

**MINUTES OF WALPOLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 19 MAY 2014 AT WALPOLE & COOKLEY PAVILION**

Present: Members of Cookley & Walpole Parish Council: David Cask, Zoé Mair, David Whitwood, Mike Porter & John Winter, PCSO Julie Hinton, Raymond Catchpole (Clerk to Cookley & Walpole Parish Council) and five parishioners.

Apologies for Absence: County & District Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Cookley Parish Cllrs Ian Newton & Nick Jarvis and Walpole Cllrs Anne Thomas & Bill Camplin.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr David Cask, Chairman of Cookley & Walpole Parish Council and opened at 7.35pm immediately following the earlier Cookley Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Reports were received as follows:

George Calver Charity report was read by Zoé Mair:

In the financial year 2013 we have been able to approve 6 applications amounting to £1444.98 which is within our accepted budget of £2,000.00 being roughly the interest we received for the year. We have again visited "Helping Hands" in Halesworth and reminded them of our willingness to support any needy cases, to date; we have not received any requests. The contact we made with "The Admissions Prevention Team" has paid off with another application which we were delighted to support. Last AGM we discussed the possibility of supporting any individual applications from pupils at Bramfield Primary School, no applications have been received. Total assets as of 31 December 2013 are £55,318.71.

MP mentioned the charity covers an extensive area, the Blything Hundred. PCSO Julie Hinton expressed interest and noted the existence of the charity.

The existence of a Cookley trust was raised and discussed. Funds are used for various charitable purposes and clerk will approach them next year in case they wish to submit a report. *(Note from clerk: local groups and organisations are encouraged to submit annual reports of their activities to an annual parish meeting, but there is no obligation so to do.)*

Police Report was read by clerk pending the arrival of PCSO Julie Hinton:

For the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 there have been 4 reported crimes. Walpole: 1 theft, 2 criminal damage and 1 assault. Cookley: 1 burglary, 1 common assault.

The chairman introduced PCSO Julie Hinton on arrival to those present as the local village officer. Julie Hinton spoke to her report and answered any questions arising. There was no information available on the differences between the assault and the common assault. Cllr Porter mentioned speed indicator signs and Julie Hinton confirmed she was in touch with Stephen Burroughes on the matter. Clerk reported on change of policy at SCC which was making acquiring speed indication signs more difficult and confirmed he was also in touch with Stephen Burroughes. The chairman mentioned that attendance at other parish meetings confirmed that every parish appeared to have speeding and parking problems. Julie Hinton encouraged communication by anyone concerned direct with the Highways Authority. Zoe Mair will email further dates to Julie Hinton for a visit from the police road show to a

Cookpole event. An endeavor will be made to post future police reports on the Cookpole website.

Footpaths Officer, report by Cllr Bill Camplin as Footpaths Officer was read in his absence by clerk:

Footpaths and bridleways are an important amenity in Cookley and Walpole. The main activity this year has been to walk these Public Rights of Way to audit their accessibility. There has been no volunteer clearance activity or substantive remedial works by SCDC.

Circa 20% of the paths and bridleways were walked by the footpath officer. All were found to be accessible and in good condition except for two (See locations marked in attachment): (i) steps are needed on the path running north from Cookley because in wet weather the path becomes dangerously slippery. The County Council have agreed to undertake this work. (ii) the path at the top of Rockstone leading towards Cookley Grange is overgrown and difficult to walk. This will be cleared in 2014/15.

Suffolk County Council cleared several paths of undergrowth despite funding for such work being more difficult in these times of Government spending restraint.

The outflow from a land drain was found to have cut across the steps on the path on the Bramfield Road towards the allotments. A new channel for the waste water has been dug to redirect it away from the steps.

The path from the Halesworth Road to the river near Keevil becomes a stream in wet weather because the adjacent ditch has become full of silt and plants. This was discussed at a Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that no remedial works were necessary.

There was considerable discussion from the public as to the best way to check the legality of local footpaths. It was often difficult to identify the legal route as between what OS maps showed and the physical route. It was pointed out OS maps should not be relied upon regarding legal rights of way and often carried a disclaimer to this effect. Clerk made available for short term scrutiny a copy of the Walpole Definitive Rights of Way Map and confirmed he would be prepared to follow up queries if emailed to him with full detail.

Cookley & Walpole Good Neighbours, report read by Cllr Zoé Mair on behalf of Pam Neil:

The Good Neighbours are pleased to give a warm welcome to two new members of the management group, Corinne Porter and Jennifer Thomas. The monthly Cookpole Café goes from strength to strength with new guests and new helpers. We are grateful to Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trustees for their grant of £750 to assist with overheads, such as insurance and hiring fees and the possible subsidizing of an outing for older residents. While there have been few calls to the Good Neighbours for lifts and other help, we are always at the ready to fulfil these tasks. Several baskets of fruit and goodies have been given to residents on return from hospital, and our accountant has also received a gift for his services.

Zoé Mair added that Good Neighbours has a direct mobile phone line and the number is on the website to be taken down and kept in a safe place.

Cookpole Energy Action Limited, report read by Cllr Zoé Mair on behalf of the chairman, Dr Simon Weeks:

This last year has been relatively quiet by our standards. The most obvious progress has been in relation to the allotments and community orchard, which is the subject of a separate report.

However, we have finally sorted out our governance arrangements this year. CEA is now a legally incorporated organisation, giving us an existence independent of the individual members. We are not yet able to implement our original aim of registering as a charity with the Charity Commission since

our annual income is too low. However, we have applied to register as a charity with HMRC. This will give us a 'charity number', which we can use in grant applications etc.

Our efforts to raise money for the wind turbine have effectively been on hold as we've been waiting to get our charity number before embarking on a round of letters to private grant-giving Trusts and Foundations.

The Cookpole oil-buying consortium continues to provide its members with discounted prices for heating oil. Thanks go to Paul Grimwood for administering this scheme, which is always seeking new members.

In November we held another successful 'Walpole Winter Craft Barn', which raised around £1,500. The stall-holders seem to like coming here as all pitches were filled within a fortnight of the booking forms going out. Our thanks go to Porter's Farms Ltd for hosting this event again, and to the volunteers who run the cafe.

We have started looking at the feasibility of two new projects this year. First of all, we are considering a small-scale 'community woodland' project. This would involve working with the Halesworth Mencap group in currently unmanaged patches of woodland in the area. The aims are to provide meaningful outside activity for the group, to provide some free or discounted wood fuel for use in the parish and to manage the woodland better for wildlife.

We are also at the early stages of looking at the feasibility of a community electric bike scheme. This would involve having a couple of electric bikes that people in the parish could book out for periods, to use instead of their cars. The bikes could be charged using 'free' electricity from the solar panels on the Pavilion.

Walpole & Cookley Playing Field Trust and Cookpole Community Council, report read by Zoé Mair as chairman:

This has been another busy, eventful and successful year for Cookpole. Regular activities include the popular and ever evolving Craft Club, the monthly Car Boot Sales in the summer, and the Keep Fit Class. Sadly the Vine Youth Club has folded but maybe someone else will come forward with an initiative for the younger members of the community.

Special events last year included the annual Autumn Lunch, a Quiz Night with a good turn out including several new faces, an excellent First Aid Course set up by the Good Neighbours and who can forget that wonderful evening of music and picnics with the Jack Pescod trio, when we were so lucky to have a fine warm evening. 2014 will see the continuation of our regular activities as well as a summer barbecue.

Last year Cookpole members also gave much appreciated support to two local events, the Heveningham Hall Country Fair and the Walpole Craft Barns.

We have enhanced the Circular Walk with new trees and wild flowers and a bench has been ordered, to be paid for by a grant from the Locality Budget. The pavilion now boasts a trophy shelf and solar outside lighting. Following shed painting, it is the turn of the pavilion itself to be given a spruce up, outside this year, and inside next.

Heveningham Hall Fair Trustees have made us a grant of £2000 to fund the re-surfacing of the driveway. It is vital to take care of our grounds and fine pavilion (10 years old in June) which are the envy of many and will indeed be used this year for the venue for a local wedding. We now need to focus on some outstanding targets such as fresh play and sport equipment.

In addition to attracting grants towards specific expenditure, the Trust benefits from the income from our solar voltaic panels and the fees for hiring the pavilion. We are very grateful for the impeccable work that Donna Sanders carries out as our Treasurer.

Yet again the Cookpole News has risen from the ashes both in the form of our new website and the popular paper version. We were delighted to be one of fourteen community websites (out of some 450 similar sites based

on the OneSuffolk template) to be honoured at an awards evening on 6 May. This award now graces the pavilion wall as you can see. Special thanks go to Lesley Norton for her work on the website and to Ken Wilson (our associate publisher) for the paper Cookpole News.

Finally and not for the first time I would like to add that, as with this council and other groups, the Playing Field Trust would really like to welcome younger new members on board to carry forward and develop the activities of this important community group.

Questions arose as to grass cutting which were answered by Zoe Mair.

Walpole Allotments, report read by clerk on behalf of Cllr Anne Thomas:

During the last 12 months the Allotments in Walpole have been flourishing, with more plots being taken up and facilities gradually improving. We have had a lot of support from Cookpole Energy Action, from the Parish Council, from Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, Flagship Housing, Community Action Suffolk and this has given us the finances needed. We especially want to thank Councillor Stephen Burroughes who in his capacity at County Councillor has given us a very generous £2,500 from his Locality Budget which has paid for our borehole and solar pump. This, I'm advised, is probably the first one on Suffolk allotments.

We've also been able to purchase a number of fruit trees which were planted earlier in the year. Paying a little more for good quality older saplings has paid off – some have already flowered. We are now about to commission fencing and gates, which will be as rabbit and muntjac-proof as possible. This will be paid for from a Capital Fund Grant from Suffolk Coastal District Council plus the Parish Council and Cookpole Energy Action Grants.

The outstanding items and those which many people are looking forward to are those of the Community Shed, and some landscaping. Flagship Housing Association has offered us a substantial grant for these and I am assured that we will receive this by the end of May. We are intending to put a good quality 'log cabin' type shed which will be sited near the top on the more sloping part of the site, and we will also be purchasing a load of old railway sleepers to create a small 'terrace' and stepped beds for herbs and flowers. We are also intending to create a more welcoming entrance with stepped raised beds replacing the concrete chunks and rubbish currently deposited there.

Finally, we are planning our very first Flower and Produce Show on Saturday September 13th. This will be open to all residents – not just allotment holders, and further details will be available soon.

We still have some plots available to rent and anyone interested can contact me in the first instance – 784348 or Jane Henson at 5, Neave Close. Plots are however only available to people living in Cookley and Walpole.

There was interest from those present as to rent levels and size of plots.

Suffolk Coastal District Council, report read by clerk on behalf of District Cllr Stephen Burroughes:

DISTRICT MOVING FORWARD WITH BOUNDARY CHANGES

Suffolk Coastal has submitted its proposals for the new warding arrangements and the reduction of Councillors from 55 to 42 to the Boundary Commission for its approval in readiness for the 2015 elections. A review had to take place in order to equalise the amount of 'electors' per District Council 'Ward' and Suffolk Coastal have put in their suggestions for the Boundary Commission to study. Reducing the number of councillors will save money and more fully engage councillors in the day to day running of the council.

DISTRICT COMMITTED TO ZERO INCREASE ON COUNCIL TAX

Suffolk Coastal remains committed to no increase in its share of the council tax. As part of its continual drive for economies of scale and to deliver first class services without putting extra cost on local council tax payers, SCDC has agreed to a 'zero' increase in its setting of the council tax for 2014/15.

SUFFOLK COASTAL MAY MOVE TO NEW HQ

A move to new offices is being considered by Suffolk Coastal Councillors. The current HQ in Melton are becoming costly to run, are not particularly accessible and not 'fit for purpose'. Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet are looking at options to see if a move to new premises is possible and how to make the it happen without putting any cost onto the council tax payer.

NEW LOCAL ENABLING BUDGET FOR COASTAL AREA

A new community enabling budget is being introduced across Suffolk Coastal District to help promote the core aims of the council, i.e., protecting the environment, promoting healthier lives, and increasing physical involvement of young people. It is seen as a way to significantly help promote active community involvement and applications for funding can be made to your District Councillor setting out the nature of the scheme, how it will be of benefit to your community, and how it will be delivered sustainably. The County Council already operates a successful 'Locality' Scheme, which is vital in the Council's objective of supporting communities financially.

Suffolk County Council, report read by clerk on behalf County Cllr Stephen Burroughes:

SCC DELIVERS ON COUNCIL TAX FREEZE PLEDGE SCC's portion of council tax will be frozen at its 2010/11 level for the fourth year in a row, after the council voted through its budget proposals for 2014/15 in February this year. The council will be saving £38.6million over the next year to meet a budget gap caused by on-going reductions in government grant and increased demand for services. This is the first part of plans to save £156million over four years. Despite the tough financial climate, the council will be pushing ahead with important projects, such as 'Raising the Bar (driving up attainment levels in education), the roll-out of super-fast broadband across the whole of Suffolk, investing in apprenticeships, and supporting the development of 10 new, state-of-the-art care homes for older people. At the same time, the road maintenance budget – used for fixing potholes - has been protected from cuts. With plans to freeze council tax each year up to 2017, this will mean seven years with no increase.

SCC SHORTLISTED FOR MOST IMPROVED COUNCIL AWARD The county council has made it through to the final shortlist in the Most Improved Council category for the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards. In being shortlisted – for the second year in a row - we have been recognised for being at the cutting edge of the national broadband project, in the vanguard of moves to share office accommodation with other public sector organisations, helping secure the City Deal for Greater Ipswich, as well as managing the multi-million-pound energy from waste project towards its completion. The other councils on the shortlist are all from eastern England – Norwich City Council, Luton Borough Council and Thurrock Council. Overall, 640 entries were submitted for 19 different awards this year. Winners will be announced on 12th March 2014.

RAISING THE BAR IN EDUCATION A report which produced a series of recommendations aimed at driving up educational standards in Suffolk was endorsed by the county council in July last year. The report was produced by the RSA, under the auspices of the county council's 'Raising the Bar' initiative. Raising the Bar was launched last year, as a major project to improve attainment levels and build a stronger aspirational culture around education in Suffolk. The RSA's report, 'No School is an Island', contained 20 recommendations. Among these was the idea that small rural schools with fewer than 100 pupils should enter a federation with others to maximise resources. Other suggestions included: for Suffolk to form a partnership with a London Borough with a record of improvement in educational standards, to learn from the huge progress they have made; for every school to establish a Parents' Council to ensure voices are heard, and also for all Suffolk schools to join together to form a new county-wide, school-led Suffolk Partnership for Excellence in Learning.

GCSE RESULTS MOVE SUFFOLK UP FIVE PLACES IN LEAGUE TABLE December's publication of the national league tables for schools, based on the most recent GCSE results, saw Suffolk move up to 137th out of 151 local authority areas. This is a five-place improvement on last year. It also means Suffolk is climbing nearer to the national average. 54.6% of Suffolk pupils gained five or more GCSEs graded between A* to C, putting Suffolk 6.4% off the national average of 61%. This compares with the previous year's results, when Suffolk was 8.5% off the national average of 59%. As Lisa Chambers, SCC's cabinet member for education said: "The results are a reflection of the hard work put in by young people and all those individuals in the Suffolk education system who have

been relentless in pursuit of improved standards in the county. I do however recognise that there is still work to be done to get Suffolk further up the league tables and performing above the national average. Crucially, the pace of improvement needs to increase. It's what our young people deserve from their education and it's what we are all determined to achieve."

GREATER IPSWICH CITY DEAL SIGNED Local councils and businesses have signed the deal with the Government which will bring in £millions of new investment for the local economy. The Greater Ipswich City Deal will see thousands of people supported into work and millions invested in Ipswich and the surrounding area. Suffolk County Council have worked closely with the borough council and local businesses to develop our local deal, which will aim to make Suffolk more prosperous by: supporting 3,500 young people into work in the greater Ipswich area; creating and piloting a Youth Job Centre; increasing local private and public investment in skills by at least £10 million; creating 5,000 new apprenticeships by 2019; creating 3,000 additional high-value jobs and 400 new businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk; developing a new approach to skills, led by employers, and a highly-skilled local workforce. SCC Leader, Mark Bee, said: "The effects of this City Deal won't just be felt in Ipswich. The entire county stands to benefit because of the investment and improvements that will be made as a result. This is a significant moment for the future prosperity of Suffolk."

SOR IN BURY – CABINET GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO CHANGE TO TWO-TIER EDUCATION In February this year, SCC's cabinet gave their support to the proposed changes to schools in the Bury St Edmunds area, following an extensive public consultation which showed support for a move to two-tier education. At the cabinet meeting, the cabinet agreed to press ahead with the changes. However, the decision was challenged by the Labour councillors, so will be subject to a review by the council's scrutiny committee this month. Pending the outcome of that scrutiny process, the decision is on hold. The cabinet debate followed a public consultation, in which 54% of respondents to a questionnaire said they agreed with the move to two-tier education in Bury St Edmunds; 34% disagreed. Notices were published immediately following the cabinet's decision and before the call-in was submitted, so if the scrutiny committee endorse the cabinet's decision, the process will go ahead as per the original timetable. If the decision is instead referred back to cabinet, then they would have to re-consider their decision at a future meeting, and the overall schedule would then be revised accordingly. However, if this happens, and the cabinet then decide still to press ahead, it is hoped that the changes could still be made in time for completion in September 2016.

GOVERNMENT CONFIRM FUNDING FOR A14 AND DROP PLANS FOR A TOLL In June, the government confirmed that funding will be available to upgrade the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon. The work to upgrade the A14 will go ahead at a cost estimated at being close to £1.5billion. It was originally proposed that this would be funded in part by local authority contributions, together with tolling of the road when completed. However, following a concerted campaign by Suffolk businesses, residents, media, councillors and MPs, the plans for tolling were dropped. The improvements planned for the A14 are much-needed, and will be a shot in the arm to the Suffolk economy, particularly with regard to the ports and the through-put of freight. SCC's cabinet agreed to commit around £1million to the project over a 25-year period.

SCC CABINET AGREES INVESTMENT IN NEW APPRENTICESHIPS ACROSS SUFFOLK SCC's Cabinet endorsed the Greater Ipswich City Deal in early December. At the same meeting, they gave the go-ahead to the investment of £1.5million to establish a local Apprenticeship service for Suffolk. SCC leader Mark Bee signed the Greater Ipswich City Deal at the end of October, along with the leaders of other local councils, the Anglian LEP and the government. The deal will bring in investment to cut youth unemployment, develop local skills and work with businesses to help them create new jobs. In December, as well as endorsing this deal, the Cabinet agreed the new investment in apprenticeships – a three-year plan to increase apprenticeships across Suffolk. The plan involves three key programmes of activity: Making apprenticeships more accessible to employers, particularly to small and medium-sized businesses; raising the profile of apprenticeships in schools and supporting young people to participate; and finally, community-based marketing and communications to raise awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships.

SUFFOLK AND NORFOLK SIGN UP TO CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP In November 2013, SCC Leader, Mark Bee met up with his counterpart in Norfolk, George Nobbs, on the border of Norfolk and Suffolk, to sign an agreement committing the two counties to working more closely together. In signing the 'Memorandum of Understanding', the two leaders announced an immediate pledge to simplify and improve health and social care for people living near the county boundary.

While both county councils will remain as independent sovereign bodies, they will now work together to strengthen existing joint-working arrangements and explore areas where the county councils can join forces, cut duplication and so save money for the tax payers of East Anglia whilst protecting front-line services. Areas where closer co-operation will be explored include: Collaborative working to maximise the benefits of the Norwich and Ipswich City Deal proposals; sharing the benefits of the latest information technology, drawing upon initiatives under development in Norfolk; joining up the commissioning of Mental Health services. Norfolk and Suffolk have one Mental Health Trust and so it makes sense for the councils to commission services in collaboration.

TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY IN BURY ST EDMUNDS MARKS FIRST YEAR OF CARE-HOME PARTNERSHIP In December, the first anniversary of the partnership between Suffolk County Council and Care UK - which is building state-of-the-art care homes across the county - was marked with a topping-out ceremony. Yesterday, representatives from SCC, Care UK, and its development partner on the project Castleoak, placed a fir tree on the roof of the under-construction new Davers Court care home in Bury St Edmunds. This new care home and wellbeing centre, at the site of the former Davers Court in Shakers Lane, is part of a £60million three-year plan for 10 similar new developments. In December last year Care UK began operating SCC's 16 care homes and eight wellbeing centres. One year on, construction of seven of the 10 new developments is under way as part of the phased modernisation programme.

EXTRA BROADBAND FUNDING CONFIRMED AS SUFFOLK'S BROADBAND ROLL-OUT REACHES 13,000 PROPERTIES Suffolk is being given an extra £5million from the government to help make high-speed fibre broadband available to the hardest-to-reach communities. The news comes as Suffolk's Better Broadband programme passes the 13,000 property mark. Last month's announcement about new funding means that the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme, currently working to make superfast speeds (24 megabits per second (mbps) or more) available to 85% of the county, can start working towards a higher coverage target of up to 95%. At present, all properties in Suffolk have been promised speeds of at least 2 mbps by the end of 2015. In January 2014, SCC announced that it was inviting potential suppliers to discuss how they could deliver the additional work. A 'mini-competition' - separate to the current Better Broadband for Suffolk contract with BT - is now underway to identify a suitable supplier. The aim will be to complete the tendering process by the summer of 2014, and for works to start by the end of 2014 - in parallel with the on-going Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. Every three months between now and the end of the project, a further 10,000 properties should receive access to broadband.

A47 TALKS IN LOWESTOFT Senior politicians met in Lowestoft at the beginning of January to start a campaign for a new river crossing in the town. Mark Bee, leader of SCC, joined up with Colin Law, leader of Waveney District Council, Graham Newman, SCC's cabinet member for roads and transport, and Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, to discuss plans for the A47 to be extended all the way into Lowestoft. The county council took the decision, last month, to commission a feasibility study into building a third river crossing over Lake Lothing. The A47 is in the running to receive funding over the next five years. It is believed that by linking the A47 to Lowestoft as a trunk road, the funding could help meet the costs of a new river crossing, as well as attracting even greater benefits for the town.

2. Approval of Minutes: minutes of the annual parish meetings held 20 May 2013, being freely available, were taken as read, and approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters arising: there were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Annual Report 2013/14 by the Chairman of Cookley & Walpole Parish Council: Cllr David Cask reported as follows:

This has been my second year as your chairman, and I am pleased to report that your Parish Council has had a successful year under the following headings.

New Councillors for Cookley Ian Newton and Nick Jarvis were co-opted on to the parish council after attending several meetings in a non-voting capacity. Cookley had been under represented for a number of years; this creates a better balance for both villages.

Planning This council gives applicants an opportunity to personally present details of their application to council and public present. Following this, your parish council go in to "council mode" and discuss the application, and make our recommendations to District Council. I am pleased to report that at long last, Marsh View in Walpole is to be developed residentially, under District Council supervision to the delight of nearby parishioners. Although your parish council do recommend most applications, some get refused by District Council on various grounds.

Highways A very watchful eye is kept on our roads and lanes by your parish council, and I am pleased to say we do enjoy quite good response from Highways to our concerns including speeding. We have been trying to get speed indicators on Halesworth Road and Peasenhall Road, but it seems money comes before road safety in the rural setting. If anyone is willing to set up a speedwatch group, let us know please.

Rivers and Waterways We do keep The Environment Agency on their toes about rivers and flood threats, much work it seems does not fit in the current budget!

Cemetery You will note that this is kept in very good order by Will Austin of Cookley, and the Administration is conducted by our very able Parish Clerk, Raymond Catchpole. We are currently awaiting the unused half of the cemetery to be consecrated by our Bishop for future burials, we are planning that this could be in the form of a service for parishioners to attend.

Cookpole Energy Action A lot has been achieved this year, panels on the roof of the pavilion, and with a lot of time and hard work councillor Anne Thomas has seen the creation of the allotments behind the house in Peasenhall Road. With the help of our district councillor with planning, our Parish Clerk with the legal ins and outs, we became landlords, to the tenants of the allotments, and very happy they are. Water has been laid on with our District Councillor awarding funds from his Locality Budget.

Localism You may be aware of this new "buz" word, but it means we as parishioners have more say on what happens in our villages, and conduct of councillors at all levels. Support your parish council by coming to some or all of our meetings, We always allow at least thirty minutes prior to the meeting starting for the public to ask/discuss any item on the agenda.

Police Our PCSO Julie Hinton visits our meetings as her time permits, fortunately we are a low crime area.

Thank you for your patience and attention. In closing, I would like to thank our parish clerk Raymond Catchpole whose knowledge and guidance is invaluable to our parish council and parishioners alike. We can be assured that if a situation arises and he does not know the answer, he knows someone who does. Also, for the administration behind the scenes, accounts, minutes, telephone calls etc which makes our council an efficient machine.

5. Parish Council Audited accounts to 31 March 2013: copies of an executive summary of the audited accounts were available and the clerk offered to answer any queries from residents by email, telephone or meeting. The summary is attached to these minutes as an appendix.

6. Local Issues: (a) There were queries regarding the Blyth Valley special planning status and whether it was superseded by the new SCDC Local Development Plan. Clerk confirmed where the new document referred to retained policies from the previous plan, those policies were not necessarily set out again in the new document and reference back to the earlier document would be needed if details were required. The Planning Help Desk at SCDC Melton Hill would be the best starting place for specific queries. **(b)** There was extensive discussion about a possible solar farm on land at Hill Farm, Cookley. The parish council had, in April, arranged for developers to present their proposals in advance of submitting any planning application. The public had been invited and were able to respond to the

presentation and ask questions. Cllr Zoé Mair confirmed that any further news regarding this possible development would be notified to those on the community email list as well as being contained in the usual council notices and website. At the time of this parish meeting no planning application had been submitted and all that were available were plans and aspirations.

There being no other issues or matters raised, the chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX

**Executive Summary of Audited Accounts of Cookley & Walpole Parish Council
Year ended 31 March 2013**

**COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL
AUDITED ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013**

Y/E 31 MARCH 2013
2012

Y/E 31 MARCH

RECEIPTS

£4,900.00	Precept	£4,900.00
£ 1.28	Bank Interest	£ 2.52
£1,500.00	Grants	£ 500.00
£ nil	VAT refunds	£ nil
£ 48.20	Wayleaves	£ 46.88
£ 900.00	Cemetery	£ 520.00
£ nil	Footpath Map	£ 5.00
£ nil	Freedom of Information	£ 5.00
£7,849.48	Total Receipts	£5,979.40

EXPENDITURE

£ 635.78	Administration	£ 976.31
£2,100.00	Clerk's salary	£2,130.82
£ nil	NI & PAYE	£ nil
£ 271.69	Insurance	£ 287.14
£1,500.00	Grants, S137 & Other Donations	£1,170.00
£1,200.00	Maintenance, Grass & Trees	£1,000.00
£ 231.00	Hall Hire	£ 198.00
£(included in maintenance)	Cemetery	£ nil
£ 150.00	Subscriptions	£ 196.00
£ 169.00	Fees	£ nil
£ 9.00	Training	£ nil
£ 1.31	Miscellaneous	£ 81.20
£(included in expenditure above)	VAT paid	£ 45.25
£7,885.13	Total Payments	£6,084.72

SUMMARY

Balance brought forward at 1 April 2012	£7,147.20
Less Excess of Expenditure over Receipts	£ 35.65
Balance to carry forward at 1 April 2013	£7,111.55

Included in the balance above are allocated reserves for ongoing expenditure to which the council is committed.

These accounts represent the summarised financial position of the parish council at 31 March 2013 as prepared by the RFO, internally audited by LJ Sutton and externally audited by BDO LLP in accordance with the guidelines of the Audit Commission.

Raymond Catchpole
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Cookley & Walpole Parish Council
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