

Cookley & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, April 21st 2015 in the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. David Cask (Chairman), Cllr. Mike Porter (Vice-Chairman), Cllr. Michael Bygrave, Cllr. Rob Chase, Cllr. Nick Jarvis, Cllr. Zoé Mair (until 8pm), Cllr. Anne Thomas, Cllr. John Winter and Cllr. David Whitwood:

Also Present:

Raymond Catchpole (outgoing clerk), PCSO Julie Hinton (until 8pm) and one member of the public:

Apologies:

Cllr. Bill Camplin, Cllr. Ian Newton, District & County Cllr Stephen Burroughes:

Clerk to the Council:

The new Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Paul Widdowson, was welcomed to the Meeting and the Parish Council.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Z. Mair & Cllr. M. Porter declared continuing pecuniary interests in any CEA matters: Cllr. A. Thomas declared CEA or Allotments matters. These members were permitted to discuss and vote on these matters through a previous resolution.

Public Participation:

There was no report from the County & District Councillor. Cllr. A. Thomas asked if the meeting with Flagship and Neave Close residents could be postponed until after the General Election when their issues can perhaps be better addressed. It was agreed that Cllr. A. Thomas and the Clerk would liaise over their meeting. There was no presentation by Mr Niven about variable speed indicator signs in Bramfield.

PCSO Julie Hinton said that there had been no crimes in the Parish in March. However she did warn that everyone should be aware especially in rural areas that if they see three or four people in a van stopped with no obvious reason for stopping then they should not hesitate calling the police who will check them out. She said whilst they may be fine, they may be planning a crime. In reply to concern at the speed of cars on the Walpole Road to Halesworth, PCSO Julie Hinton said that she could advise the Parish if they wished to set up a 'Speedwatch' Scheme. It was also reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was coming to the Rifle Hall in Halesworth soon.

A photograph was taken of the Council Members for the Cookpole News at this point in the meeting.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting on March 17th 2015 and amended minutes of the meeting on February 17th 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chair, Cllr. D. Cask. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting on December 18th 2014 were agreed and signed by Cllr. M. Porter who chaired the meeting.

Matters arising from Minutes:

There were no Matters Arising

Planning:

There were no Planning Applications

Finance:

Raymond Catchpole circulated the Responsible Finance Officer's Report to members. It was approved to pay the invoices received and noted in RFO report. The balances in the Current and Deposit Accounts were approved. The unaudited accounts to 31 March 2015 were approved and signed. The Annual Return submission and Governance Statement were approved and signed.

Election 7 May 2015:

The Clerk reported that as there were five candidates nominated for Cookley Parish for five places and five candidates for Walpole Parish for seven places, there had been an uncontested election. The Clerk said that all the Councillors had been informed and the paperwork had been put on the four notice boards and on the Cookpole Website. The Clerk said that in Walpole there is a need therefore for two co-options. The Clerk said that the Council had 35 days in which to co-opt from May 7th. He reminded councillors that they were still operating under their current mandate and those re-elected would not begin their new mandate until May 11th.

Village Green: As Cllr. Z. Mair had left the meeting, the update was given by Cllr. M. Porter. Cllr. M. Porter said that the Community Council was going to buy an Elwood Seat for £523 which would not need to be maintained. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to buy a Picnic Table for the Green at a price of £402.

Highways: (a) Cllr M. Porter reported that a risk assessment had been completed on the potholes but the Parish's potholes had still not been filled in. The Clerk was asked to contact Suffolk County Council Highways to arrange the drive around the Parish noting all the problems.

Footpaths: (a) Cllr N. Jarvis reported that some overhanging branches had been hacked off and now were lying in the road. It was reported that the Council cut back trees and foliage twice a year.

Trees: There was no report.

Cemetery: Raymond Catchpole said that he was still bringing all the 'books' up to date before handing them over to the clerk.

CEA & Allotments: Cllr. A. Thomas reported that electric bikes would soon be made available on the concreted ground at the back of the Pavilion. Cllr. A. Thomas said that all the allotments looked tidier now and thirteen allotments were being worked on now. Cllr. A. Thomas reported that she had attended a very good workshop during the Easter Holidays making bird boxes so they can be made to facilitate wildlife.

External Meetings & Training:

It was noted that the next Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) Northern Area Meetings will take place on June 15th, September 21st and December 7th 2015. The next Sizewell C Community Forum meeting has been deferred indefinitely whilst the SCC Framlingham Meeting was on March 25th 2015.

Correspondence:

The Clerk said that there was no correspondence.

Matters for Future Agenda:

It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting having a Parish Council Award such as having a prize for 'Best Children's Produce'.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19th 2015. On this evening will be the Annual Parish Meetings for Cookley and Walpole, the Parish Council Annual General Meeting and a Parish Council Meeting.

The Meeting ended at 8-47pm.

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