

# YOXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm  
in the Parish Hall, Yoxall

Present: P Hughes, J Williams, D Muir, S Evans, R Yapp, P Bailey,  
P Kitt and R Keys

Also Present: Two Members of the Public  
R Young – Clerk to the Council

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## 1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from J Jessel, J Jones, B Ashcroft, V Gould and M Arch.

## 2) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, P Hughes, mentioned the following:-

Congratulations to the Ferrers Field Development group on their success in attaining two grants. There is now a substantial amount toward a perimeter path being built. More events for fundraising are planned for 2024.

There are concerns regarding running water flowing through the churchyard. Council have liaised with contractors, surveyors and neighbours and are seeking to resolve this issue.

Recent flooding in River Swarbourn. The Environmental Agency have been contacted to look at the flow of the river. It was also pointed out regarding riparian responsibility.

Application has been made for £40,000 from the Ward Enhancement Programme. It is hoped that this will be successful and many joint projects can take place for the village.

The Big Clean Up will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Free refreshments will be provided.

There have been recent burglaries and cars stolen. Police have been contacted. Residents of St Peters Way have had a group meeting regarding this. The PC has been contacted. Information regarding Smart Alert and Neighbourhood Watch have been forwarded.

There was a presentation by Ashmead Price at the February meeting regarding the siting of wind turbines. There were a number of questions raised and a letter regarding these has been sent.

We are yet to hear of a training day for Speedwatch.

We have had regular updates regarding road works in our area as well as Branston Interchange. Thanks to our County Councillor Julia Jessel.

A list has been compiled regarding shadowing of Councillors to become familiar with each other's role.

We will be reviewing Standing Orders for Councils and will be looking to adopt these shortly.

We have been in touch with Whittington PC and Alrewas PC regarding wind turbines.

**3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

➤ Declarations to be made when the relevant matter raised.

**4) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.**

**5) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

➤ No matters were raised.

**6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

➤ No matters were raised.

**7) REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**a) Report of County Councillor**

➤ No matters reported.

**b) Report of Borough Councillor**

➤ No matters reported.

## 8) **PLANNING**

R Keys reported the following:-

### **Planning Report – March 2024**

#### **Applications**

P/2024/0082 – Thistledown, Lucepool Lane – For erection of a front porch, rear extension and first floor extension.

P/2024/00158 and 00221 – Well Croft, Meadow Lane – Applications for demolition of existing greenhouse and erection of new greenhouse – Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission.

#### **Decisions**

P/2024/00422 – Green Acres, Upper Hoar Cross Road – Permission for demolition of existing house and erection of new detached dwelling.

#### **Planning Appeal**

P/2023/00829 – Weaverslake Cottage Farm – A fast track appeal against refusal for extension to detached garage and store room above.

NB: This appeal is made under the Householders Appeal Service, is a written appeal and does not accept any comments other than those originally submitted.

#### **Site Calls**

ESBC Sites request – ESBC has invited submissions for suitable sites for consideration for development though meeting certain economic or specific housing requirements, e.g. affordable housing. This process informs the Local Plan review for the Borough, though it must be noted that ESBC has more than met its housing supply targets as set by Government.

The process is separate from seeking planning permission.

## 9) **CLERK'S REPORT**

### **a) Correspondence**

- J Jessel – SCC Communities Strategy.
- Staffordshire Archive and Heritage Newsletter.
- Elan City – Solar Speed Sign.
- SCC Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice – Newchurch Road, Hoar Cross.
- J Jessel – SCC Flooding – How to report issues.

- SPCA – Portrait of King.
- National Highways – A38 Weekly e-bulletin.
- Angela Kerry, Events Co-ordinator – Burton Market Hall Traders – Community Family Fun Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.
- SPCA – D-Day 80 Flag of Pence – Clerk to order two.
- Valuation Office Agency – Request for Information regarding Burial Ground.
- ESBC – Letter to Parish Councils regarding Register of Interests.
- Thank You from Mr & Mrs Child for Christmas Boxes.

## 10) **MATTERS IN PROGRESS OR REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION**

### i) **Conservation Group**

S Evans reported the following:-

#### **Conservation Group and Footpaths**

**Conservation Group** – Grant application, ESBC – submitted, value £40,000.

**Footpaths** – Ground still very wet. Unable to plan/schedule any group walking activity.

Response received from Paul Rochefort, his team working with volunteers on footpaths – anticipated for Spring 2024; they will let us have more detail in due course.

Hoped that we can start some of our own maintenance this month, weather permitting!

### ii) **Best Kept Village Competition**

S Evans reported the following:-

Organiser to be contacted to confirm that we will not be taking part in the 2024 competition due to extensive village project work but we will be taking part in 2025 competition.

### iii) **Riverside Regeneration**

D Muir reported the following:-

- Flooding – Goose Green.
- Removal of branches from River.
- Condition of top end of Goose Green detailed.
- Grass encroached on pathways on Goose Green.

iv) **Open Spaces**

P Kitt mentioned the following:-

a) **Ferrers Field**

Ferrers Field Development Group have obtained a Grant of £5,000 from British Gypsum towards the paths project at Ferrers Field. That makes £21,000. The paths will cost £26,000. A further £5,000 is required.

They are continuing to raise funds and are currently actively developing ideas.

I have approached Zoe Sewter of the National Forest, who was very encouraging and believes that they would be able to come up with a Grant of £5,000 for the Paths at Ferrers Field for the start of the new year in April and Zoe has offered to assist in anyway she can with the application.

Previously forwarded Litter Pick and Inspection Reports, including correspondence with the Dog Enforcement Team. At 3.20pm on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup>, I saw a Dog Warden van in Yoxall opposite Swarbourne Meadow, a positive reaction; pooh bags to follow one hopes.

Finally, on Ferrers Field, I previously circulated a proposal to go ahead with the installation of three pieces of Gym Equipment at Ferrers Field and Council Approval is sought to go ahead with this project. P Kitt gave details of three items of Keep Fit Equipment at an installed cost of £3435.43 less grant funding.

It was proposed (P Kitt), seconded (R Yapp) and agreed the three items of Keep Fit be purchased from Sovereign.

**Resolved: To purchase three pieces of Keep Fit Equipment.**

b) **Milne Holme Pingle**

Litter pick and Inspection Reports forwarded previously.

I have approached Zoe Sewter about a Grant from the National Forest towards the installation of a Picnic Bench, similar to those at Ferrers Field (wheelchair compatible). Zoe was again very helpful and has said that if we make this a separate application to Ferrers Field paths one, then we can get £500 towards the cost of purchase and installation.

The last bench cost £780 inc VAT but, of course, we can claim VAT back, so £650 net, plus installation costs. Parish Council Approval is sought to go ahead with this project.

**v) Village Hall**

J Williams reported the following matters:-

- New doors installed.
- Access to Hall using door on the “Cup” side of building.
- Parish Councillors to have a key.
- Details given of issues to be resolved with Contractors.
- Doors need painting – Colour to be decided. Medium/Dark Blue suggested.

**vi) Burial Ground**

J Williams commented as follows:-

- Correspondence with I Drain Solutions.  

‘Thank you for your visit to Yoxall last Friday when we discussed problems in the burial ground where flood water is surfacing from beneath a gravestone adjacent to the pathway. You kindly offered a CCTV inspection of the relevant pipeline once the water levels have receded. CCTV inspections and subsequent jetting were carried out in Spring 2017 and reported as per the summaries in my possession. If available, your records may provide additional information on likely pipeline leakage and the concrete blockage under the nearby house. I look forward to speaking to you again if the further information is available and the rains cease.’
- Water in ditch at top of Burial Ground does not drain away.
- Reviewed route of drainage pipes.
- Correspondence received from resident at The Willows detailing flooding experienced.

**vii) Roads and Pavements**

M Arch sent a report as follows:-

**Report for March Meeting**

Since the last meeting, I have been doing some more work on:

- 20mph speed limit.
- Speed Indicator Devices

Have also reported several speeding motorists to the police and they promised to visit the offenders.

**20mph Speed Limit**

Attended the local school with Sue Evans to gain support for a formal 20mph speed limit. Unfortunately, the school secretary did not turn up and the meeting did not take place.

Support from the local school would be welcome, after which I will contact leaders of guides, brownies, scouts for their views before moving towards a public meeting. I suggest that such a meeting is held in the Parish Hall towards the end of April and would ask Councillors to consider this suggestion at the March meeting.

**Speed Indicator Devices**

Have enquired of both County and Borough Councillors regarding the possibility of getting some grant funding. Possibility of £1,500 via Borough Councillor. Response awaited from County Councillor, although Julia has mentioned the sum of £500 in the past.

Whilst clearly not enough for four or more SID's, if the PC could provide the balance towards one SID, to be positioned immediately after the Alex Drive island, looking towards the school. The reasoning here is that this stretch of road seems to attract more speeding motorists who fail to slow down at the island.

Information received from Anslow, Rangemore and Tatenhill PC's; confirms the cost at c£3,000 per SID, including installation. Speed reductions of c10% have been achieved. The hardest part, we are told, is getting a proposal through Staffordshire County Council. That said, if parishioners support the idea, we will have a strong case.

Historical data from the defunct Yoxall CSW, collected in June 2021, showed that a number of vehicles passing through the village was c400 per hour, up from 275 in March 2020. We have no reason to assume that the number has reduced and where we suspect that the number has increased. 7.5% of motorists significantly exceeded the 30mph, paying no attention to the fact that there is a school in the village. Of the 7.5%, 20% were in excess of 40mph, with the majority of speeding motorists entering the village from the North.

In terms of revival of the CSW, I have returned my form in respect of the training course.

### **Potential Police Involvement**

In a personal capacity, I reported a reckless motorist travelling North at speed through the village. The motorist overtook the car I was driving. My speed was 30mph. He proceeded to accelerate towards the Alex Drive island and failed to slow down. Estimated speed, 50+ mph. After submitting an incident report to the police, I was contacted and asked to give details of other offenders when detected. Was told that visits will be made to the offenders.

### **viii) Website**

M Arch sent a report as follows:-

As I will be absent for a while, have already put details of the April meeting on the website. Will be updated further as and when I receive Councillor reports. Councillors are asked to review their sections of the website and advise any alterations required. Also need details of any forthcoming events.

### **ix) Health and Safety – Health Services**

R Yapp reported the following:-

#### **Health Services Update**

Confirmed that Dr Winchurch has now retired but Dr Hassan joined a while ago.

The NHS Friends and Family Test is a quick way to give one's views on care and treatment received. Since June 2023, YHC has had 178 responses, of which 167 were either extremely likely or likely to return.



PPG

The annual AGM will be held at YHC on 17<sup>th</sup> April from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

YPC in conjunction with YaPP have organised CPR training for Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March from 5.00pm to 7.00pm in YVH.

Some of us run Dementia Friendly group lead by Colin, who runs the Forget Me Knot Café along with Barton at BVH on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.00pm.

**11) WISH LIST**

P Bailey circulated to Councillors an updated Wish List and asked if there were any amendments.

**12) COMMUNITY**

S Evans reported the following:-

**Big Village clear Up** – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March. Event advertised and promoted. List prepared of tasks for the event. Catering organised. There will also be a display reference “Discover Yoxall” and “Green Corridor” projects.

**St Peter’s School** – Meeting did not take place. Email sent in lieu and replacement meeting being progressed regarding pupil involvement with anti-litter posters; bus shelter project, school award 2024 and involvement with Conservation Group projects.

**Yoxall Village Fete – Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024**, suggested ideas for content.

1) Table top display promoting BKVC; Parish Hall, Conservation Group and Discover Yoxall Project, Goose Green, Swarbourn Meadow, Milne Holme Pingle, Footpaths and Walking Group. Also promote litter picking, “Yoxall Clear Up Crew”, village tidy up events.

2) As a fund raiser for Conservation Group:

Fun Family Quiz about Yoxall.

Guess the number of black bin bags of rubbish collected by volunteers 2023 up to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**YPC Noticeboards** – The two noticeboards in the village have been updated and revised information added. The noticeboard at the Parish Hall still requires amendment, likewise the other noticeboards around the hamlets.

13) **FINANCE**

a) **Cheque Payments**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the following cheques:-

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHEQUE NO.</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>£</b>
07/03/2024	506857	Parish Clerk	297.00
07/03/2024	506858	HMRC (PAYE)	198.00
07/03/2024	506859	North Staffordshire Fire	425.32
07/03/2024	506860	Yoxall PCC	73.50
07/03/2024	506861	Harwil Associates	195.00
07/03/2024	506861	Waterplus	370.49
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,559.31</b>

**Resolved: To issue the above cheques.**

b) **Cash Flow Statement**

The Clerk gave details of the Bank Account Cash Flow.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

P Hughes  
Chairman