**Minutes of the Meeting of Thrandeston Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th November 2023 at Thrandeston Village Hall.**

# Present:

Councillors Alison Murton, Andrew Colchester, Martin Rickard, David Rose and Andrew Wheeler.

County Councillor Jessica Fleming.

Philip Freeman - Parish Clerk.

One member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

* District Councillor Tim Weller.

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 Clerk will report a potential enforcement issue in the wood behind Flavours Farm. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed and there are lights showing late in the evening in the building in the wood.
* Arrange to dig out the end of the pipe which is the overflow from the pond on Little Green. **Action: The Clerk.** Followed up by Councillor Colchester.

The ditch runs alongside land owned by Mrs Doe and Councillor Colchester will follow this up with the family. **Action: Councillor Colchester.**

* 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. On farmland the footpath should be 2 metres wide.
* 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. In addition he attended a Progress Power meeting.
* Councillor Rickard will take photographs of lorries using the track around Little Green. **Action: Councillor Rickard.** Lorries have been seen on 8th September 2023 and 6th October 2023. It was agreed that a sign should be placed by the Village Hall saying **NO ACCESS TO RUSKIN HOUSE FOR HGVs. Action: The Clerk.**
* 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.

1. Clerk’s Report:
   1. Traffic using the road through Great Green as a short cut between the A140 and the A143.

* Following complaints by pedestrians and horse riders people using this road have been asked to provide video evidence of the vehicles using the road who are causing problems.
  1. Annual Audit.
* The Clerk is still trying to contact the auditor to ask her to return the documents involved.
  1. Change of bank following problems with Barclays Bank.
* There have always been problems with Barclays Bank as when a bank mandate is submitted there are always long delays before action is taken.
* The Clerk recommended that the Council should change its bank account to Lloyds Bank as there is a branch in Diss (unfortunately it has now been announced that this will close in 2024). The Clerk will set up a new bank account for the Parish Council.

**Action: The Clerk.**

* 1. Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2023-24
* Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would send details of the review to Councillors, and they will then have the opportunity to make comments. **Action: The Clerk and Councillors.**
  1. Response from Planning Enforcement.
* See above and the Clerk has followed this up with Planning Enforcement.

1. Notification of any urgent business.

* None.

**Public Forum.**

**Report from Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division Tel. 07714-597980** [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk)

**Flood Recovery** - Staff from local authorities and other organisations, co-ordinated by the Joint Emergency Planning Unit, have been working on responses across the county. For many households this is a long and difficult process. Please refer to the following page on our website: [Flood Recovery information for Suffolk - Suffolk County Council](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk). Flooding problem areas and blocked drains should be reported on the Suffolk Highways reporting web site preferably with a photograph: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Suffolk County Council is designated as Lead Local Flood Authority and has a duty to collect information and undertake investigations into “significant” flood events.

**Consultation - Council Budget -** Suffolk County Council seeks views from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides on its 2024/25 budget this January. [An online consultation](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_25/) has been launched about the budget and on council tax. Please do participate.

**Consultation – Suffolk Libraries** – a 13-week two-part consultation is open until **Friday 26 January 2024.** A competitive Tender Process will follow with a new contract awarded in November 2024. A key focus in part two is the council’s Library Outreach services and the future of the three mobile library vehicles which are old and would need replacing. These serve at least 500 stops across rural Suffolk each month and consideration needs to be given to whether or how to replace them. Outreach services also include Pop-up Libraries and a home library service run by local volunteers. Please do respond to this consultation if you value the current services, particularly Outreach Services in rural areas – respond on: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/about/news/suffolk-county-councils-library-consultation-process>

**Survey – Special Needs and Disabilities Services –** The Council is currently undergoing an inspection of its SEND services by Ofsted, as part of this inspection users of the service are encouraged to give feedback through a survey which closes on 7th November a 9.00 am. <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10284398>

**Bus Service Improvements -** £3.6million is available over the next two years for enhancements to the current passenger transport network.  Some of this goes to bus companies to support existing services, and some into design work on Bus Priority schemes. Parishes have been invited to participate in BSIP meetings to discuss investment, the next being 14th November. Refer to: [Suffolk on Board - News / Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus: Where should the money be spent?](https://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/bus-service-improvement-plan-plus-where-should-the-money-be-spent/)

**Highways Signage** – This is a good time to report missing or damaged road signs as they are being reviewed. Please report with photographs on the Highways reporting tool along with a photograph: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

**Pylons Project** – It has been noted that exploratory drilling has already been initiated in the Upper Waveney Valley area and Wortham Ling SSSI at potential pylon locations. I have raised this with senior officers at SCC and with our MP.

**Large Scale Solar Energy Developments –** SCC Cabinet Member Richard Routhas written to ministers objecting to the large land-take demanded by land based solar. Cllr Rout’s letter can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/suffolk-cc-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-very-large-scale-solar-farms-24-10-23-redacted.pdf>

An example of a potential large-scale array is the **Yaxley Green Energy Centre** about 450MW of PV Solar array and Battery storage. <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/14437282> (<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/14437282>)

A list of Ethos Energy potential projects is at: <https://ethosenergysolutions.com/projects/>

**The Government Network Review -** underpins targets for offshore wind, solar and new infrastructure; it assumes a 70% increase in demand by 2050 due to growth, electrification (EVs, heating/ cooling), and desalination. Targets include solar capacity increasing from 14.5 to 70GW by 2035 and wind from 14 to 50 GW by 2030. A Senior Research Associate at Aurora Energy said Britain would have to build as much offshore wind capacity between 2028 and 2030 as it is set to build from 2000 to 2027 to meet the 50 GW target. These targets do not take into account the actual output factors for solar and wind, which for solar are around 14.5%, and wind closer to 30% nor the necessary power distribution infrastructure. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-transmission-network-review/offshore-transmission-network-review-summary-of-outputs#the-offshore-transmission-network-review-conception-objective-and-approach>

**Shepherd’s Grove, Stanton – Jaynic and Equation Developments –** Nothing new to report

In the discussion of this report the following points were made:

* It is important to report any incidents of flooding.
* There is concern over the application for a lorry park on Eye Airfield because of its impact on the local area. There is insufficient notice taken of local opinion and knowledge.
* The holding lagoons on Eye Airfield are inadequate and the bridleway from Leys Lane is regularly flooded.
* Mr Whiting will keep Councillor Fleming informed of developments locally.

**Report from District Councillor Tim Weller.**

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| Flooding | During and following storms Babet and Ciaran, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses.  Householders are urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council’s reporting tool both for provision of assistance and to inform mapping for future mitigation.  The government announced some financial support for flood-hit homes and businesses. We await details on how this can be distributed.  Mid Suffolk District Council will be reviewing processes currently in place for responding to this type of incident.  Affected businesses should also contact Mid Suffolk to register for support. Please visit [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) for full details. |
| **Solar Farms** | At Mid Suffolk’s Council meeting on 26th October, a position statement on Solar Farms was agreed. This stated that solar farms should not be based on prime agricultural land and the landscape impact on our communities needed to be taken into account.  In the absence of clear policy from Government, the Council cannot create planning policy regarding renewable energy such as solar farms or PV panels on roofs. Our position statement sets out how we wish to see developments proceed. Early next year a related Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be drafted which will be consulted upon; greater weight can be attached to planning decisions by reference to an SPD. |
| **Sustainable transport** | At the Council meeting it was also agreed to form a working group to review sustainable integrated transport in the district – particularly for walking and cycling. It is hoped to review this in relation to commencing schemes in villages in the district. |
| **A red and yellow logo  Description automatically generated** | The ***Cosy Homes*** initiative will be launched on 15th November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. ***This insulation assistance will be free of charge to the resident.***  Full details to be available soon.  Our message is helping people to save energy, save money and reduce their carbon footprint.  Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access this via the wider Suffolk scheme, [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org) |
| **Council Housing** | At the moment we provide a very poor level of service for maintaining our housing stock and have a very low level of tenant satisfaction.  The new Administration at Mid Suffolk is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs that are needed. This backlog will be dealt with via a separate contractor allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs.  We are also investing heavily in the repairs and maintenance service for our Council stock.  We have engaged external partners to monitor our service moving forward. |
| **Homelessness strategy** | Our vision is that rough sleeping is rare, brief and non-recurring and that homelessness is routinely prevented through early and upstream intervention.  We are carrying out a general review of our service which will be validated by Shelter to ensure we are offering the best service possible.  We use our own temporary accommodation, so we don’t have the cost issues for hotels etc. that a lot of other local authorities have. |
| **A white and blue speech bubble with pink and blue text  Description automatically generated** | **Mid Suffolk District Council’s consultation process to get residents’ feedback on the planned priorities for the District is still in progress. We are hoping** to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils. There is an online survey gives you the opportunity to have your say about our initial ideas – see link below. The consultation closes on 15 November 2023.  <https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils> |

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.
* Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places.
* Funding for Bus Network Improvements – email 23 October 2023.
* Conrad Energy Community Fund: it is unclear how much is available and the area that bids can be made from.

1. Report from Committees:
   1. Village Hall Committee

* The Pub Nights continue to be well attended usually by more than 30 people.

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

* The cattle have been taken off the Marsh. The land is ‘poached’ in certain areas.
* The area is becoming overgrown with trees – ash and willow. It was agreed that it will need to be cut and Councillor Colchester will arrange for this to be done when the conditions are right. **Action: Councillor Colchester.**
  1. Drainage on Little Green.
* There are problems with drainage in the area around Little Green. In particular between the Village Hall and The Coach House. Arrangements have been made to ‘jet’ the drain pipe.
* The pipes and culverts in the area cannot manage the quantity of water, in particular by Pimsey House.
* There is a problem with the area between Ruskin House and Honeysuckle Cottage. It was agreed that a drain could be dug to the pond, so the water does not cause any damage to the properties.
  1. Completion of cutting of common land grass.
* See above.
  1. Hedge, footpath and ditch alongside Footpath 12.
* The hedge has been cut back to allow easier use of the footpath, but it is still quite narrow.

1. Opportunities arising from the two new grant opportunities:

* The Council has received a grant of £250 from Pride in Your Place.

1. Highway matters:
   1. Speeding through the village and steps that might be taken to monitor and reduce it.

* It was agreed that Councillor Wheeler will investigate setting up a speed watch in Thrandeston. **Action: Councillor Wheeler.**

1. Finances and financial report.
   1. Balances on Accounts 30 September 2023.
      1. Current account: £5,099.17.
      * 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. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023.
     + It was agreed to accept the Pay Agreement.
  2. 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. | 100724 | £442.74 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 100725 | £106.20 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| Nick Bobby Tree Services | Work on willow and ash trees (already paid) | 100723 | £1,776.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Community Action Suffolk | Website fee | 100726 | £60.00 | LGA 1972 S111 |

* It was unanimously agreed to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Councillor Murton and seconded by Councillor Rose.
  1. Requests for financial support: none.
  2. Receipts: Mid Suffolk "Pride in Your Place" - £250

1. Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station).

* Nothing to report.

1. Dates of Meeting in 2024.

* The following dates were agreed:

15 January 2024 – precept and budget, 18 March 2024, 13 May 2024 and Annual Parish Meeting, 29 July 2024, 23 September 2024, 25 November 2024, 2025: 13 January 2025 – precept and budget. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

1. Planning:
   1. Applications:
   2. Applications – no decisions to date:

* Application for Planning Permission - DC/23/04167  
  Proposal: Full Planning Application - Change of use and siting of mobile farm shop and car parking area (retention of)  
  Location: Land Adjacent Roy Humphrey Group, Ipswich Road, Thrandeston (Part In Eye), Suffolk.
* 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

* 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.
  1. Planning decisions:
     1. Approved:
* 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.
  + - * + It was agreed that there has been a major improvement in the appearance of the Manor House following the change of ownership.
        + It addition, it was also agreed that the land that was formerly part of this property has been greatly improved in appearance following the change of ownerships of those areas.
* 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 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.
  + 1. Refused: None.
    2. Withdrawn

1. AOB - Any items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at the meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2024.

* Budget and precept 2024/2025.

Meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

Action Points from this Meeting:

* Arrange to dig out the end of the pipe which is the overflow from the pond on Little Green. **Action: The Clerk.** Followed up by Councillor Colchester.

The ditch runs alongside land owned by Mrs Doe and Councillor Colchester will follow this up with the family. **Action: Councillor Colchester.**

* Councillor Rickard will take photographs of lorries using the track around Little Green. **Action: Councillor Rickard.** Lorries have been seen on 8th September 2023 and 6th October 2023. It was agreed that a sign should be placed by the Village Hall saying **NO ACCESS TO RUSKIN HOUSE FOR HGVs. Action: The Clerk.**
* The Clerk recommended that the Council should change its bank account to Lloyds Bank as there is a branch in Diss (unfortunately it has now been announced that this will close in 2024). The Clerk will set up a new bank account for the Parish Council. **Action: The Clerk.**
* Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2023-24

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would send details of the review to Councillors, and they will then have the opportunity to make comments. **Action: The Clerk and Councillors.**

* + The area is becoming overgrown with trees – ash and willow. It was agreed that it will need to be cut and Councillor Colchester will arrange for this to be done when the conditions are correct. **Action: Councillor Colchester.**
  + It was agreed that Councillor Wheeler will investigate setting up a speed watch in Thrandeston. **Action: Councillor Wheeler.**