

# COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

## **Minutes:**

### **Present:**

Cllr. R. Chase (Chair); Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chair); Cllr. J. Henson (Arrived 7-32pm); Cllr. J. Lewis; Cllr. Z. Mair; Cllr. M. Porter; Cllr. A. Thomas and Cllr. J. Winter:

### **Also Present:**

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); County Cllr. S. Burroughes (Left 8-47pm); District Cllr. J. Ewart (Left 8-47pm); Sam Kenward (East Suffolk Council) (Left 8-47pm) and two parishioners (Left 8-46pm):

### **1) Apologies:**

Cllr. L. Andrews gave his apologies which was accepted by the Councillors.

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

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

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter declared an interest in the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Association.

### **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 reported that the Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft was now open and Suffolk was now seeing many developments in the North Sea and in the Nuclear and the Solar Industries. He said that Suffolk County Council was objecting to the new Sunnica Solar Farm.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she had been in a meeting with the National Grid and it seemed that it was all about how to mitigate the problems from the changes coming to East Suffolk. She said that it appears that three 'pinch' points in Heveningham had been a factor in the recent flooding as water had backed up to flood Huntingfield. Councillors said that the whole system needed to be sorted out and there was much debris in the water courses. Councillors believed that the Environment Agency had much to do. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that half a million pounds had been put aside and that there was a meeting arranged at the Huntingfield Hub between 10am and Noon to discuss the flooding on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Cllr J. Winter was asked to take the lead for the Parish Council on the flooding issue and to represent the Parish Council on future meetings about flooding. Councillors noted that the insurance premium was very high for the Pavilion because of the flooding.

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that bids for East Suffolk Council Cil Money had to be in by the end of March and that she was continuing to work on keeping the School Building available for community use. A councillor asked if the Pavilion could be helped with the options to make the building flood proof. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she would investigate further.

**5) Sam Kenward Presentation:**

Sam Kenward began by talking about his role within East Suffolk Council and how the Parish Council could access funding. He said that the East Suffolk Council Area was divided into eight areas with each having a Community Officer who knew the area and each area held Community Partnership Meetings with a budget for the area to spend on some priority areas such as dealing with low level anti-social behaviour.

Sam Kenward explained about assets of community value where the local community was given four weeks to see if they can realistically raise the money and if so, the local community is then given six months to buy the asset. Cllr. R. Chase asked if the Village School Building could be an 'Asset of Community Value'. Sam Kenward said that he would send a form to the Clerk.

Sam Kenward said that there was a Youth Council with pupils from local schools elected to the Council. Councillors wondered if money could be spent on buses such as the Halesworth Community Bus perhaps coming to Walpole from Halesworth with two or three return journeys a week and perhaps also for coffee mornings. It was also noted that East Suffolk Council could help local communities access the various funds available. Councillors thanked Sam Kenward for his attendance and talk.

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

A parishioner said that traffic drove far too fast along the Peasenhall Road especially as many tractors and trailers used the road. They suggested that there should be a 40mph speed limit from the end of 30mph limit in Walpole to the Water Tower instead of the current 60mph limit. It was believed that there would be an accident if nothing was done.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes said that evidence was needed if the speed limit was to change and then there would be a consultation process. Councillors said that vehicles were now wider, the hedges were not being cut back and many motorists were not adhering to the speed limit. County Cllr. S. Burroughes suggested that the Parish Council paid for a speed survey which would give an indication of the volume of traffic and the speed it travels at along the road. Councillors agreed to fund a speed survey for the Peasenhall Road and on the B1117 as well and asked County Cllr. S. Burroughes to find out the cost.

**7) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meetings held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024:**

The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:                                      Second: Cllr. J. Lewis:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:                                      Second: Cllr. J. Lewis:

The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:                                      Second: Cllr. J. Lewis:

**8) Neave Close:**

After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. R. Chase, Cllr. J. Henson and Cllr. A. Thomas would arrange a meeting with the management of Neave Close

**9) Refuse Collection by East Suffolk Council:**

Councillors welcomed the further recycling of rubbish proposed by East Suffolk Council but they were concerned as to where the proposed fourth collection bin would be stored by many householders.

**10) Insurance Renewal 2024-2025:**

The Clerk explained that the new Insurance Renewal Quote was £489-71. The Clerk said that as some criteria had changed, this had reduced the quote to £484-55.

Councillors agreed to pay £484-55 for the Community Action Suffolk Insurance Renewal 2024-2025.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:                                      Second: Cllr. J. Lewis:

**11) Information Commissioner Fee 2024-2025:**

Councillors agreed to pay the Information Commissioner Fee for 2024-2025.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:                                      Second: Cllr. A. Thomas:

## 12) Donation to Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust:

Councillors agreed to pay a Donation of £150 to the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconded: Cllr. A. Thomas:

Councillors also agreed to buy 25kg of Daffodil Bulbs and a new battery for the Sign Indicator Device.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconded: Cllr. A. Thomas:

## 13) Planning Matters:

There were no planning applications.

## 14) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter', a letter from Barclays Bank confirming the Parish Council Details, an update from the Suffolk Emergency Medical Charity (SARS) and a reply from the campaign for the Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries and E-Bikes and Scooters. The Clerk said that the Parish Council had received a Notice of Penalty Assessment from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) but the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) were appealing on behalf of all the Suffolk Parish Councils who had received a Notice of Penalty Assessment. The Clerk also reported that he had received an email from a parishioner regarding speeding cars on the Peasenhall Road. It was noted that this issue had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

## 15) Financial Report:

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

Business Community Account	£5 446-17
Business Savings Account	£11 298-38

### b) Payments and Receipts:

#### Payments:

Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact – September 2024	£220-00
Internet Banking	Will Austin Contact – October 2024	£220-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Salary – July until September 2024	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax– July until September 2024	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses – July until September 2024	£43-75
Internet Banking	Insurance Renewal 2024-2025	£484-55
Internet Banking	Information Commissioner 2024-2025	£40-00
Internet Banking	W & C PFT Donation	£150-00

**Receipts:**

BACS	Cemetery Additional Inscription	£65-00
BACS	Bank Interest – September 2024	£41-94
200101	Cemetery Burial	£280-00

Councillors agreed to accept the Financial Report.

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

**16) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:**

**Footpaths:**

It was reported that all foliage had been cut back on the footpaths in the parishes.

**Trees:**

It was reported that a tree trunk had fallen into the road and had been removed very promptly by Suffolk County Council Highways.

**Cemetery:**

The Clerk gave an update on the Cemetery.

**Allotments:**

It was reported that the apples were being harvested for their juice and that an area through a grant was to be allocated for community planting.

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

It was agreed to put Cemetery Charges, Highways and Training on the next Parish Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 at 7-30pm in the Pavilion, Walpole.

**The Meeting ended at 9-45pm.**