



## DRAFT YAXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, Jubilee Hall, Yaxham

**Present:** Councillors Bennett, Cheeseman, Crummett, Lowings and Oechsle.

**In Attendance:** Mrs E Stallion – Clerk, 15 members of the public, Cliff Jordan (County and District Councillor) and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Calum Chapman.

1. **To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**
  - a. Councillor Bennett declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9.b.i. as the planning application is for his home.
  - b. Councillor Bennett declared a personal interest in Item 7.
  
2. **To hold a Public Session.**

The Chairman proposed that, as the Public Session at the last meeting had taken up an excessive amount of time, this session should be restricted to 15 minutes. The proposal was AGREED by a majority vote.

  - a. PCSO Calum Chapman, the local officer for Yaxham spoke about the number of heating oil thefts that were taking place and recommended that regular checks were made on the oil level, try and position the tank so it is out of view from the road, use security lights, consider purchasing a padlock to secure the tank or use an oil level gauge which will sound an alarm if the oil level in your tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full.
  - b. To receive a report from the County/District Councillor.  
Councillor Jordan mentioned that the Government's Big Conversation initiative is now going to be a continuous, open ended conversation.  
In relation to the enforcement of planning conditions Councillor Jordan stated that each department concerned has input into the discussion and the Council Solicitor has the final decision.
  - c. Environmental, archaeological and highway concerns were expressed about the proposal to build 255 dwellings at Dumpling Green in Dereham.
  - d. Reference was made to a letter in the Dereham and Fakenham Times of 3<sup>rd</sup> February relating to the supposed resignation of a councillor from Yaxham Parish Council. A formal request was made asking whether any Councillors had been involved in this matter.
  
3. **To receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hull and Myhill.
  
4. **To note any matters from Item 2 that should be raised at a future Meeting.**
  
5. **To approve and sign the Minutes of the Full Meeting held on 13<sup>h</sup> January 2011.**

An objection was raised as to the accuracy of Item 2.b.iii of these Minutes and it was AGREED by a majority vote to amend the first sentence to read "Concern about the involvement of 2<sup>1</sup> Parish Councillors when Mr George Freeman MP visited Yaxham Waters." Councillor Oechsle requested that her objection to the minutes be recorded. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
  
6. **To consider whether copies of the Draft Minutes of the last meeting should be distributed to members of the public at a Parish Council Meeting.**

It was AGREED that members of the public should have access to copies of the draft Minutes of the previous Meeting and that the revised Standing Orders should state this.
  
7. **To clarify the position regarding Councillors Bennett and Myhill and Mr George Freeman MP.**

A letter from Councillors Bennett and Myhill in which they stated what occurred on the day that Mr George Freeman MP visited Yaxham Waters to speak to the owners was read to the Council. A letter from Mr Freeman was also read out accepting that it had been a misunderstanding on his part when he said that he had met the Chairman of Yaxham Parish Council. Council received a report

<sup>1</sup> The number "2" inserted and amendment initialled by the Chairman in the Minute Book.

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concerning the letter referred to in Item 2.d above. The author of the letter used a fictitious name and address together with a telephone number that implicated Yaxham Waters. Investigations as to the true identity of the author are being made by the newspaper publishers. The Chairman repeated the question that had been put by the member of the public in the Open Session as to whether any of them had been involved with this letter. With the exception of one Councillor who had been on holiday, all Councillors stated that they had not been involved.

### 8. To discuss planning matters.

#### a. **To receive the following Planning Decisions:**

- i. 3PL/2010/1219/F – Brake Farm, Brakefield Green – Mr K Bennett. Erection of coach house with studio.  
It was NOTED that permission has been granted.
- ii. 3PL/2010/1299/F - The Gables Church Lane - Two dormers to rear and garage rear.  
It was NOTED that permission has been granted.

#### b. **To consider the following Planning Applications:**

- i. 3PL/2011/0057F – White House Farm Clint Green – Mr & Mrs P Bennett. Demolition of existing kitchen “lean-to” and replacement with single storey kitchen extension.  
Councillor Bennett who had declared a prejudicial interest, left the room for this Item. It was AGREED that no objection would be raised.
- ii. 3PL/2010/1361/F - Land East of Yaxham Road South of Dumpling Green - Erection of 255 dwellings with associated open space.  
Although Yaxham Parish Council had not been formally consulted on this Application, it was felt that there would be serious implications for Yaxham should it receive approval. It was AGREED to object to the proposal for the following reasons:

The site is not specified in Breckland's Site Specific Document.  
The site is outside the Dereham Settlement Boundary.  
There are drainage/flooding implications.  
Water run-off could have consequences for the River Tud.  
Ecological concerns relating to flora and fauna and the proximity to the SSSI.  
There will be serious traffic problems. The additional vehicles from this development will add to the already bad situation of delays that will be made even worse when the Recycling Centre is built near Roy's. Traffic queues from the Yaxham direction will be made worse with the proposed roundabout. Westfield Bridge is already a hazard, especially at school times and it would not cope with all the additional traffic.  
Yaxham is already subjected to the pollution of the night sky from lighting in Dereham and the effects of lights from the site will be visible for many miles.

The development site is 0.5 miles away from the Yaxham parish boundary and Yaxham Parish Council would appreciate the opportunity to respond to all future plans on this site as the village does not want to become another suburb of Dereham.

#### c. **To receive an update on the non-enforcement of conditions at Yaxham Waters.**

It was NOTED that a response has been received from Mr Michael Horn, Head of Breckland Council's Legal Services confirming that he had the requisite delegated authority to make a decision as to whether or not the Council should commence formal enforcement action in respect of Yaxham Waters. He states that the site will be monitored on an ongoing basis and, if/when circumstances change, Breckland Council will revisit the situation.  
It was NOTED that a letter had also been received from Mr George Freeman MP regarding this matter and offering any further assistance that might be required.

### 9. To discuss financial matters.

#### a. **The following payments were APPROVED:**

- i. E A Stallion (Admin & Use of home as office) £299.69<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> LGA 1972 s112(2)

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- ii. Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog Litter Bin £90.98<sup>3</sup>
- iii. SLCC Enterprises Ltd (Understanding Audit) £48.00<sup>4</sup>

10. **Grit Bins:**
- a. **To accept and sign the grit bin agreement with the residents of Prior's Grove.**  
The Agreement was AGREED and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Council. It will also be signed by one of the Prior's Grove Residents. And copies retain for future reference.
  - b. **To note that the grit bin for Prior's Grove has been purchased, put in the agreed position and filled.**  
This was NOTED.
  - c. **To note that the Well Hill Grit Bin has been repositioned next to the Bus Shelter.**  
It was NOTED that this grit bin has not yet been replaced in its correct position. NCC Highways have apologised for this omission and the situation will be resolved as soon as possible.
11. **To receive an update on Highway matters.**  
It was NOTED that Mr Rod Kelly, the new Highways Engineer for Yaxham toured the village on 9th February 2011 with Councillors Crummett, Hull and the Clerk. Several outstanding problems and some new ones were discussed with arrangements being made to get the work completed as soon as possible. It was NOTED that there were potholes in Cutthroat Lane that should be added to the list of work to be done by Highways.
12. **To consider and agree a response to the Norfolk Local Transport Plan.**  
The contents of this document were NOTED and it was AGREED that a response be submitted indicating the future potential of the Mid-Norfolk Railway line between Dereham and Wymondham to alleviate the pressure on the overcrowded A47 and contribute a sustainable transport element.
13. **To receive a progress report on the proposed "Slow Down in our Village" sticker campaign.**  
It was NOTED that there have been two positive responses from other Parish Councils with several others awaiting their next Meeting. Breckland Council has given permission for the stickers to be placed on their wheelie bins provided the bins are not left on the roadside as display boards for the posters.
14. **To consider and agree the customisation of the Model Standing Orders.**  
The proposed amendments to the Model Standing Orders were discussed and AGREED. The revised Yaxham Parish Council Standing Orders will be finalised ready for approval at the next Meeting.
15. **To discuss and decide whether it might be beneficial for Yaxham to join with Dereham Town Council and other surrounding Parish Councils with a view to working together on relevant matters.**  
It was AGREED that this Council would be interested in the possibility of local Councils joining together to be better able to take advantage of opportunities that will arise under the coalition Government. It was also AGREED that a response should be sent to Mr Robert Hambidge, Mayor of Dereham, agreeing to attend a meeting to initially discuss the feasibility and level of interest.
16. **To receive matters of interest from Breckland Minutes.**  
It was NOTED the Development Control Committee would meet every 4 weeks instead of 3 in the future.
17. **To receive correspondence.**
- a. Yaxham Crime Statistics – December 2010.  
It was NOTED that one crime of violence against a person had been reported in Yaxham during December 2010.
  - b. The Big Tree Plant. It was NOTED this is a Government campaign to encourage people and communities to plant more trees in England's towns, cities and neighbourhoods. It is a

<sup>3</sup> Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6

<sup>4</sup> LG (Financial Provisions) Act 1963 s5

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- partnership bringing together national tree-planting organisations and local groups working with DEFRA and the Forestry Commission to plant trees throughout England and, as such, perhaps the Yaxham Woodlands Group may like to consider running this project for the village.
- c. Celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was AGREED that Councillor Cheeseman and the Clerk would come up with some initial suggestions.
  - d. Norfolk ALC:
    - i. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. It was suggested that consideration might be given to entering Pinns Corner and Jubilee Park.
    - ii. Norfolk Link – January 2011:
      - Localism and Decentralisation Bill
      - HR Requirements
      - Data Protection
      - News from Norfolk Police Authority
      - Village Council – What's in a name?
      - Safety Camera Partnership
      - 2011 Census
      - Broadband Update
      - Daffodil planting to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
      - Scamnesty Feb 2011.
  - e. East of England Rural Forum – Action Planning Workshops.
  - f. Breckland Council:
    - i. Site Specific Policies and Proposals: Development Plan Document – Proposed Submission Document February 2011. It was NOTED that there is no involvement for Yaxham in this document.
    - ii. Breckland Town and Parish Forum -14<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
18. **To receive announcements and items for the next Agenda.**
- a. **Announcements.**
    - Update on Allotment Land
    - It was NOTED that Breckland Council's land management officer has now received all the documentation relating to this piece of land. It has been identified that there is no formal lease in existence and the freehold is held by Breckland.
  - b. **Items for the next Agenda**
    - i. Consultation – The Public Forest Estate. Closing date 21st April 2011.
    - ii. Communities and Local Government – Code of recommended practice for local authorities on data transparency – Consultation. Closes 14th March 2011.
19. **To confirm the date of the next meeting:**  
**Full Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.**