

Cookley & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, January 16th 2018 in the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. Z. Mair (Chairman); Cllr. A. Thomas (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. R. Chase; Cllr. N. Jarvis; Cllr. M. Porter; Cllr. David Whitwood and Cllr. M. Wenham:

Also Present:

Paul Widows (Clerk):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. S. Moore, Cllr. I. Newton and District and County Cllr. S. Burroughes:

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. M. Porter declared interests in CEA, Cookpole and the Local Plan.
Cllr. Z. Mair declared interests in CEA and Cookpole.
Cllr. N. Jarvis declared an interest in Cookpole.
Cllr. A. Thomas declared an interest in the CEA.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensation.

4) Co-option of one Councillor:

a) To consider the applicant that has applied for the vacancy on the Council:

There was no candidate for co-option.

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

There was no candidate for co-option.

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

County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes said that at Suffolk County Council, he would urge the Parish Council and individual Parishioners to respond to the School Travel Consultation with comments and suggestions. He said that if a local group wished to run a minibus taking a group of pupils to school then the County council could fund them. He said that a longer school day is another option so individual buses could complete more runs with pupils. County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes also reported that Suffolk had been chosen as a pilot county to keep 100% of the Business Rates.

County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes said that the 'Warm Homes Grant' had disappeared and that Suffolk Coastal District Council would have to start charging for the Green bin from April 2018. County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes said that his fellow District Councillors wondered if this was a good idea but the government Grant had gone so the district council had no choice but to impose the charge.

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Cllr. Z. Mair asked about the effect of the Carillion collapse on the two councils to which County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes answered that perhaps it was too early to know the full effect but that they did provide services to schools. Cllr. Z. Mair asked about the Environment Agency 'demeaning' the local water courses. To which County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes said that the Parish Council could write a letter to local landowners regarding flooding roads as they would now be responsible for their land and any water that flows through their land.

Finally in answer to whether County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes would still contribute to the purchase by the Parish Council of a Sign Indicator Device (SID), he said that he would contribute to the Sign Indicator Device (SID) in the new Financial Year.

6) 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.

7) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 21st 2017:

The Minutes were agreed with one amendment that councillors were given dispensation to agree the Budget and Precept.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase: Seconded: Cllr. N. Jarvis:

8) Emergency Planning:

There was no report as Cllr. M. Wenham was not at the meeting.

9) Initiatives to cut Speeding:

It was reported that the Sign Indicator Device (SID) had been ordered and delivered to Cllr. M. Porter. It was noted that the SID will be mounted on the pole and that someone would have to be found to analyse the information gained by the SID.

10) Defibrillator & Telephone Box:

Cllr. R. Chase reported that it had been agreed that the defibrillator would be bought on the same terms as Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council. He said that therefore there would be a four year plan after which the Council will own the defibrillator. However he said that it was on hold whilst an electricity supply is found and a home for the defibrillator such as the telephone box finalised. Cllr. J. Winter asked if a box for Christmas Lights could be sorted out as well.

11) Walpole Willows:

The Clerk explained that he had received the Licence from Flagship and following advice from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, it was found that the Licence did not allow the Council to sublet Walpole Willows to the Cookpole Energy Action which was the whole point of the Council's involvement. The Clerk said that he is awaiting revised licence.

12) Planning Matters:

There were no planning applications.

13) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the Christmas Lights on the Green had been very good and Cllr. J. Winter thanked everyone who had been involved in putting them up.

b) **Flagship Affordable Homes;**

It was reported that County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes had agreed to speak to the Chief Executive of Flagship and a meeting had been arranged to discuss Neave Close.

The Clerk reported that he had received the following report from Cllr. A. Thomas regarding Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs):

Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs) are unlike conventional heating systems in that they deliver warm temperatures over a long period (or constantly), rather than hot temperatures in short bursts.

GSHPs take a relatively long time to get a cold space up to 'room temperature', when compared to conventional, 'hot' systems (oil or gas burning, for example). GSHPs are very efficient and cost-effective at maintaining spaces at room temperature, so long as:

- *There is good thermal insulation around the room (walls, ceiling, windows, doors)*
- *There is good hermetic sealing of the room*

If rooms are not thermally well insulated, then heat will escape through the walls, ceiling, windows etc. The Heat Pump will then have to work harder to deliver more heat in order to keep the room up to temperature. This means that the costs of keeping the room warm will be higher than they 'should' in an ideal application. If the room is very poorly thermally insulated, then the GSHP might be unable to maintain the space at room temperature. You could then end up with the worst of both worlds – a room that costs a lot to keep insufficiently warm!

Similarly, GSHPs are efficient and cost-effective at keeping a given body of air at room temperature. But they struggle if the air in a room is changed frequently – as can result from chimneys, draughty windows and doors, airbricks etc. If the air in a room is changed frequently, then the Heat Pump will be trying to heat a new body of (colder) air very often. Again, if the room is very poorly hermetically sealed, you could end up with the worst of both worlds – a room that is expensive to keep not warm enough!

GSHPs therefore tend to be good for new build housing, where both thermal insulation and hermetic sealing can be designed to make the most of the heating system.

In contrast, GSHP is often a poor option for older housing, unless a lot is spent on the building itself in order to substantially raise its thermal insulation properties and reduce the amount of air exchanged with the outside.

The Clerk said that Cllr. A. Thomas had also sent this report regarding Flagship housing in Walpole:

You will be aware of the problems which Flagship Housing's tenants in Walpole – more especially residents of Neave Close - have been experiencing. It is also becoming clear that some of their tenants in other properties – the former Council Houses, in Walpole and Cookley, have also been similarly disadvantaged and unhappy with the service they have received.

My initial responses from Flagship have largely been unacceptable. For example, the proposal to install a Community Ground Source Heat Pump space/water heating system to serve Neave Close and their properties on Peasenhall Road at a cost of around £160,000 is really a non starter as the older properties' structures are totally unsuitable for this type of heating – see attached notes. Indeed, it just appears to be part of a long line of unsuitable and money-wasting work and installations.

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part of a long line of unsuitable and money-wasting work and installations.

As you will know, I have been working on setting up a fairly informal meeting with Flagship's relevant staff, and affected local tenants. I'm pleased to say that our District/County Councillor Stephen Burroughes, whom I have kept informed, has requested involvement. He also has direct contact with Flagship's MD which can only be helpful. However, as Stephen is currently SCC'S Chairperson it has been difficult to find a date when all relevant people are available and consequently we have had to plan for some weeks ahead. The meeting is now arranged for Friday February 23rd, 2 pm in Walpole Pavilion and will include me, various Flagship staff including those responsible for repairs and development, Councillor Burroughes, Councillor Jarvis, tenants wishing to be present including Jane Henson who is a spokesperson for Neave Close as well as someone with previous experience of working with housing associations. It is my intention that this meeting is kept fairly informal and that it should be helpful to everyone and not a vehicle merely for arguments and criticism - and I hope that an acceptable way forward can be agreed which may also include better communication between Flagship and the Parish Council.

I trust that this course of action is acceptable and that the PC is happy to pay for the hire of Walpole Pavilion for 2-3 hours on Feb 23rd, which I have booked in anticipation of your support.

I will of course report back on the outcomes of this meeting to the next PC meeting.

c) Highways;

It was noted that Cllr. M. Porter had reported many potholes and other problems with the roads to Highways at Suffolk County Council. Cllr. Z. Mair asked why there had been a flood near the entrance to the Cemetery. Cllr. D. Whitwood said that the ditches and fields further up the road were overflowing and flooding the road where the water collates outside the cemetery gates overflowing the whole road. Cllr. J. Winter said that he would ask Cllr. M. Porter to report it to Highways.

d) Footpaths;

Cllr. N. Jarvis reported that soil is fouling many paths now but he did not feel that highways would remove it so he felt that we had to do it ourselves if people were to be able to walk along the Parishes' paths in the future.

e) Trees;

There was no report.

f) Cemetery;

There was no report.

g) CEA & Allotments;

There was no report.

h) External Meetings & Training;

The Clerk said that he was going to a presentation on the new External Audit arrangements on January 30th 2018.

The Meeting ended at 9-25pm.

