

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, June 20th 2017 in the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. Z. Mair (Chairman); Cllr. A. Thomas (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. Robert Chase; Cllr. S. Moore; Cllr. M. Wenham and Cllr. David Whitwood:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk)

Sally Erb (Assistant Headteacher) from The Walpole Learning Centre explained how the Centre supports up to 24 vulnerable young people. Sally Erb said that she hoped to start a land-based course perhaps by ploughing up some land and planting pumpkins. She said that she would need manure. Sally Erb reported that she would also like to introduce an art course and BTECs in Food, English Literature and Drama. She said that she hoped to get funding from local charities. Councillors suggested that she approach the Heveningham Trust and George Calver Charity and were sure that they could help her source some manure. The students were also invited to the monthly coffee morning at the Pavilion.

1) Apologies:

Cllr. M. Porter and District and County Cllr. S. Burroughes:

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. Z. Mair declared interests in CEA and Cookpole.

Cllr. A. Thomas declared an interest in the CEA.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensation.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillor:

Cllr. Stephen Burroughes sends his apologies.

5) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

There were no members of the public at the Meeting.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 21st 2017 and Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on April 10th 2017:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on May 16th 2017 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. D. Whitwood: Second: Cllr. S. Moore:

The Minutes of Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on June 10th 2017 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:

Seconder: Cllr. D. Whitwood:

7) Matters arising:

There were no Matters Arising.

8) CEA 'Walpole Willows' Initiative:

Simon Weeks took the Council through a Cookpole Energy Action (CEA) idea for a local project under the working name of 'Walpole Willows'. The main elements of the project are as follows:

- 1) To make use of the currently unused strip of land running down to the stream, adjacent to the children's play area*
- 2) To plant weeping willows and (possibly) hazels on the site*
- 3) To involve the local Mencap group in planting and maintaining the site*
- 4) To engage a local, professional willow weaver to teach the group weaving skills, as an interest in its own right and, potentially, to produce items for them to sell*
- 5) To give the weaver any excess 'wands' in lieu of cash, as payment for teaching services*

As councillors will be aware, we have now had the site substantially cleared, by the local 'Community Payback' team. (There is a bit more work to be done, along the ditch between the site and the children's play area. We hope they will return to complete this in the autumn). Mike Porter has offered to provide interim maintenance until the project gets off the ground.

We have had preliminary discussions with a local willow weaver – Diane Robertson, who is keen to be involved in the project. We have also had discussions with the Manager of the local Mencap group workshop – Jeanette Womack, who is always keen to find outside activities, which the group might enjoy and benefit from.

The site belongs to Flagship Housing. Representatives of CEA met with their Property Intelligence Manager – Andrew Long, last month, to discuss possible community use of the site. He was supportive of the project and confirmed, on the spot, Flagship's willingness to lease the land to the community, subject to agreement over terms. Flagship's preference, as is the case with the allotments site, would be to lease to the Parish Council, who would then sub-lease to CEA.

Simon Weeks asked if the Council could lease the land from Flagship on the same basis as the Allotments were. This would be a peppercorn rent, a 21 year lease and the Council sublease to CEA.

The Council agreed to negotiate a contract and agreed to Simon Weeks proposal subject to terms.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Wenham:

9) Initiatives to cut Speeding:

The Councillors felt that they could not progress until Cllr. S. Burroughes reported back on his negotiations with the other parishes in the scheme. The Clerk also reported that he had not received the notes of the April 10th Meeting at the Walpole Pavilion and said that he would continue to follow this up.

10) Defibrillator:

Cllr. R. Chase reported that the Heveningham Trust had agreed a grant towards power installation if it was needed for the defibrillator as the location had still not been finalised. He said that there was still a £675 shortfall in funding and the Clerk agreed to email Cllr. S. Burroughes regarding this funding.

The Councillors reviewed the Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders and agreed to adopt them for the Year 2017-2018.

Proposer: Cllr. S. Moore: Second: Cllr. M. Wenham:

16) To receive reports on the:

17) Village Green;

There was no report.

18) Flagship Affordable Homes;

Cllr. A. Thomas said that there were issues with the houses in Neave Close.

It was agreed to pay the £15 Pavilion Meeting Fee for the Tenants Meeting about the issues.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas: Second: Cllr. Z. Mair:

19) Highways;

There was nothing to report.

20) Footpaths;

There was nothing to report.

21) Trees;

There was nothing to report.

22) Cemetery;

There was nothing to report.

23) CEA & Allotments;

Cllr. A. Thomas reported that water was being piped to the pears and is working very well indeed. She also said that an event mainly for children was taking place tomorrow and that an Open Day was being planned in August.

24) External Meetings & Training;

Cllr. A. Thomas said that she had gone to the East Suffolk House Opening. She said that the building looked very nice from the outside but did feel that as everything was in grey, there could have been a little more variety in colour. She wondered too in that there was a tiny cafeteria, there was little room for socialising which she felt was important for creating a teamwork ethos. She also noted the 'hot desking' concept and was glad that she had not had to work at a 'hot desk'.

Cllr. S. Moore said that she had attended the Planning Workshop and had found it very useful.

The Meeting ended at 9-30pm.