COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm on Tuesday, November 15th 2022.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. R. Chase (Chairman); Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. L. Andrews; Cllr. J. Lewis; Cllr. Z. Mair; Cllr. C. Northover and Cllr. M. Porter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and one parishioner.

1) Apologies:

Councillors accepted the apologies from Cllr. J. Winter:

County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes was not present.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter declared an interest in CEA and the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Association. Cllr. J. Lewis declared an interest as an employee of Suffolk County Council. Cllr. M. Porter declared a personal interest in the Planning Application DC 22 4051 LBC.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

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

There was a written report from County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes.

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

No members of the public wished to raise an issue in the Public Session.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on October 18th 2022.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on October 18th 2022 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett: Seconder: Cllr. L. Andrews:

7) Highways:

Cllr. M. Porter said that he had nothing to report. However he said that there may be problems if there was much rain. Cllr. M. Porter said that nothing had been done at the junction of Walpole Lane and Bramfield Road which has been flooded before. He said that he would contact County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes.

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the road signs were very bad. Cllr. R. Chase said that the County council had set a budget to repair them next year. Cllr. J. Lewis reported that there was much traffic travelling perhaps too fast from Bramfield School. It was agreed to send an email to Bramfield School.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase: Seconder: Cllr. Z. Mair:

8) Walpole School:

Cllr. R. Chase said that he had not heard anything back from anyone over the past month but reported that all the furniture had been taken out of the buildings recently.

9) Noticeboards:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that she would speak to a parishioner regarding renovating the noticeboards in the Spring 2023. She said that the parishioner would complete an excellent refurbishment at a very fair price.

10) David Cask Commemoration:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the words for the Commemoration had been confirmed and overall this issue was in hand.

11) Emergency Plan:

Cllr. L. Andrews said that the First Final Draft was being proof-read. He said that it would be available for the January 17th 2023 Parish Council Meeting. Cllr. M. porter accepted being area co-ordinator for his part of Walpole. Cllr. R. Chase said that we were in a cost-of-living crisis so the emergency plan could cover this. Councillors agreed to monitor across the winter to see if any parishioners need any help.

12) Planning Matters:

Proposal: Conversion of barn to dwelling including new vehicular access
Address: The Old Thatch, Peasenhall Road, Walpole, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 9BQ
Ref: DC/22/4049/FUL

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application. However the Parish Council does have concerns regarding traffic leaving the proposed development because of the poor sightline of the road in both directions. It is also noted that the report says that the barn is not visible from the public highway. However the Parish Council believes that the barn can be seen as it is only a metre from the public highway.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter: Seconder: Cllr. R. Chase:

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Conversion of barn (curtlilage listed building) to dwelling

Address: The Old Thatch, Peasenhall Road, Walpole, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 9BQ
Ref: DC/22/4051/LBC

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application. However the Parish Council does have concerns regarding traffic leaving the proposed development because of the poor sightline of the road in both directions. It is also noted that the report says that the barn is not visible from the public highway. However the Parish Council believes that the barn can be seen as it is only a metre from the public highway.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter: Seconder: Cllr. R. Chase:

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply regarding the planning application DC 22 0728 FUL

13) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter', the East Suffolk Council Estimated Election Costs 2023-2027 and email requests for donations from St. Elizabeth Hospice and Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. The Clerk also said that he received another reminder to re-enrol the Parish Council from the Pensions Regulator.

14) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on November 7th 2022:

Business Community Account	£18 243-73
Business Savings Account	£1 102-23

b) Payments and Receipts:

Payments:

Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay for October until December 2022	£597-60
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax for October until December 2022	£149-40
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for October until December 2022	£50-05
Standing Order	Will Austin – October 2022	£200-00
Standing Order	Will Austin – November 2022	£200-00
Standing Order	Will Austin – December 2022	£200-00

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair: Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

15) Budget and Precept 2023-2024.

The Clerk set out the Budget and after some questions, the Councillors agreed the Budget:

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter: Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

The Councillors agreed to set the Precept at £10 500 for the Financial Year 2023 – 2024:

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter: Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

16) Clerk's Pay 2022-2023:

It was agreed that the Clerk's Pay should be Point 16 on the NALC scale for the Financial Year 2022-2023. This would include the backpay to April 1st 2022 and the pay increase for each scale point in November 2022.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett: Seconder: Cllr. Z. Mair:

The Clerk brought to the attention of the Parish Council an article suggesting that the Clerk's Hours for a Parish Council the size of Bramfield and Thorington should be 26 hours a month. It was agreed that the Clerk's Hours should rise to 26 hours a month from April 1st 2023.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter: Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

17) Policies:

The Clerk was asked to send out the Health and Safety Policy to all Councillors in early January 2023 so that it could be discussed at the next meeting.

18) To receive reports on the:

Footpaths;

There was no report.

Trees;

Cllr. C. Leggett reported that UK Power Networks had pruned the near to the power lines on the Village Green.

Cemetery;

Cllr. M. Porter said that there was still no evidence of large wildlife causing issues in the Cemetery.

CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that the Allotments had held their Annual General Meeting yesterday and the meeting was told that all was going well. All the apples had been picked and the apple juice was selling for £2-50 per bottle which was the price last year.

19) To receive agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on January 17th 2022:

Cllr. C. Leggett gave his apologies for the next Meeting on January 17th 2023.

The Meeting ended at 9-25pm.