

# COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

## **Minutes:**

### **Present:**

Cllr. R. Chase (Chair); Cllr. L. Andrews; 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) and District Cllr. J. Ewart (Left 8-24pm):

### **1) Apologies:**

Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chair); gave his apologies which was accepted by the Councillors.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes also gave his apologies.

### **2) To receive declarations of interest:**

Cllr. J. Clark declared an interest in the Community Larder and a Building at Risk.

Cllr. J. Henson declared an interest in the Allotments, Community Energy Action (CEA) 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) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:**

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

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she was still trying to get everyone together regarding the recent floods. She said that we must get ahead and be ready for future flood. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she had written to the Government Minister reporting that many people affected by the floods could not afford to make the repairs caused by the floods.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported on her campaign to keep Bank Branches open. She said that she found out that the Financial Conduct Authority had a duty to investigate when the last Bank Branch was closing. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she was seeking legal help and Small and Medium Enterprises needed a Bank Branch too. Cllr. R. Chase said that he thought that the building of Sizewell C would also need a Bank Branch.

Cllr. J. Clark agreed that everyone needed to work together over the recent flooding and he was very impressed by the Leader of East Suffolk Council's Newsletter.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that it was taking two and half years to get a guide dog and she was therefore finding out why. She said that Suffolk County Council knew about the Walpole School Building and that it appeared that currently Suffolk County Council and the Church of England Diocese were the two organisations to decide what happens to the building.

**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 January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 16th 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Lewis:

**7) Storm Damage, Highways and Flood Management:**

Councillors noted that roads had been flooded again in Walpole and further afield on the Bungay Straight and Holton.

Cllr. M. Porter said that the ditches in Norfolk seemed to be clearer than in Suffolk where he believed that they were cleared only every eighteen months. Councillors believed that the roads seemed to frequently and very easily flood and they believed that something had to change. District Cllr. J. Ewart was asked to contact Suffolk County Council regarding these issues. Cllr. J. Clark said that a plan was needed so local communities knew what to do. He also suggested that known vulnerable flooding locations on a road should have depth charts. District Cllr. J. Ewart suggested a flood pack and Cllr. L. Andrews said that there was a snow plan so why was there not a flood plan.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she believed that only vehicles over 3.5 tonnes will be monitored in the building of Sizewell C and not all vehicles as she believed. Councillors asked when the new roads were going to be built in connection with the construction of Sizewell C. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she had been told that they would be built by the end of 2026.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that she had a £6 500 budget for signs. Cllr. R. Chase said that County Cllr. S. Burroughes had offered to organise more signs warning vehicles of the danger of the Church Hill Corner. Cllr. M. Porter said that keeping the

foliage cut back on the corner was also needed and it was discussed with District Cllr. J. Ewart how this could be achieved.

**8) Buildings at Risk and Village School Building:**

It was agreed that the Village School Building had been discussed earlier in the County and District Councillor's Report. Cllr. J. Clark reported that he had tried to find out about a Building at Risk but had not made any progress.

**9) Collaboration with other Parish Councils:**

Councillors discussed how to set up a meeting with the neighbouring parish councils and decided that flooding should be the focus of the first meeting. Therefore, it was decided to look to host a meeting at the Pavilion, Walpole and invite two parish councillors from Heveningham, Huntingfield and Ubbeston as the parishes shared the same watercourse as Cookley and Walpole. It was agreed that District Cllr. J. Ewart would speak to the Community Officer at East Suffolk Council to perhaps arrange the meeting.

**10) Walpole Willows:**

Councillors discussed who owned the land and agreed that it needed to be clarified who owned it.

**11) Will Austin Contract:**

Councillors discussed the new contract to maintain the Village Green, Cemetery and the Triangle between two roads and it was agreed to pay £220 Per Month for 24 months giving a total of £5280 over the two years.

Proposer: Cllr. J. Lewis:                      Seconder: Cllr. J. Winter:

Cllr. R. Chase agreed to look after the Walpole Willows for the next year.

**12) Training:**

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that the First Aid Course was still being organised.

**13) Planning Matters:**

There were no planning applications.

**14) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:**

The Clerk said that an invite to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2024 had been received for the Chair and one other to enter a draw for two Mayors/Chairs from Suffolk to attend a Garden Party. He said that he and Cllr. Z. Mair had attended an East Suffolk Council Planning Forum on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 and Cllr. Z. Mair and the Clerk gave a short report on the Forum.

The Clerk said that a member of the public had contacted the Parish Council about the vacancies and that he would be replying to them. The Clerk said that there were grants available for helping Village Halls and the government was offering Parish Councils a

free portrait of the King. The Clerk reported that there was more pressure for Parish Councils to adopt a 'gov.uk' domain and there was help and some money to move over to this new domain. The Clerk said that he would make further investigations.

The Clerk said that he had received an email offering event staging for fetes, fun days and sports days and from London Hearts offering Defibrillators. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a VAT Repayment, an email regarding Cil Repayment and a letter from St. Elizabeth Hospice asking for a donation.

#### **15) Financial Report:**

##### **a) Balances at the Bank on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2024:**

Business Community Account	£4 662-79
Business Premium Account	£11 172-57

##### **b) Payments and Receipts:**

###### **Payments:**

Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact – March 2024	£200-00
Internet Banking	Pavilion Meetings – March 2023 until Jan. 2024	£200-00

###### **Receipts:**

BACS	HMRC VAT Repayment 2021-2023	£665-42
BACS	Second Precept Payment	£5250-00

*Correcting the figure £5750-00 from the October 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 Minutes*

The Financial Report was accepted.

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

#### **16) Cil Money:**

It was agreed to discuss the spending of Cil Money at a future meeting.

#### **17) Policies:**

The Clerk said that existing policies needed to be reviewed in March and therefore it seemed logical to look at all the policies then. The Clerk said that he would send all the policies to Councillors before the next Parish Council Meeting.

#### **18) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:**

##### **Footpaths:**

Cllr. J. Winter reported that the paths were very wet but otherwise there was nothing to report.

**Trees:**

There was no report.

**Cemetery:**

The Clerk said that there was no report but he was still working on laying out the cemetery.

**CEA & Allotments:**

It was reported that Cookpole Energy Action was being disbanded. Cllr. J. Henson reported that the Allotments were holding a Plant Support for the Walpole Willows on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

It was agreed that Donations, Policies, Collaboration with Other Councils and the Internal Control Statement and Report would be on the next Parish Council Meeting Agenda. It was also agreed to put the Cil Money on the agenda earlier in the meeting.

It was also noted that the next Meeting was on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**The Meeting ended at 9-27pm.**