

Cookley & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, November 17th 2015 in the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. Mike Porter (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. Michael Bygrave; Cllr. Rob Chase; Cllr. Ian Newton and Cllr. David Whitwood:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Apologies:

Cllr. David Cask (Chairman), Cllr. Nick Jarvis; Cllr. Zoé Mair; Cllr. Anne Thomas; Cllr. John Winter; District & County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes and PCSO Jenny Hinton:

To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. M. Porter declared a personal interest in the Village Green, Flagship and Footpaths.

To receive a talk by Cllr. W. Shoote regarding defibrillators:

Cllr. W. Shoote explained where Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council were in gaining a defibrillator. He said that discussions had revolved around whether it should be in a locked cupboard or not although he said that it was very rare for a defibrillator to be stolen. Cllr. W. Shoote also said that there were discussions on whether the defibrillator should be automatic or semi-automatic. He did clarify though that both types check the patient has a heartbeat but he recommended the semi-automatic version as the user has to press a button to continue the next stage. He said that the defibrillator needed batteries to administer the shock and a power supply to keep it at a minimum temperature. Cllr. W. Shoote said that the outlay was between £800-£1000 but the pads needed to be changed every two years, batteries every four years, training given at the beginning and thereafter every two/three years and the defibrillator checked weekly. He reported that a defibrillator can be insured and counselling should be made available for those who use the defibrillator. Cllr. W. Shoote noted that the Community Heartbeat Trust will do everything for a £1800 donation and they will look after it for four years.

It was agreed that Cllr. R. Chase would liaise with Cllr. W. Shoote over a defibrillator for Cookley and Walpole.

To receive a report from the County and District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes:

The Clerk said that Cllr. S. Burroughes had sent his apologies but that he had sent a written report which was in the correspondence envelope.

Cllr. M. Porter expressed his support for the four villages bypass to be built and believed that it should be built irrespective of whether Sizewell C is built.

Public Session:

A member of the public asked about the possibility of the one hour of free parking ending at the Thoroughfare Car Park in Halesworth. They said that they had written to Therese Coffey MP and to Waveney District Council. They said that they had had a reply from Therese Coffey MP who they reported said that Waveney District Council should think very carefully before ending the one hour free parking.

It was agreed to send a letter to Waveney District Council in support of Halesworth Town Council and keeping the one hour of Free Parking.

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on October 20th 2015:

The Minutes were agreed.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Planning Matters:

There were no planning matters.

Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received a Sizewell C Update, a 'Clerks and Councils Direct' Newspaper, 'Headway' Letter asking for a donation and a Suffolk Coastal District Council Consultation. The Clerk was asked to bring the 'Headway' letter to the March 2016 Meeting when donations will be discussed.

Financial Report:

Community Account:	£5 981-79_
Business Account:	£1 095-50

Invoices for Payment:

The Clerk reported that the Council needed to make some decisions regarding its insurance as its insurance from 01/10/2015 to 30/09/2016 needed paying.

The Clerk said that the Council had been with the Business Services at Community Action Suffolk. He said that there was a choice of three deals:

Annual Premium with an Expiry Date of 30/09/2016	£234.75
3 Year Long Term Undertaking with an Expiry Date of 30/09/2018	£223.01
5 Year Long Term Undertaking with an Expiry Date of 30/09/2020	£211.28

It was agreed to enter into a five year agreement and therefore to pay £211.28 for the next five years.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase

Seconder: Cllr. M. Bygrave

The Clerk also brought the following cheques for payment:

Chq. No. 100901	Walpole and Cookley Playing Field Trust Annual Grant	£500.00
Chq. No. 100902	Clerk's Wages for end of December	£420-00
Chq. No. 100903	Clerk's Tax to HMRC for end of December	£105-00
Chq. No. 100904	Clerk's Expenses to the end of December	£48-75
Chq. No. 100905	Business Services at CAS	£211.28

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter

Seconder: Cllr. I. Newton

Receipts:

There have been no new receipts.

Pensions:

The Clerk said that the Council has a Pensions Staging Date of July 1st 2016. The Clerk is continuing to check as what the Council has to do.

Initiatives to cut Speeding:

Cllr. M. Bygrave gave a presentation on his research into Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). He said that they have to be mounted on a specially installed pole and be approved by Suffolk County Council. The Vehicle Activated Signs are battery powered and these batteries last a month if they show the speed or a week if they show an expressive face. Cllr. M. Bygrave said research suggested that without the Vehicle Activated Signs, 56% of vehicles broke the speed limit whilst 46% did with the Vehicle Activated Signs. Vehicle Activated Signs are most effective in the first two weeks. He said that the locations have to be approved by the Highways Department at Suffolk County Council and whilst he was investigating suppliers, the usual cost of Vehicle Activated Signs was £2625 plus VAT and £250 for the data collection. Cllr. M. Bygrave said that there is a meeting every three months with the Police to discuss issues and share data.

It was agreed to buy a Vehicle Activated Sign and for Cllr. M. Bygrave to make further investigations. It was agreed to defer the decision on whether to join with other Parish Councils in buying one or to go it alone, The Clerk was asked to see if Cllr. S. Burroughes would contribute £1500 from his locality budget to the scheme.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase

Seconder: Cllr. I. Newton

Emergency Officer:

It was agreed that Cllr. M. Bygrave would become the Emergency Officer.

Proposal to cut the Free Hour of Car Parking in Halesworth:

It was agreed that this had been discussed.

Red Telephone Box:

The Clerk said that he had received a written report from Cllr. D. Cask saying that he had met with the new Supervisor who has confirmed that a Team from Community Payback will carry out the work needed on the telephone box. The report said that the dates earmarked were November 28/29 and in addition to cleaning the kiosk, sanding and painting (2 coats), Community Payback will also carry out various other minor works if there is time such as rubbing down and re- treating the village sign pole and post box plus anything else of a similar nature which we require.

Cllr. D. Cask also stated in his written report that the charge for this would be £75 plus VAT for up to 2 days' work from a group of 4-6 people plus supervisor. He said that the Council were to provide the paint (possibly provided by Cllr. D. Whitwood) and probably timber treatment for the post.

Cllr. D. Cask said in his written report that he would forward the form from Community Payback detailing their requirements and that he hoped that these proposals could be approved at the Parish Council Meeting so that he could inform Community Payback with whom Cllr. D. Cask was happy to continue as the liaison person.

It was agreed to approve the work to be done by Community Payback as indicated in Cllr. D. Cask's written report. Cllr. M. Porter said that he had organised for the two bottom windows which were broken to be repaired and it had been agreed that the Playing Field Trust would pay for it.

Village Green:

It was reported that Cllr. A. Thomas was going to arrange for the lower branches to be cut off.

Flagship Affordable Homes:

The Clerk reported that Cllr Anne Thomas is negotiating with the local Flagship people for a talk and a visit. The Clerk added that he had spoken to Flagship's Head Office regarding restrictions on the selling of houses if the government's proposal to force housing associations to sell their properties to the tenants. He said that he had

been told that a tenant who lived in a place under Local Authority control which had been taken over by a Housing Association have kept their 'Right to Buy'. However this does not apply to properties such as Neave Close as they are only five years old and they were built by Flagship. The Clerk said that he had been told that under Section 106, there can be restrictions on properties as regards the criteria on who can live in the property but depending upon what the proposed new law says, these restrictions could be overridden then the tenant would have the 'Right to Buy'.

Highways:

Cllr. M. Porter had nothing to report except that the Ford had a temporary barrier currently.

Footpaths:

The Clerk said that Cllr. N. Jarvis had sent a report of a letter he had received from Dee Chadney, Area Rights of Way Officer, Rights of Way and Access at Suffolk County Council which reported that she had looked at the majority of the footpaths noted by Cllr. N. Jarvis and her comments are listed below:

- Footpath 12 surface growth was clear when I inspected in mid-September.
- Footpath 1 surface growth does not appear to be walked on its correct alignment as it should go through the garden of the adjacent property. There is an anomaly in that the route goes through the Nissan Hut. This means that I am unable to arrange for any clearance to take place. I assume that the landowner of the field does not object to the route being walked the wrong side of the hedge and we do seem to have a sleeper bridge at the top of that field. I am not sure on the history of this, but is probably best left as it is unless it becomes a real problem.
- Footpath 2 surface growth just seems to be the field entrance as the rest is cross field, so I do not plan to take any action with this.
- Footpath 3 steps up back – I will arrange for one of our contractors to put up a half hand rail, so that it does not have an impact on the traffic.
- The bridge south of Church Farm is actually on Huntingfield Footpath 11. As it is a concrete structure I am not sure what could be done re it being slippery. It is in an open location so would not have expected it to be too bad. Do people actually use the bridge or go over the cattle grid?
- Footpath 21 has no recorded width for this route so it would be difficult to enforce. What I did notice was that the fence from the property to the east is falling over and needs some attention which might help the situation.
- Footpath 16 will see clearance from the sleeper bridge taking place with our autumn clearance work and I have arranged for some waymarking around Cookley Grange.
- Footpath 20 will be looked at when I am next in the area.
- I did notice that the bridge on Footpath 12 could do with replacing and so will arrange for that to be replaced in the coming months.

It was agreed that as Cllr. N. Jarvis was not at the meeting, this issue would be discussed at the January Meeting.

Trees:

Cllr. I. Newton said that he had asked two people to cut his trees back but they had not wanted the work. It was suggested Will Austin should be approached.

Cemetery:

The Clerk said that there had been a burial and an enquiry to have ashes interred with someone already buried in the cemetery.

It was noted that a tree needed trimming in the cemetery. It was agreed Cllr. D. Whitwood would contact Will Austin to cut back the tree.

CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. M. Porter said that the Cookpole Energy Action Craft Barn Event had been very successful and thanked all those who had made it such a success. He said that he did not know how much money had been raised.

External Meetings & Training:

Cllr. M. Bygrave and Cllr. R. Chase agreed that the Planning Training had been very good.

Matters of Information from Members:

There were no matters of information from Members.

To receive agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on January 19th 2016:

Cllr. Chase gave his apologies for the next meeting on January 19th 2016.

The Meeting ended at 9-49pm.