**Minutes of the Meeting of Thrandeston Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 in Mellis Memorial Hall.**

# Present:

Councillors Alison Murton, Anthony Ronchetti, David Rose and Colin Swinbourne.

District Councillor David Burn

Philip Freeman - Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

* County Councillor Jessica Fleming and Councillor Colchester

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
   * + The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for attending and apologised for the need to again meet at a venue outside of Thrandeston.
2. To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from members on an agenda item. To consider any requests for dispensations.
   * + None.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting.
   * + The minutes of the previous meetings were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Councillor Ronchetti and seconded by Councillor Swinbourne.
4. Matters arising from the minutes:

**Action Points:**

* The Clerk will contact Natural England about a meeting to discuss how, the area between the two rail bridges, can be cleared to plant wildflowers, but trees will not be cut down. Also, to discuss the fencing of the Marsh. **Action: The Clerk and Councillor Colchester.** Completed.
* Councillor Colchester will arrange for the cutting of the areas which could not be cut when was cut for hay to take place. **Action: Councillor Colchester.** Completed.
* The Clerk will respond to planning application 14 a.i. **Action: The Clerk.** Completed.
* Litter Pick on 5th March 2022. **Action: The Clerk.** The Chairman thanked everyone who gave up their time to help with a very successful village clean. In spite of the rain 17 people took part and they appreciated the help given by Jerry Cotter who used his tractor and trailer to collect the rubbish bags and larger items that were found during the clean-up.

1. Notification of any urgent business.

* None.

**Public Forum.**

Meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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* **Ukraine** - Information on Suffolk’s support for Ukrainian refugees is available on [Suffolk County Council's website](https://midsuffolk.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b92522d28bbfbe421813f5565&id=ac8d6cc4ce&e=5db4b369f7), including links for The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Suffolk County Council also announced that it will cease its contract between Vertas and Russian government-controlled fuel company Gazprom as soon as practical.

* **Council’s 2022-23 Budget Passed** – SCC approved its budget for 2022-23 alongside a first time Net Zero carbon budget on 17 February, with focus on children’s services and adult care. Total expenditure will rise by 4.5% (from £598.2m to £625.4m) with a 1.99% increase in council tax, a further 1.00% from the Adult Care Precept, and an increase in grants received from the Government.
* **The Queen’s Jubilee** - Plans for a Festival of Suffolk with many community events can be found at: [www.festivalofsuffolk.org/](http://www.festivalofsuffolk.org/). A Suffolk wide Jubilee Lunch is planned on Sunday 5 June and people are encouraged to host a street party or gathering. SCC will waive fees for road closures and offer free assistance with traffic management, apply by Sunday 27 March. [www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks/apply-for-a-queens-platinum-jubilee-street-party-or-other-public-event/)
* The council is supporting the Queen’s Green Canopy project and aims to plant about 775,000 new trees – one for each resident. Visit [suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy/](https://suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy/) to participate.
* **Women’s Tour Cycle Race -** Suffolk will host the finish of Stage 1 of the 2022 UCI Women’s Tour, which will start in Colchester and finish in Bury St Edmunds on Monday 6th June. With the Queens Platinum Jubilee also taking place over the weekend the Women’s Tour promises a fitting finale to celebrations in Suffolk. The route in Suffolk will be revealed in the coming weeks when it has been finally agreed and ratified by the race organisers.
* **Sunnica Solar Farm Project in West Suffolk/ Cambridgeshire** – Cabinet has found that plans for this 2,792-acre500-MWscheme are unacceptable in their current form and assessments inadequate. A link to the papers can be found [on the committee minutes page](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(01-03-2022),%20The%20Cabinet). Plans to build the Sunnica solar farm are currently with the Planning Inspectorate for examination
* **Fostering and Adoption** - Suffolk’s service currently has over 850 children in care and with more entering every year, the need for foster carers and adoptive parents to come forward has never been greater. These children need someone who can understand what they have been through, look at the world through their eyes and provide warmth, consistency and emotional support.

To find out more about fostering or adopting in Suffolk, visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/fosteringandadoption or call 01473 264800](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/fosteringandadoption or%20call 01473%20264800).

**District Councillor’s Report For Feb/Mar 2022**

* Mid Suffolk District Council freezes council tax but investment in recovery to continue

Mid Suffolk District Council has frozen its element of council tax this year – helping residents through post-pandemic recovery while still investing in priority areas to improve quality of life.

* Update on Gateway 14

Gateway 14 is set to have a significant impact on the wider Mid Suffolk district as well as Stowmarket and surrounding villages - bringing in £75-250m per year and creating between 1,800 and 6,200 direct and indirect jobs.  
In order to keep everyone updated on progress, a new quarterly bulletin has been launched to keep local residents, businesses and stakeholders fully informe*d. [double-click the icon below to open the bulletin]*Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils respond to new ‘County Deal’

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils welcomed news that Suffolk is one of nine counties invited to negotiate a ground-breaking devolution deal – bringing more control over areas such as transport, infrastructure and skills to the region.

* Thurston byelection was held on 17 February

Polling day for the byelection in Thurston Ward, brought about by the resignation of Green Party Councillor Wendy Turner, was last Thursday. Cllr Turner shared the two-member ward with Conservative Cllr Harry Richardson. The result was a resounding win for Austin Davies, the Green Party candidate, with 845 votes; the Conservative candidate polled 399 votes; and Lib Dems and Labour brought up the rear with 37 and 32 votes respectively. Turnout was 28%. The political balance of the council is therefore unchanged, with the administration and opposition still having 17 councillors each.  
Switch onto a new Digital Skills Programme for businesses

* Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who want to learn new or improve their digital skills can now access free courses as part of a new business support programme.
* A new bigger, better library for Needham Market!

Suffolk Libraries and Mid Suffolk District Council are excited to announce that the new Needham Market Library is now open.

* Nine new affordable homes in Botesdale for local residents

Nine affordable homes opened their doors to new households this month, following the completion of a new development in Botesdale.

* Bird Flu outbreak near Elmswell
  + The UK’s Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, commonly known as bird flu, at a small holding near Elmswell. A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premise to limit the risk of the disease spreading.
  + All poultry keepers – whether commercial farmers or those with a small backyard flock – are required by law to house poultry, or otherwise, to keep them separate from wild birds.
  + Since this story broke, we have been informed of further outbreaks more local to us, the largest being at the Gressingham duck operation near Redgrave; there is a smaller outbreak near Westhorpe.

In response to questions Councillor Burn made the following points:

* There will be a certain number of affordable homes on each development which developers can either build or they can make a financial contribution to affordable homes elsewhere. A developer may declare non-viability which would usually reduce the number but not by many. It is a requirement that 35% of affordable homes should be available on a development of a certain size and these will be by private sector builders. Mid Suffolk District Council is trying to build its own housings stock, but this depends on funding being available to do so.
* Planning applications should include a consideration of water flow and in this respect the Environment Agency would be involved, and this will be taken into account in a decision. Developments locally could affect the River Waveney.
* There was a question about the speed limit on roads through Thrandeston and it was confirmed that it is 30 mph.

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.
* Festival of Suffolk - Get involved in the Torch Relay (email on 18 February 2022)

1. Report from Committees:
   1. Village Hall Committee

the following points were made in the report:

* The work on the ceiling has taken longer than had been expected and there is one area still to be completed.
* Quotations are being sought for the cost of the remaining work which includes the decoration of the hall.
* It is hoped that the work will be completed so that the Village Hall can open again in May 2022.

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

* On 9th February 2022 the Parish Clerk Philip Freeman and I met with Emma Quick from Natural England to discuss matters arising from our last Parish Council meeting regarding the Marsh. Following the death of a bullock on the marsh in the Autumn. Philip and I expressed our concerns for the safety of the grazing cattle on the Marsh and enquired as to the possibility of fencing off the watercourses in the interest of cattle safety. We were advised that Natural England would not support permanent fencing because it could encourage scrub cover over the ditches which should be restricted to less than 5%. I have discussed the matter with the owner of the cattle. An alternative option for him if he is concerned about the cattle becoming stranded in the water courses would be to use temporary electric fencing. We can look into the management of the scrub and costings of carrying out any work which would need to be next autumn.
* Councillor Colchester proposed that the area of grass in front of Chestnut Farm and the area between Styles Piece and Bramley House should be strimmed and the clippings removed. He would be prepared to carry out this overdue work in the near future for £200.00 plus VAT unless we can find a cheaper alternative. This process would need to be repeated annually during our hay cutting season. This was agreed.
* Mr Bird has quoted £550 to cut and bale Little Green, at the current price of fuel, with the proviso that this could be increased if the cost of diesel increases, This was agreed.
  1. Transfer of the remaining one fifth of the pond in front of Bramley House on Little Green, to the owner of the property. Update.
* This has been completed.

1. Celebrations of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

* A barbecue or hog roast will be arranged at the weekend of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration.

1. Village Litter Pick

* See above.

1. Highway matters:
   1. Maintenance of the Bridleways

* Judas Lane was first reported in June 2021 and following many phone calls and emails the work was finally carried out to cut back the growth of hedges and brambles in February 2022.
* This work included the removal of fallen trees blown down in the recent storms.

1. Finances and financial report.
   1. Balances on Accounts 28th January 2022.
      1. Current account: £12,802.02
      * 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. | 100675 | £299.96 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 100676 | £63.80 | LGA 1972 S112 |
| P Freeman | Hi vis waistcoats and gloves for village clean up | 100677 | £79.90 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Mellis Memorial Hall | Hire of the Hall | 100678 | £14.00 | LGA 1972 s111 |

* It was unanimously agreed to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Councillor Swinbourne and seconded by Councillor Ronchetti.
  1. Requests for financial support: None.
  2. Receipts: None.

1. Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station).
   * The work on the substation has begun with the construction of a road from the A140 to the site.
2. Planning:
   1. Applications:
      1. 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 following was sent to Mid Suffolk District Council with the objection to this application:

* Thrandeston Parish Council has been contacted by landowners whose land is adjacent to this planning application. None of them have been notified and consulted and this has been the case with other applications for Eye Airfield. Their main cause of concern is the water run-off and its impact on their land. The problem has been exacerbated by the work on the Drax substation. Apparently, the drainage data is inaccurate, and the drains are of insufficient capacity to cope with the increase in water from the Airfield as it is at present.
* In the document prepared by Wilkinson Planning it states that there is no data from pluvial flood risk modelling therefore it cannot be taken into account. However, one landowner who has farmed close to the site for many years has seen a major increase in flooding on his land in recent years, see attached photographs and videos, following heavy rain. This application was considered at the meeting of Thrandeston Parish Council on 9 March 2022 and the increase in runoff has been taken into account and the Parish Council objects to this application.
* The increase in heavy periods of rain has exacerbated this problem and flooding has increased and is causing the farmers considerable difficulty during the period when crops are sown. The Parish Council believes the only option is not to allow this application unless the amount of run off following rainfall is reduced by at least 50% and this is before the area to be used for this application is concreted over.
* From the flood risk assessment and drainage strategy it would appear that all additional surface water will be channelled into Thrandeston Beck with no holding features such as ponds being visible on any of the plans.  The Beck is culverted under the railway line in a single location, and it already cannot cope with the volume of water and speed of flow, leading to 30 acres of grazing and arable being flooded on a frequent basis. This development would significantly add to this problem affecting a greater area of land than is already. This problem has been getting significantly worse over the past 25 years at least, as the Eye Airfield has been developed. The local Internal Drainage Board manager is greatly concerned about the huge increase in water going towards the Waveney. The IDB is also worried about flooding risk to the railway line at Thrandeston.
* Photographs were attached as a sample of the impact of flooding on the farmland to the west of the A140.
  + 1. Application for Planning Permission - DC/22/00744  
       Proposal: Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land for the provision of 7No additional residential caravans, laundry room and stationing of mobile shower block and reconfiguration of existing 9No caravans, all to provide accommodation for agricultural workers employed by the applicant.  
       Location: Chestnuts Farm, Langton Green, Eye, IP23 7HL
* It was agreed that no comment would be made.
  1. Applications – no decisions to date:
     1. Application for Discharge of Condition(S) - DC/21/05647

Proposal: Approval of Details Reserved by Requirement 22 of the Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1570) as Amended, concerning requested alterations to previously approved plans regarding requirements 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 11.

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

* + 1. Statutory consultation on proposals for Sunnica Energy Farm.
  1. Planning decisions:
     1. Approved:
* Application for Planning Permission - DC/22/00235  
  Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of two bay cart lodge (one open and one lockable  
  for storage).  
  Location: The Cottages, Mellis Road, Thrandeston, Suffolk IP21 4BU
  + - * Application for Listed Building Consent - DC/21/06874  
        Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Repairs to timber frame on south and east elevations and associated works to include fixing of wood wool boards, removal and replacement of lime render as necessary as detailed within the Schedule of Works prepared by Rick Lewis of Traditional Oak Carpentry.  
        Location: The Cottages, Mellis Road, Thrandeston, Suffolk IP21 4BU
      * Application for Planning Permission - DC/21/05882  
        Proposal: Planning Application. Demolition of original intake/dryer/mill building destroyed by fire and erection of replacement intake/dryer/mill building  
        Location: Camstar Herbs Ltd, Chestnuts Farm, Langton Green, Eye IP23 7HL
      * Application for Planning Permission - DC/21/04099

Proposal: Planning Application. Erection of a storage and distribution warehouse

Location: Land at Eye Airfield, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HU

* Application for Planning Permission - DC/21/04697

Proposal: Planning Application. Erection of new storage building No.10 for B8 use

Location: Land on Eye Airfield, Ipswich Road, Eye, Suffolk

* Application for Planning Permission - DC/21/01973

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Change of Use of land for the stationing of 15 holiday lodges

Location: Oak Lodge Retreat, Nicks Lane, Brome And Oakley, Suffolk IP23 8AN

* + 1. Refused: None.

1. AOB - Any items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at the meeting on Tuesday 3rd May 2022.

* None.

The meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.