

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm in St. Mary's Church, Walpole on Tuesday, July 18th 2023.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. R. Chase (Chair); Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chair); Cllr. J. Clark; Cllr. J. Henson; Cllr. J. Lewis; Cllr. Z. Mair; Cllr. M. Porter; Cllr. A. Thomas and Cllr. J. Winter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); District Cllr. J. Ewart and two observers (Left 7-48pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. L. Andrews gave his apologies which were accepted.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes was not present.

It was reported that former Cllr. C. Northover had resigned. The Parish Council agreed for a Formal Letter of Thanks be sent to him by the Chair. Cllr. R. Chase also agreed to take over the management of the Sign Indicator Device (SID).

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter declared an interest in Community Energy Action (CEA) and the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Association.

Cllr. J. Henson declared an interest in CEA and Allotments.

Cllr. A. Thomas declared an interest in CEA.

Cllr. J. Lewis declared an interest in that he worked at Suffolk County Council.

Cllr. J. Clark declared an interest in the Item 13.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

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

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she had a post in Health at East Suffolk Council. She reported on the Planning Forum on July 7th 2023 and how planning applications could again be 'Called In'. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that if a Parish Council challenged a planning application, it would now go to the East Suffolk Council Planning Committee whereas before it may have been decided by a planning officer.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that the court challenge regarding the lack of water for Sizewell C had been dismissed. She said that water would now be brought by lorry to help build Sizewell C.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported on the closure of Saxmundham Free School in 2024, the Wickham Market to Chediston Cycle Ride and the Cost-of-Living Crisis. She said that no-one should be hungry and East Suffolk Council had a new scheme for the Council to help pay rent to landlords to make available empty properties. She said that there was £25 000 available for Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership Projects and the next Framlingham, Wickham Market Community Partnership Meeting was on July 25th 2023 in Melton.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 20th 2023.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 20th 2023 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Lewis:

Agenda Item 8 was taken at this point:

A spokesperson from County Broadband made a presentation. He said that he understood that the Parish Council was neutral and that this presentation was for information. The spokesperson said that it was planned that 85% of the UK Population should be connected to fibre by 2026 so this meant that the populated areas were being upgraded first leaving the rural areas until later. He said that County Broadband could upgrade rural areas sooner if 20% of the local households in a village signed up over a four-month period.

Cllr. M. Porter asked if County Broadband would connect one property up a three quarters of a mile drive and how they are better than the competition? The spokesperson from County Broadband said that if 20% of residents have signed up, County Broadband would connect this resident up to fibre broadband and that they believed that they had faster speeds.

Cllr. R. Chase suggested a public meeting for County Broadband to give their view.

7) Highways:

Cllr. M. Porter reported that potholes are being marked although he noted that the largest ones seemed not to be being marked. He also said that the drains in Walpole Road needed to be looked at as well.

Cllr. Z. Mair said that some friends had a road traffic collision on Church Hill recently and believed that some vehicles are far too big for the size of roads in the parishes. She wondered what could be done to show that the corner on Church Hill is hazardous.

Cllr. J. Clark suggested that mirrors could be placed on the corner and said that Suffolk County Council Highways should be contacted. It was agreed to ask a Suffolk County Council Highways Engineer to come to the village to discuss its issues.

Cllr. J. Lewis said that Suffolk County Council Highways stopped using humps in the road because cars keep accelerating after each hump and cars needed more maintenance if they go over humps regularly.

8) County Broadband:

Agenda Item 8 was discussed before Agenda Item 7.

9) Hedgehog Highway Project:

The Clerk reported that he had been asked by the Hedgehog Highway Project to bring this Project to the attention of Councillors.

Cllr. Z. Mair said that she had large hedgehogs in her garden. She said that there were many hedgehogs in Walpole.

Councillor agreed that the Project was not relevant to Cookley and Walpole.

10) David Cask Commemoration:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that the commemoration was completed except for the varnish which still needed to be applied. She said that once the Pavilion was insured again then the commemoration could be unveiled. Cllr. Z. Mair explained that the Pavilion was having problems in getting insurance cover.

Cllr. J. Clark asked District Cllr. Ewart who was insurer for East Suffolk Council. She said that she did not know but she would find out.

11) Latitude and Traffic:

Cllr. A. Thomas expressed concern that traffic for the Latitude event was passing through Walpole. Cllr. R. Chase said that it brought money to the area.

12) Training:

Cllr. J. Clark said that he would like to have training in Community-Led Housing as there was so much paperwork and information.

Cllr. Z. Mair asked when there would be First Aid Training? It was agreed to approach St. John's Ambulance to lead the three-to-five hour course on a Saturday in the second half of October.

The Clerk reported that the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) Annual General Meeting was being held on July 19th 2023.

13) Dilapidated and Old School Properties:

Cllr. R. Chase said that he had contacted County Cllr. S. Burroughes for an update on the Old School Building.

14) Planning Matters:

The Clerk said that there were no planning applications. However he reported on the Planning Forum Event on July 7th 2023.

15) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received the 'Clerk's and Councils Direct' Newsletter and had received a donation request from St. Elizabeth's Hospice.

16) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on July 7th 2023:

Business Community Account	£6 544-81
Business Savings Account	£11 106-51

b) Payments and Receipts:

Payments:

SO	Will Austin Contact – July 2023	£200-00
SO	Will Austin Contact – August 2023	£200-00
SO	Will Austin Contact – September 2023	£200-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay for April until June 2023	£855-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax for April until June 2023	£213-60
Internet Banking	SALC Internal Audit Invoice	£255-60
Internet Banking	Cllr. R. Chase Expenses	£21-80

Receipts:

200097	Cemetery Burial	£117-50
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It was reported that £10 000 had been transferred from the Parish Council's Community Account to the Premium Account.

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair: Seconded: Cllr. J. Henson:

17) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:-

Footpaths;

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that she believed that brambles growing from the side across the footpath in Cookley had been cut back.

Cllr. A. Thomas reported that foliage had been cut back on a footpath in Walpole.

Trees:

Cllr. C. Leggett said that there was no report and everything was fine.

Cemetery:

The Clerk reported that there had been a burial in the cemetery.

The Clerk suggested that the cemetery was laid out with a number for each plot and a gravedigger had offered to do the work. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a quote from the gravedigger.

Proposer: Cllr. J. Henson:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Winter:

CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. Z. Mair gave out a flyer with all the Cookpole Energy Action (CEA) achievements. However she reported that it would probably close at the end of September with the electric bikes being donated to the Parish Council.

Cllr. J. Henson reported that a large heap of rubbish had been left on the allotments and the allotments had to now dispose of the rubbish. She also reported that there would be the Annual Summer Barbecue on July 21st 2023.

Cllr. Z. Mair explained the history of the houses in Neave Close.

18) To receive agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on September 19th 2023:

Cllr. J. Lewis gave his apologies for the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 19th 2023.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she would contact County Cllr. S. Burroughes regarding Highways.

The Meeting ended at 8-55pm.