

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, April 16th 2024.

Minutes:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk);

1) Apologies:

Cllr. J. Clark gave his apologies which was accepted by the Councillors.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart:

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. J. Henson declared an interest in the Allotments, Community Energy Action (CEA), Neave Close and the Pear Tree Centre.

Cllr. J. Lewis declared an interest in Suffolk County Council.

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

Cllr. A. Thomas declared an interest in Community Energy Action (CEA).

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

4) Co-option of Councillor:

a) To consider any applicants who have applied for the vacancy on the Council.

There were no applicants.

b) To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and to note any declarations of interest if co-opted.

There were no applicants so there was no Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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

Councillors received written reports from County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart.

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

There were no parishioners at the meeting.

7) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 19th 2024:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 19th 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Henson:

8) Highways:

It was reported that there was a new sign at the A1117 junction with Cookley Road, some road surfaces needed attention and that some potholes had been filled in.

It was reported that the Peasenhall Road would be closed for Roadworks on Friday, April 26th and the A12 was to be closed from Darsham to Blythburgh for resurfacing next week.

It was noted that the vegetation was growing on Church Hill Corner. It was agreed that the Chair would write a letter to East Suffolk Services Ltd.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Henson:

It was noted that a sign was needed to warn drivers of the narrow tight Church Hill Corner.

9) Buildings at Risk and Village School Building:

There was no report on Buildings at Risk.

Cllr R. Chase said that he would call Suffolk County Council for an update on the Village School Building. It was noted that the building was checked each Wednesday and it was agreed that the Church of England should be approached. Cllr. R. Chase said that if the Parish Council was to try and buy the building, he suggested that a committee was created to fundraise to buy it.

Cllr. M. Porter reported on a local listed building.

10) Bramfield House School:

It was noted that there were no new issues and that the cars seemed to be parked further up the road.

11) Cil Money:

After some discussion, Councillors earmarked the Cil Money provisionally (£2310-86) to looking at ways to making the Pavilion Flood Proof.

12) Collaboration with other Parish Councils:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that there was a Community Partnership Meeting at the Huntingfield Hub on April 25th and she agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

13) Neave Close:

It was noted that there were issues with the empty properties in Neave Close.

It was agreed that the Chair would write a letter to the Housing Association asking for a meeting with the Parish Council.

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Porter:

14) Training:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that she had been in touch with a First Aid Course Trainer by East Suffolk Council. She also asked how the Playing Field outside the Pavilion could be used more. Cllr. J. Winter said that he would contact Halesworth Town Football Club to see if they would like to use the football pitch for training.

15) Planning Matters:

The Clerk said that he had received a planning application late last week and the Parish Council needed to arrange a meeting.

It was agreed to hold an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday, April 29th 2024 at 7-30pm.

Cllr. R. Chase and Cllr. J. Henson both gave their apologies.

16) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received a Sunshine Gym Flyer for Outside Gym Equipment, a Glasdon Local Councils Brochure, a 'Clerks and Councils Newsletter' and a St. Elizabeth's Hospice Letter. He said that he had been notified that the Thompson Collection and Putting Names to Faces Exhibition was taking place on Saturday April 20th 2024 from 11am-4pm and District Cllr. Julia Ewart had sent an email warning of Unacceptable Door to Door Callers.

The Clerk said that the Police and Crime Commissioner Election was taking place on May 2nd 2024 and he had been informed that there was a road closure from the Heveningham Hall Driveway Entrance to the Walpole T Junction in connection with the Heveningham Country Fair on June 29th and 30th 2024.

17) Donations:

Councillors decided to make the following donations to the following organisations.

Walpole & Cookley Playing Field Trust	£350-00
Halesworth Community Larder	£250-00
Pear Tree Fund	£100-00
Halesworth Volunteer Centre	£100-00
East Anglian Air Ambulance	£100-00
'Alzheimer's Society'	£50-00
Citizens Advice Bureau	£50-00
Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk)	£50-00
East Anglia's Children's Hospices	£50-00
St. Elizabeth's Hospice	£50-00

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair:

Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

18) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on April 7th 2024:

Business Community Account	£3517-16
Business Savings Account	£11214-35

b) Payments and Receipts:

Payments:

Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact – March 2024	£200-00
Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact Underpayment – March 2024	£20-00
Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact – April 2024	£220-00
Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact – May 2024	£220-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Salary – January until March 2024	£1166-10
Internet Banking	SALC Six-Month Payroll	£22-80
Internet Banking	SALC Subscription 2024-2025	£205-20

Receipts:

200098	Cemetery Interment	£145-00
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The Financial Report was accepted.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Porter:

19) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:

Footpaths:

Cllr. J. Winter said that there was no report. However he commented that as Spring had arrived, the plants were growing vigorously again.

Trees:

Cllr. C. Leggett said that the trees were growing well but otherwise there was no report.

Cemetery:

The Clerk said that there had been an Interment of Ashes and £145 had been received in payment.

The Chair reported that he had met with the gravedigger and arranged for a quote for numbering the graves in the Cemetery.

CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the Community Energy Action (CEA) was still being wound up. She said that the CEA had used to organise a litter pick and the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust could not take it over. Cllr. Z. Mair wondered if the Parish Council would consider funding some litter pickers.

Cllr. Z. Mair asked if the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust Website could be added to the Parish Council Website. The Clerk said that the website provider needed to be contacted and Cllr. Z. Mair said that she would speak to them.

Cllr. Z. Mair concluded by saying the Community Police Officer had come to the Coffee Morning at the Pavilion and if Councillors had any questions, she would pass them on to the Police Officer.

20) To receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting:

It was noted that grass needed cutting at the Willows in June. Cllr. A. Thomas reported that a programme for the Walpole Old Chapel had been published.

It was agreed to hold an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday, April 29th 2024 at 7-30pm, the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday, May 21st 2024 at 7-30pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 21st 2024 after the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm.

The Meeting ended at 9-08pm.