

	<p>been given and it had allowed a bus access. It was agreed that the email would be forwarded to the Clerk to liaise with Kay as part of item 7.i. on the agenda this evening.</p> <p>Resident 2 was part of the Pylon working group looking at consultations regarding national energy and had prepared a response for item 9.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the residents for bringing this information to the meeting.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Chair report</p> <p>I have very little to report this month, other than what is already included in the agenda elsewhere.</p> <p>Following the correspondence received from the Clerk, I asked that we as a council canvased opinion for the next meeting on the developing community and local partnerships for onshore wind in England. I know this is a controversial polarising subject but it could be considered in the light of more regional electricity production to reduce the need for an ever increasing network of regional pylons. I suggest that the appropriate item for this discussion is item 9.</p> <p>I have not received any direct contact this month of issues from members of our villages other than from councillors.</p> <p>Finally I have joined NALC LGBT+ group and will in the future be able to report anything relevant from these meetings to the council.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Clerk report, with mention of emails and correspondence received</p> <p>Since the last meeting in May, a number of residents have been in contact regarding parish administration, the parish website and the annual Offton Church fete. The accounts have been prepared for Public Rights which are on display now along with the completed AGAR submission. Two EGM's have been prepared for, taken place and minuted, Government consultations have been responded to along with planning consultations. Administration communication difficulties have arisen and a temporary email is being used to communicate to residents, councils and other bodies. Simultaneous use of two emails is problematic and increasing time is being spent across the two. A resolution to this is under item 15. We are still waiting for the bank to confirm our authorised signatures and those who are waiting for payment have been advised and are happy to bear with us.</p> <p>Due to undue administrative pressures, the resident who has been in contact in respect of a long term goal set by a previous parish plan - improving/creating footpaths in Willisham will be on the next agenda in September. A resident asking about speed reduction has contacted the Parish Council and this will also be on the agenda in September.</p> <p>You will note that standing items have been placed on the agenda following the EGM on the results of the Parish Plan.</p> <p>The newly named Norwich to Tilbury route is now in the public domain and ready for consultation.</p> <p>Please can I ask for the Pylon working groups first meeting conclusions/summary to be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion in the addendum of the minutes.</p> <p>Please can I also ask for Councillors to forward to me their training requests.</p> <p>A number of things are in progress within the council office:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'gov.uk' domain, emails and new website. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Bank account online viewing, removal of old councillors & new mandate for incoming Councillors 3. CIL return 4. VAT reclaim 5. Contacting Land Owners 6. Training for Councillors <p>Other items waiting for feedback from outside sources still ongoing:- Fly Tipping in The Channel (Environment Agency via BMSDC 210215 Feb 2021), Holly Road - bank degrading (Environment Agency via BMSDC 315140 June 2021), Footpath cracked pipe between school house and middlewood cottages East Anglian Water via ref:52062 Suffolk County Council & SCC 301979 March 2021, Flooding in Fiske Pightle SCC 296208 Nov 2020 & blocked gullies/drainage along Bildeston Rd SCC 391635.</p>	
6	<p>Pylon Group Report</p> <p>No report had been received by the Clerk, the Chair invited resident 3 and 2 to speak.</p> <p>The resident began by advising the Norwich to Tilburty route had been changed but there seemed to be some ambiguity on if the existing pylons are staying or not as the new route seems very close to the existing route. The ESN Pylon Group is requesting parish councils to wait until they give a view before giving a response to the consultation. SAY NO to Pylons material has been distributed and the public seem to be coming more aware. The Pylon working group would like to ask the council to hold an EGM before the 10th August cut off date of the consultation. The residents went on to advise that embedded carbon on land is much higher than embedded carbon undersea. That the National Grid do not seem to be using the 'Holford Guidelines' and following them as they should.</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/sites/default/files/documents/13795-The%20Holford%20Rules.pdf</p> <p>The National Grid have also not bothered to wait for the ESO (Electricity Supply Operator) to provide their report.</p> <p>Overall it was seen that undersea is more environmentally friendly (Carbon wise) and cheaper in the long run as it is future proofing. A forth resident advised, if undersea is not carried out they are looking to double the pylon lines once one line is done. The working group also recommended using the ESN pylons group response as the parish response and highlighted that a lot of groups are looking at an offshore proposal.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the residents for their update and the council discussed the information given.</p> <p>It was Proposed, Seconded and Unanimously AGREED for the date of 31st July to be set as the EGM to prepare a consultation response. It was also noted that the Clerk would be away at this time but would be able to prepare the agenda and input the consultation response that would be prepared on her return. It was also AGREED that the working group would prepare a strategy and plan of action.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Pylon Working Group</p>

7	<p>Standing Items agreed from the Parish Plan EGM</p> <p>i) Road Closures - Cty Cllr Oakes It was AGREED that this item was moved to the agenda for September</p> <p>ii) A dedicated Bus Route - suggest a working group/organising lead The way forward was discussed by council. Cllr Pratt advised that BMSDC are looking to place electric bikes at Needham Station. It was made clear that the demographic of the users was currently unknown. Cllr Wells was willing to lead on this and to contact Elmswell Parish Council to find out what they did to set up their bus route.</p> <p>iii) Speeding in the Village - suggest a working group/organising lead Discussion took place regarding the '20's plenty and traffic calming. From the last police monitoring it seemed that a small minority of drivers actually speed and that areas in Willisham and Offton were not suitable for speed monitoring devices due to line of sight and safety for the volunteers. It was Proposed that 60mph areas of road where they link with 30mph speed limit on the same road were phased out. Cllr Pratt advised that a resident had pointed out that it would be nice to have a safe path to Bonny Wood and that a new right of way access could be provided. This issue of safety and paths was agreed to be moved to the next meeting to discuss further. It was also AGREED that Cllr Chaplin would take a lead on this item.</p> <p>iv) A tree for Every Household - suggest a working group/organising lead This was discussed briefly, mostly by bringing up questions such as who can we get the trees from, where will they go, when will they be planted and how should they be looked after. Cllr Wells was happy to take a lead on this and come back to the next meeting with some answers.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wells</p> <p>Cllr Chaplin</p> <p>Cllr Wells</p>
8	<p>Planning & Governance Consultations</p> <p>None</p>	
9	<p>To discuss recent correspondence received from National Grid regarding the newly named Norwich to Tilbury electricity route</p> <p>Following on from item 6, the discussion for this item was focussed on a consultation received "Developing Local Partnerships for Onshore Wind in England" Resident 2 had prepared a response and this was considered and discussed at length. After two amended Proposals, it was Proposed, Seconded and AGREED by 4 votes to 1 that the amended response discussed was given as follows:-</p> <p><i>"With the limited information presented and readily available, we are sharing a restricted view of the proposal.</i></p> <p><i>The consultation is focused on the Government's (DepESNZ) desire to change current planning regulations which currently allow local communities and individuals to have significant influence on plans for local land based wind generation which is fair, reasonable and equitable.</i></p> <p><i>The consultation probes the question of how communities can benefit from wind turbine development in their localities As with a similar consultation from DepESNZ on the subject of "compensation" for energy assets built close to communities, any financial benefit would be a private arrangement between the developer and the community and would not be regulated by the Government.</i></p>	

	<p><i>The proposed changes would dilute existing decision making processes; the opportunity for a regional benefit, such as a new secondary school, would be welcomed at regional level, however the noise, flicker and visual impact of the wind turbines would only be felt by the local community. The unequal effect of decision makers versus impacted communities will make this method of community benefit unequitable and unreasonable.</i></p> <p><i>The Government seems focused on taking a "least cost" approach to the development of renewable energy generation when from a sustainable perspective, the most desirable approach to meet demand to develop is to continue to expand the existing Offshore fleet of generators in both shallow and deep water locations.</i></p> <p><i>In summary, this consultation seems to have been based on a view that planning permission for onshore wind generation should be loosened, when it should be based on economic, technical or environmental considerations.</i></p> <p><i>Our recommendation is that this consultation should be revised pending a review of the economic, technical and environmental impacts of Onshore Wind Generation."</i></p>	Clerk
10	<p>To discuss Grass Cutting of the verge on Tye Lane Cllr Cox introduced this item as one side of the grass verge is being cut and the other isn't. The Past history of the grass cutting is that it is too small for it to be cut by a contractor and volunteers are hard to find. One side of the verge is currently cut, but the opposite side has lost it's volunteer. It was AGREED that Cllr Cox was permitted to seek out the current volunteer who does one of the sides of grass verge with a view to providing a donation to cover the costs of removal of the grass cuttings and energy used.</p>	Cllr
11	<p>To discuss the Commemorative Tree on Tye Lane Cllr Cox introduced this item as the tree had died. Discussion took place in respect of the tree and if it can be replaced 'like for like' as it was about 8ft tall. It was AGREED that it would be an item on the agenda in Sept to ask Cty Cllr Oakes.</p>	Clerk
12	<p>To discuss 'Digital Champions' correspondence This item was briefly discussed. It was AGREED that this would be placed in The Link for volunteers.</p>	Clerk
13	<p>To discuss D-Day 80th Anniversary 6th June 2024 After a short discussion the council felt this would be something the parish would like to celebrate, and for the clerk to place in the budget for 2024-2025 ready for November's meeting.</p>	Clerk
14	<p>Finance a) Current Bank Balances as at 31st May 2023:- Community Account = £4892.05 Premium Account = £13,605.91</p>	

	<p>b) To discuss the authorisation signatures for Unity Bank A discussion took place in respect of where the Council was at on Councillors Authorisation progress. If nothing is received from the bank soon then the Clerk will chase them.</p> <p>c) To discuss accepting current details provided for the Big Coronation Lunch The council discussed the current information received and it was Proposed, Seconded and Unanimously AGREED that in this circumstance the information was acceptable for the Clerk to make payment of £75.42.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
15	<p>To discuss recommendation from the RFO to accept the quote from Suffolk Cloud to create a website and emails ending gov.uk and to have Suffolk Cloud as our IT maintenance provider for the next 2yrs. This was discussed at length by council. Quotes that had been received were reviewed, the website quality was reviewed online and the costs were discussed. It was Proposed, Seconded and Unanimously AGREED to have Suffolk Cloud as the provide.r</p>	Clerk
16	<p>Date of the next meeting is Monday 4th Sept 2023, an EGM for 31st July is confirmed to prepare a response to the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury consultation.</p> <p>Items for the next agenda:- Footpath to Willisham Church New standing items Advertising funding for Mobile Shop</p>	Clerk

Meeting end 9:15pm

ADDENDUM

1. County Councillor Report - July

Suffolk Fire Service to bring control room back to the County

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has announced plans to create a new fire control centre here in Suffolk.

Since October 2011, Suffolk has shared a control room with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service in Huntingdon. The joint project has worked well, saving both fire services money and enabling greater cross-border resource sharing.

However, the company behind a project to deliver a new IT system, initiated in 2019, has run into technical and financial problems, causing a significant delay. This, in addition to advancements in technology, has led to the decision to bring fire control back into the county by the end of 2024.

The proposed new control centre will be brought to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet for approval in September 2023.

Help for Suffolk Pre-payment Meter customers

A package of support has been created for pre-payment meter customers in Suffolk who are struggling with their energy bills. Warm Homes Suffolk is a Suffolk-wide Council partnership service, delivering energy efficiency support to low-income households affected by cost-of-living pressures.

Supported by Suffolk's Collaborative Communities Board and funding from Public Health Suffolk's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), the service is now able to offer specific help for households struggling to pay their energy bills via a pre-payment meter, in addition to its existing support. The support covers the whole of Suffolk and is available for all residents, whether they are in social housing, council tenants, owner occupiers or private renters.

The Warm Homes Suffolk Service can check eligibility and support applications for grants to increase household energy efficiency, with measures such as loft and wall insulation to air source heat pumps, draught-proofing and more.

It is estimated that more than 24,000 people in Suffolk are pre-payment meter customers. The service will work with everyone to understand the pressures on their finances and the impact this is having on their lives. The service can carry out a home visit, as well as providing advice over the phone and by email.

The COMF funding of £180,000 will enable this project to run for 12 months to provide the following:

- Income maximisation (through grants and benefits)
- Budgeting advice
- Help understanding bills and heating systems
- Support to reduce energy expenditure (By promoting social tariffs and support to switch suppliers)
- Improving household energy efficiency (By installing insulation, draught proofing, heating systems and solar panels)
- Facilitating switch away from prepaid meters if appropriate

Pre-payment meter customers who would like support can contact prepay@eastssuffolk.gov.uk to find out more, or call: **Prepay West at 07769 365796**, or **Prepay East at 07769 366229**.

Referrals can be made directly from households, the voluntary sector and professionals to find prepay households who can benefit from an independent look at their bills. Warm Homes Suffolk also offers support and advice for residents who are not pre-payment meter customers. To find out more about the support on offer, visit: <https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/>

Ancestry appointed to digitise Suffolk's popular family and local history sources

More than 400 years of fascinating historical documents held at Suffolk Archives are to be digitised and made available online, thanks to an agreement between Suffolk County Council and Ancestry. Suffolk Archives will work alongside the family history website Ancestry to create high-quality, full-colour digital images of millions of baptisms, marriage and burial records from parishes within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The earliest records being digitised date back to 1538 and include events in the lives of notable historical figures, such as the 1776 baptism of landscape artist John Constable, and the 1846 burial of Thomas Clarkson who devoted his life to the abolition of slavery.

It is hoped that Suffolk's main parish records will be published online in early 2025 with other collections of local interest to follow. Public access will be free of charge in Suffolk Archives branches or at any Suffolk Library. Anyone with an Ancestry subscription will also be able to access the records as part of their research from their own computer or device. Further details about the project can be found on the [Suffolk Archives website](#).

£100m broadband investment in Suffolk under government's Project Gigabit

Better broadband is on its way for around 80,000 properties across rural Suffolk in a £100 million investment under a £5 billion government infrastructure programme. The county is one of three to benefit from Project Gigabit and was chosen to host the launch of the announcement by Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure, Sir John Whittingdale. Similar projects were also announced for Norfolk and Hampshire as Sir John was joined in Orford by Suffolk Coastal MP Therese Coffey and Councillor Matthew Hicks, the leader of Suffolk County Council. Project Gigabit is the government's £5 billion mission to roll out gigabit-capable, reliable broadband across the UK. Improved connectivity unlocks new opportunities and fuels innovation, supporting the Prime Minister's priority of growing the economy by creating better paid jobs. Around 62,000 homes and businesses in Norfolk stand to benefit from £114 million of Project Gigabit investment, across locations including Buxton, Castle Acre and Horning. A further 8,000 premises in the northwest of the county are being reviewed for inclusion subject to survey in the next six months. This project is managed by BDUK who in turn have contracted CityFibre to do the actual work of installing the cabling.

CityFibre, the UK's largest independent full-fibre provider, will deliver gigabit-capable infrastructure for around 218,000 homes and businesses having secured £318 million of Project Gigabit funding after a competitive process. The provider will also be making a private investment of £170 million to deliver the project. Decisions on where broadband infrastructure is installed will be made by BDUK and not by SCC. Survey work in all three counties commences immediately, with the first installations in the New Year and the first live connections expected by summer 2024. Once connected, residents and businesses will enjoy access to broadband services over a network capable of supporting speeds of up to 10Gbps.

Council to consider new chapter for library services

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet is set to discuss the future of library services in Suffolk at its next meeting on 11 July. The current contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS), worth £5.92 million per annum, ends on 31st July 2024. The Council now needs to consider how library services will be delivered following the expiry of the contract. The report to Cabinet will recommend that a new Library Service contract is procured using a competitive tender process.

To enable meaningful engagement, public consultation, and a competitive tender process to take place, the report also recommends that the current contract with Suffolk's Libraries IPS is extended by 10 months, to 31 May 2025. The public consultation will be used to inform the requirements and future development of the new service.

In May 2023, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed to protect library services by providing Suffolk's Libraries IPS an additional £720k per year to address increases in service costs, until the end of the

current contract. The proposal to be put to cabinet on 11 July is to continue to fund Suffolk Libraries IPS at this rate for the duration of the proposed 10-month extension.

The proposed value of the new contract will be £6.842m per year, considering the increased service costs and including an additional £0.2m for the Libraries Outreach Service. The proposed term of the contract will be 6 years, with the option to extend for a further 6 years.

The recommendations will be discussed at the meeting of Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 11 July. Papers for the meeting can be viewed at <https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk>

[Councillor Kay Oakes](#)

2. District Council Report - July

Battisford and Ringshall Ward

Barking, Battisford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham

People and Place Plans update

The People and Place Plan (PPP) forms part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is due a third reading in Parliament before the summer recess. Further details should emerge regarding the statutory weighting of the document, the level of evidence required and how the scheme may be funded. MSDC is one of six councils in England that won a bid to trial the new scheme to help Local Authorities and communities develop a more community-led approach to planning.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles to install 28 new 22kW EV charging points in several carparks including most of the council-owned carparks in Stowmarket.

Police and Crime Panel

The panel is a county wide body which scrutinises the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They usually meet quarterly and members of the public are welcome to attend and can ask questions relevant to an agenda item. The next meeting is to be held on Friday 14th July; the agenda will be published 10 days before hand and any public questions need to be lodged by midnight on Tues 11th July.

District Council Meetings in Mid Suffolk

MSDC's full council meetings, normally held at Endeavour House offices in Ipswich, will now be held in the district where possible. The venue of our next full council meeting on 19th July is the Blackbourne Community Centre in Elmswell.

Community Grants available in Mid Suffolk

Capital Grants – these are aimed at assisting community groups in making improvements and repairs to village halls, play areas, sports clubs, recreational facilities and other social infrastructure. They can cover to up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000. Capital Grants are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 2nd June 2023.

Community Development Grants – provides financial support to help with the delivery of local place-based initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. The grants is available towards either revenue (ongoing) or capital (new or one-off) projects. It can cover up to 100%

of project costs to a maximum of £20,000. Applications are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 23rd June 2023.

Councillors Locality Award – the award will be open for applications towards the end of May 2023.

Dr Daniel Pratt