

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm on Tuesday, June 20th 2023.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. L. Andrews; Cllr. J. Clark; Cllr. J. Henson; Cllr. J. Lewis; Cllr. C. Northover; Cllr. M. Porter and Cllr. J. Winter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); County Cllr. S. Burroughes (left 8-53pm) and District Cllr. J. Ewart:

1) Apologies:

Councillors accepted the apologies from Cllr. R. Chase (Chairman) and Cllr. Z. Mair:

Cllr. A. Thomas was also not present.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

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.

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

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

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

County Cllr. S. Burroughes said that the County Council would never cut back on the libraries and that currently money was being invested in them. He said that this was especially because children attend them for reading and whilst mobile libraries were not used so widely, they were used for other things by residents. He said that the contract with current contractor was ending next year.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes said that County Council was helping Ukrainian refugees by paying for their accommodation and was also looking at how to secure water supplies into the future. He said that just below one thousand children were currently being fostered in Suffolk with an increase in the number of teenagers having many needs.

Cllr. M. Porter asked about the water issue as he reported that currently Framlingham was having lorries taking water to the town to top up their water supply.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes said that East Anglia was a very dry part of the UK and water from the North and West Midlands was pumped along the river system to supplement the water supply in the local area.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that as interest rates had risen, foster carers were to get a payment. She said that the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent (GLI) Group were now East Suffolk Council's New Administration and at May's first Full Council Meeting, had elected District Cllr. Caroline Topping as the new Leader of East Suffolk Council and its first female Leader.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that there was much training for all the new District Councillors and she had two roles with one being the Vice-Chair of the Northern Area Planning Committee. It was noted that Cllr. M. Porter and Cllr. Z. Mair would be meeting the East Suffolk Council Local Community Officer soon. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that he had organised two buses at short notice to take people to the First Light Festival last weekend. She said that unfortunately the buses were lightly loaded but it was noted that the transport needed to be organised much earlier and published much more widely. Cllr. C. Leggett asked if the Local Community Officer could attend a Parish Council Meeting and it was agreed to approach him.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes said that the Community Partnership had around £30 000/£40 000 to spend on parish council initiatives that were across several neighbouring councils. Therefore he said that having a representative to attend the four meetings a year was advantageous. Cllr. J. Henson agreed to attend and represent the Parish Council but she said that she could not attend the next meeting.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she was trying to help the parents of pupils at Saxmundham Free School in view of the recent announcement that it would be closing next year. She said that Parish Councils should get together to order supplies together so as to secure cheaper prices. She said that she would like the Clerks and Chairs of the Parish Councils to meet to discuss how to work together in procurement.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she would also like a list of all empty property in the two parishes and any social housing that is available. Cllr. J. Henson said that there were properties that were not fit for purpose. It was agreed that District Cllr. J. Ewart would have a walk around the Parish with Cllr. R. Chase as the Chairman to see and discuss all the issues.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she wanted to see all properties to be net zero emissions. Cllr. M. Porter asked about Grade II Listed Buildings being Net Zero Emissions. Cllr. J. Ewart said that she agreed and would be trying to make sure that the Net Zero Emissions Policy fitted the circumstances of all properties. Cllr. J. Lewis asked why don't all greenfield site houses have to recycle their water and have a windmill? District Cllr. J. Ewart said that the policy could not be retrospective.

Both County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart had submitted written reports to the Parish Councillors before the Parish Council Meeting.

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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on May 16th 2023.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on May 16th 2023 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Winter:

7) Highways:

Cllr. C. Leggett said that having read about the 20's Plenty Campaign, he believed that nowhere in Cookley or Walpole met the criteria to have a 20mph speed limit. He said that a 'B' road was exempt except in special circumstances, the current average speed of traffic was above 24mph in the 30mph and there had not been any accidents so there was no justification for the 20mph.

Cllr. J. Clark said that in London 20mph zones were being introduced on many roads and believed that the Parish Council should investigate and support this initiative. County Cllr. S. Burroughes said that he could request a speed survey to be completed by the County Council and reported that funding had been provided to repair the signs enforcing safety across the county. It was agreed to ask County Cllr. S. Burroughes to request the County Council to complete speed survey.

Cllr. M. Porter reported that he had told the County Council about all the potholes in the area and he said that some are now being repaired.

8) Village Green:

Cllr. J. Winter said that the purchase of solar-powered Christmas Lights had been completed.

9) David Cask Commemoration:

Cllr. C. Leggett said that the commemoration was being varnished and then would be ready for display.

10) King Charles III Coronation Bench:

It was agreed not to pursue buying a Coronation Bench in commemoration of the Coronation of King Charles III. It was noted that the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust had just bought a new seat.

11) Training:

Cllr. C. Leggett reported that there were training courses on Zoom from Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) for councillors costing around £60. After some discussion, it was agreed that all councillors were recommended to go on courses.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter:

Seconder: Cllr. L. Andrews:

It was also agreed to ask Cllr. Z. Mair to circulate the First Aid Course to the community.

Proposer: Cllr. J. Henson:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Lewis:

12) Dilapidated and Old School Properties:

County Cllr. S. Burroughes reported that the County Council were looking to dispose of the Walpole School Building as an asset. Cllr. J. Clark said that the Parish Council did have the option of listing the building as a community asset to give the Parish Council a chance to raise the funds to purchase the building. It was agreed to discuss this issue further at a future meeting.

13) Planning Matters:

There were no planning matters.

14) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk said that a Planning Forum for Parish Councillors was taking place at High Lodge, Darsham on July 7th between 9-30am until 12-30pm. He said that East Suffolk council had suggested that the Clerk and a Councillor should attend. It was agreed that Cllr. J. Clark would attend representing Cookley and Walpole Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the Community Emergency Plan Activation Document had been sent to the Suffolk County Council Emergency Planning Officer.

15) Financial Report:

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

Business Community Account	£18 179-66
Business Savings Account	£1 106-51

b) Payments and Receipts:

Payments:

SO	Will Austin Contact – April 2023	£200-00
SO	Will Austin Contact – May 2023	£200-00
SO	Will Austin Contact – June 2023	£200-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay for April until June 2023	£TBC
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax for April until June 2023	£TBC
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for April until June 2023	£66-25
Internet Banking	Suffolk Cloud – Uploading for 2023-2024	£120-00
Internet Banking	W & C PFT – Council Meetings	£180-00

Receipts:

BACS	ESC Precept – First Payment	£5250-00
BACS	Bank Interest – June 2023	£2-30

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconded: Cllr. J. Clark:

16) Acceptance of the Internal Auditors Report and to pay their invoice:

Councillors discussed the Internal Audit Report, accepted it and agreed to pay the invoice from SALC.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter:

Seconded: Cllr. C. Leggett:

17) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:

Footpaths:

Cllr. C. Leggett said that Cllr. R. Chase had asked that the Cookley Footpaths needed cutting back. Cllr. J. Winter was asked to contact Suffolk County Council.

Trees:

There was no report.

Cemetery:

It was reported that there was to be a burial in a new double grave next week. It was agreed to give a reduction of 50% on the normal fee for residents because of good and longstanding service to the local community. This was agreed unanimously.

Proposer: Cllr. J. Clark:

Seconded: Cllr. C. Leggett:

CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. M. Porter said that the Community Energy Action (CEA) had held two events and a profit of £1000 had been made.

It was reported that Church Hill would be closing for a day for roadworks soon.

Cllr. J. Henson reported that the Allotments did not have much money but all was going well. She said that a summer barbecue was being planned and in the late summer, it was planned to invite the local community to see the allotments.

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

There were no agenda items.

The Meeting ended at 9-21pm.

