

Cookley & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, July 19th 2016 in the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. David Cask (Chairman); Cllr. A. Thomas (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. Michael Bygrave; Cllr. Rob Chase; Cllr. Nick Jarvis; Cllr. Zoé Mair; Cllr. Mike Porter; Cllr. Mark Wenham and Cllr. David Whitwood:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. Ian Newton and District & County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes:

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter – Cookpole and CEA:

Cllr. A. Thomas – CEA and Allotments:

3) To receive a report from the County and District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes:

The Clerk said that Cllr S. Burroughes had given his apologies for the meeting but had sent his monthly report which had been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk said that Cllr S. Burroughes had become Vice-Chair of the County Council.

The Clerk reported that the Solicitor for the National Association of Local Councils had said that in their view a councillor not only cannot be employed by the council but also cannot have a contract with payment from the council either. The Councillors discussed the issue for some time. It was decided not to pursue the matter further except for the Chair to contact the local MP, Therese Coffey regarding the issue.

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair:

Seconder: Cllr. R. Chase:

4) Public Session:

As no members of the public were present, there was no public session.

5) To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on June 21st 2016:

The Minutes were agreed except for one amendment. In No. 8 'Welham' should be 'Wenham'.

Proposer: Cllr. D. Whitwood:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Wenham:

6) Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

7) Planning Matters:

There were no Planning Applications.

8) Donations:

There were no Planning Applications.

8) Donations:

The Clerk reported that the free car parking at the Thoroughfare Car Park in Halesworth had been reintroduced. The Council asked the Clerk to send a letter to Halesworth Town Council thanking them for re-negotiating the free one-hour.

9) Defibrillator:

Cllr. R. Chase said that he had briefly met Cllr. W. Shoote of Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council. He said that they would be meeting for a more substantial meeting at the end of the summer and he would give a full report on that meeting.

10) Initiatives to cut Speeding:

Cllr. M. Bygrave reported that he had telephoned Highways who had said that owing to the volume of work, they had not progressed with the issue. It was agreed that Cllr. M. Bygrave would write to the Suffolk County Council Highways Portfolio Holder and to the Police Commissioner.

11) Emergency Plan:

Cllr. M. Wenham and Cllr. M. Bygrave reported that the Draft Emergency Plan had been looked at by Suffolk County Council who had given some comments. There was discussion regarding possible Emergency Centres but it was noted that there is no single one venue that is accessible from both Cookley and Walpole Villages which has appropriate accommodation, a telephone and toilets. The Harmony Centre was suggested and Cllr. M. Wenham agreed to look at the feasibility of this venue. It was also suggested that Cllr. I. Newton could be approached regarding being an emergency venue if there is flooding. Cllr. M. Bygrave and Cllr. M. Wenham were both formally thanked for all their hard work. There was some further discussion on the wording of the questions in the Emergency Planning questionnaire for parishioners. When this was finalised, it was agreed to meet at Cllr. Z. Mair's house to organise its distribution to all residences in the two parishes.

12) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received 'Thank You Letters' from the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK Suffolk, Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk), East Anglian Air Ambulance, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Halesworth Volunteer Centre and the Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund.

The Clerk said that he had also received correspondence from Suffolk Coastal/Waveney Norse, Wickstead Playgrounds and had one copy of the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter' and four copies of the 'Local Councillor' from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The Clerk said that he had also been asked by 'Prevent', Suffolk Age UK Poster and the 'Benjamin Foundation' to put their posters on the noticeboard which he had done.

The Clerk said that there had been some concern regarding West House and the Churchyard but Cllr. Z. Mair said that the issues had been resolved.

The Clerk said that the Risk Assessment had been asked for by the External Auditors BDO since the last meeting.

Finally, the Clerk reported that the Council is now a member of Community Action Suffolk.

13) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on June 30th 2016:

Business Community Account	£6 478-70
Business Premium Account	£1 095-78

b) Cheques for payment:

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Chq. No. 100926 Norfolk and Suffolk Rehabilitation Service £90-00

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Porter:

c) **National Salary Award for Clerks:**

Cllr. A. Thomas reported that she and Cllr. D. Cask had discussed the pay rise for Clerks on each Spine Point for the Year 2016-2017 and a further rise in 2017-2018. The Clerk's pay was discussed by the councillors and they agreed to a new salary rate for the Clerk with a further review next year and if the Clerk gained the Clerk's qualification.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:

Seconder: Cllr. N. Jarvis:

14) Village Green:

It was agreed that the Village Green looks very nice. However it was agreed that the grass was long by the river so Cllr. Z. Mair said that she would contact Will Austin to cut the grass down by the river.

15) Flagship Affordable Homes:

Cllr. A. Thomas said that there was nothing to report and that the issue could now come off the agenda.

16) Highways:

Cllr. M. Porter reported that he believed that potholes on the roads were getting more numerous and that Suffolk County Council were not filling them in fast enough especially on the 'C' roads. It was agreed that Cllr. M. Porter would contact Cllr. S. Burroughes.

17) Footpaths:

Cllr. N. Jarvis said that footpaths were not being maintained by Suffolk County Council. He said that he had reported overgrown footpaths to the Council and nothing had happened. Cllr. Z. Mair asked for a footpath to be reported to the County Council.

18) Trees:

Cllr. N. Jarvis said that he had nothing to report but Cllr. M. Porter said that the trees were not being trimmed.

19) Cemetery:

The Clerk said that there had been application to put up a gravestone/monument for a grave in the cemetery.

20) CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. A. Thomas said that there was nothing to report on the allotments

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that in the past month the electric bikes have been hired out by the CEA with great success several times to local users as well as an interested cyclist from Halesworth. She said that the electrical connections in the shed have been installed by Ken Allen of Walpole so that the power packs can be simply charged during maximum solar power generation time using a time clock. She noted that the lighting has also been put in and it only now remains for some useful storage to be created. As Jez Hawes has now joined our group we are hopeful that his practical skills can be utilized for this. Cllr. Z. Mair said that they were also purchasing panniers for the bikes.

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that the focus has also been on supporting the Allotment Society for the Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 3 September and on planning the Winter Grafting Days on 12/13 November 2016 for which it is hoped that...

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that the focus has also been on supporting the Allotment Society for the Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 3 September and on planning the Winter Craft Barns on 12/13 November 2016 for which interest and uptake of stands is already keen.

Finally, Cllr. Z. Mair said that the CEA has proceeded with the purchase of 10 folding tables which are now securely stored in the bike shed. She said that these will mean that the CEA don't have the annual expense of hiring tables for the Craft Barns and can also lend or hire them out.

21) External Meetings & Training:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported on her 'World of Planning' Course. Cllr. M. Wenham said that he was on the New Councillor Course in August and the Clerk said that he was on a two day Clerk's Course in July and August.

22) Matters of Information from Members:

There were no matters of information from councillors.

23) To receive agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on September 20th 2016:

There were no agenda items from councillors for the next meeting.

The Chair wished everyone a good summer and the meeting closed at 9-20pm