



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 20th May 2024 at 7:55PM**

Present: Cllr C Tranter, Cllr S Alexander, RFO – S Budd,
DC Cllr Warboys

Apologies:

1 Election of Chair of Gislingham Parish Council 2024/2025

The RFO opened the meeting, Cllr J Mew had resigned from the council prior to the start of the meeting, DC Cllr Warboys agreed to sit on the council to enable the council to co-opt 2 new councillors, Felix Oliver and Joanne Pitt were unanimously voted to join the council. The RFO invited nominations. Cllr Alexander proposed Cllr Tranter; seconded by Cllr Pitt and approved unanimously with one abstention (Cllr Tranter).

2 Electon of Vice-Chair Gislingham Parish Council 2024/2025

After a discussion Cllr Tranter proposed Cllr Pitt; seconded by Cllr Alexander and approved unanimously with one abstention (Cllr Pitt).

3 To sign Acceptance of Declaration of Officer – All Councillors

All councillors signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and signed by the RFO, in addition Cllr Tranter signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Chair 2023/24 and Cllr Pitt signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Vice-Chair 2024/25.

4 New Register of Interests – All Councillors

5 Councillor consent to receive summons electronically

All Councillors gave their consent to receive summons electronically

6 New Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence

Cllr Tranter welcomed everyone to the meeting, including members of the public, No Apologies were received. Cllr Tranter thanked Julie Bell for her outstanding work over the last 6 years

7 To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda items - None

None received.

8 To received Requests for Dispensations on Agenda items - None

None received

9 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th April are a true and correct record

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th April 2024, were approved unanimously.

10 Matters Arising / Update on actions from the meeting held on the 15th April 2024

All covered on the agenda.

11 Election of Chair of Staffing Panel

Cllr Tranter was happy to remain as Chair of Staffing panel, this was proposed by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Pitt and approved unanimously with one abstention (Cllr Tranter).

It was agreed that all councillors would be members on the Staffing Panel, and that a minimum of three councillors are required.

12 Councillors to consider if they wish to have a Planning Committee

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting

13 Councillors to consider if they wish to have a Finance Committee

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting

14 Dates for future meetings to be held at the Village Hall at 7pm

Monday 17th June

Monday 15th July

Monday 19th August

Monday 16th September

Monday 21st October

Monday 18th November

Monday 16th December

Monday 20th January

Monday 17th February

Monday 17th March

Monday 28th April (it was agreed to change the date as the 3rd Monday is Easter Monday)

15 Buses Update

Simon Barnett – Suffolk EP Passenger Group attended the meeting to discuss the new services Mid Suffolk funded bus services are currently being designed and routes have not yet been decided. Residents are concerned that they will lose the current services with Dan's Coaches, however Mr Barnett stated that was not a funded service from Mid Suffolk. Mendlesham Parish Council have bus route which includes Gislingham but residents stated that the minibus is not suitable for wheelchair's /pushchairs and people with walking sticks and bus services in villages are a life line to some residents on a social level as well as transportation. It was requested that Mr Barnett attends another meeting when the routes have been decided.

16 Clerk's Report

Top Garden's contract only stated 1 yr and the council approved a 3 year contract, this has now been received, all other items are on the agenda.

17 RFO's Report

- **Current Account Balance 31/03/2024 £845.63**
- **Deposit Account Balance 31/03/2024 £35692.60**
- **Income 2023/24**
 - HMRC VAT Reclaim £10629.46**
 - Mid Suffolk District Council (CIL) £11131.25**
 - Mid Suffolk District Council (Precept) £13176.36**
 - Grants £2981.25**
- **Grants awarded 2023/24 £486.67 (£150 earmarked for St Marys PCC)**
- **Accounts 2023/24 approved by Full Council**

The Receipts and Payments, summary of Reserves, and Bank Reconciliation, up to 30th April 2024 were prepared by the RFO and sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

No questions asked by Councillors on Financial Reports.

- VAT Reclaim 2023/24 £1069.75 was circulated prior to the meeting
- AGAR sections 1 and 2 2023/24 were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting

Approval of the VAT Reclaim 2023/24 and AGAR sections 1 and 2 2023/24 was proposed by Cllr Tranter, seconded by Cllr Alexander and approved unanimously. Cllr Tranter and the RFO signed completed sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR.

Period for the exercise of public rights - 24/06/2024 to 02/08/2024.

Quarterly check of the Finances, as Cllr Tranter is now chair Cllr Alexander has agreed verify the quarterly accounts.

18 Asset Register

The Asset Register as at 31st March 2024 was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to update and publish

19 Neighbourhood Watch Report (Cllr Tranter)

Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Appears as an addendum at the end of the Minutes.

20 Footpath Warden’s Report (Mr Bryant)

Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Appears as an addendum at the end of the Minutes.

21 SID (Speed Indicator Device) (Mr Stuart Wells) - We have a new VAS Device and currently personalising a report for Gislingham.

22 Public Participation

All members of the public present attended to discuss the pylons which is an agenda item.

23 NG Pylons

All members of the public present were very concerned with the impact the N2T, points raise
Noise/disruption

damage to our environment

Wildlife, Countryside & Trees

Access in/out of the village 3 of 5 5 routes inaccessible

Damage to roads

Footpaths/Bridleways - closure

Property Value

Mental Health

Road Safety

Health issues especially children due to Electromagnetic field / radiation

950 leaflets were distributed in the Messenger, although there has been a good number of Responses, if anyone who still has the leaflets at home, please can you complete and return to the shop so they can be reviewed by the council before being posted.

Residents feel that there are better options to investigate other than Pylons ie. Subsea Cables like Sumitomo Electric are installing.

The residents present would like to urge all household members over the age of 18 to send their views to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com and jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk , this is your opportunity to have your say and make your views known. Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Electric Systems Operators Reports are both very comprehensive reports on this proposal. There is also a website and facebook campaign for further information visit www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk for further information.

CC Cllr Flemming and DC Cllr Warboys discussed this at the Annual Village meetings and are in agreement with local residents, they are working with their teams to try and get the proposal paused, and explore alternative sites and options. DC Cllr Warboys has also requested a Traffic Management Plan from NG.

Residents have asked to see the draft report the council is planning to submit as they are concerned it will not voice the residents’ issues, Cllr Tranter said the report is still be compiled and is seeking advice from Bron Curtis – Principal Planning Officer.

There is a walk taking place on 2nd June from Morley’s Lane at 4pm, they are going to walk the pylon route and they are hopefully going to have a drone which will fly at 50m to show the height of the proposed pylons, everybody is welcome to attend.

The residents asked if it was possible to have a professional attend a meeting to give us a visual presentation of the proposed works and how it will affect our village, Wortham and Mellis are having DC Cllr Warboys will try to arrange for Ron Curtis to attend. An extra ordinary meeting will be called if a date can be arranged.

24 VAS Device update – Carried forward to next meeting

25 CIL Report Approval

Report was circulated prior to the meeting and was approved by full council.

ACTION

RFO to submit Neighbourhood CIL Report

26 Internal Audit and Term of Reference – Circulated prior to the meeting and approved unanimously.

27 Co-option of new councillors – Applications had been received from both applicants after a discussion both applicants were approved.

28 GUC Representative – was discussed with all councillors at the meeting but no applicants.

29 Planning

- **DC/24/00810** – 3 Broadfields Close, Gislegham, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8HY
- **DC/24/01862/3** – West End Farm, The Common, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8EF

Both applications were discussed, no objections

ACTION

Clerk to add comments onto the MSDC Planning Portal

30 Finance

Payments	Amount	P/S etc
Admin payment for March	£307.93	Cllrs Tranter/Alexander/ unanimous
Cllr Bell mileage – Diss for Watson bowl, Co-op bank, The Hold Ipswich etc	£55.80	Cllrs Alexander/Tranter unanimous
Watson Bowl Engraving (DC)	£50.00	Cllrs Tranter/Alexander unanimous
Volunteer of the year Salver Engraving (DC) Street Lighting	£15.00	Cllrs Alexander/Tranter unanimous
Hire of Village Hall March 2024 PC meeting	£20.00	Cllrs Tranter/Alexander unanimous
Donation – St Marys PCC – Energy expenses	£150.00	Cllrs Alexander/Tranter unanimous

It was agreed that payments maybe made via BACS this month if necessary, depending on the turnaround of the bank mandate.

31 Training

Carried forward to next meeting.

32 Policies

- Data Protection Policy
- Internal Control Statement & Report
- Privacy Policy
- Risk Assessment & Management Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety

The above policies and documents were sent to councillors prior to the meeting. After discussing all policies and documents listed above were approved unanimously.

33 IN CAMERA

Date of the next meeting is on 17th June 2024 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.40pm