planning Permission

DC/22/04021 dated: 20/02/2023 - Construction and operation of Synchronous Condensers with ancillary infrastructure, and associated works including access and landscaping. Location: Land At The Leys And Ivy Farm, Mellis Road, Yaxley, Suffolk IP21 4BT

* Application for Outline Planning Permission - DC/22/00416  
  Proposal: Application for Outline Planning Permission. (All matters reserved) Erection of petrol and electric charging facility with associated shop, roadside restaurant with drive through facility, B1 and B8 starter units, HGV lorry parking facility for rest area and drivers' facilities as a phased development.  
  Location: Land Adjacent North Roundabout, A140 Ipswich Road, Brome, Part In The Parish of Thrandeston IP23 8AW.
* The Clerk will respond to the planning applications discussed above. **Action: The Clerk.**
  1. Planning decisions:
     1. Approved:
     2. Refused: None.
     3. Withdrawn.

1. AOB - Any items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at the meeting on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

* There have been reports of lorries using the track on Little Green and Councillor Rickard will take photographs of any lorries it. **Action: Councillor Rickard.**
* Ten plants have been placed in the pond on Little Green and they appear to be weighted down.

Meeting closed at 9:06 p.m.

**Action Points from this Meeting:**

* The Clerk will report a potential enforcement issue in the wood behind Flavours Farm. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* Arrange to dig out the end of the pipe which is the overflow from the pond on Little Green. **Action: The Clerk.** Followed up.
* Reply to the Consultation on the junctions on the A140 and add the problem caused by the new roundabout at the North end of Eye Airfield. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* Apply for the Pride in Your Place Grant. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* Report the problem caused by the narrowing of Footpath 12. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* Councillor Rickard will represent the Parish Council at the Yaxley Synchronous Condenser (Conrad Energy) Forum, Electricity System Operator and Drax Forum. **Action: Councillor Rickard.** Completed.
* Councillor Rickard will take photographs of lorries using the track around Little Green. **Action: Councillor Rickard.**
* The Clerk will respond to the planning applications discussed at the meeting. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* The Clerk will find a contractor to cut and clear the remaining uncut grass on Little Green. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.