

# COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

**An Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually via Zoom on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7pm.**

## **Minutes:**

### **Present:**

Cllr. Z. Mair (Chairman); Cllr. R. Chase; Cllr. J. Lewis; Cllr. C. Leggett; Cllr. C. Northover (left 7-40pm) and Cllr. J. Winter:

### **Also Present:**

Paul Widdowson (Clerk):

#### 1) **To elect a Vice-Chair until May 2020:**

It was agreed to defer this decision to the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2020.

#### 2) **Apologies:**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. D. Cask and Cllr. David Whitwood:

Not Present: Cllr. M. Porter:

#### 3) **To receive Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Pecuniary Interests.

#### 4) **Requests for dispensations:**

There were no Requests for Dispensations.

#### 5) **Co-option of one Councillor:**

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

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

It was agreed to defer this decision to the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 and to invite a candidate who had contacted the Parish Council with interest in the vacancy.

#### 6) **To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2020:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> were agreed with the following amendments.

Item 7 – ‘Sleeping Willow’ should be ‘Weeping Willow’.

Item 15 – It was noted that Anne Thomas, Secretary, Walpole Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association has written that *while it is true that the Parish Council does not own any allotments it does have some responsibilities re the Neave Close Allotments. She said that the allotment site was leased by Suffolk Coastal District Council - the 'Superior Landlord', to Cookley and Walpole Parish Council - 'the Landlord' by Underlease dated November 6th 2012, and for a period of 21 years. Cookley and Walpole Parish Council let the property to the Walpole Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association - the 'Tenant' on the same date, and for the same duration - 21 years. Under the terms of the agreement - item 8 of the Agreement -the Tenant ie the Allotments Society - has an obligation to insure the Property with 'an insurance office or underwriters of repute'....*

The Clerk said that he would return the reference to the allotments to the Risk Assessment Procedures.

Item 19 - Cllr. Z Mair said her report should be withdrawn as the meeting on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the church to discuss holding four services there a year did not take place.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:                      Second: Cllr. C. Leggett:

7) **George Calver Charity: Councillors to discuss the vacant post of Treasurer.**

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that Jane Morelli had been voted in by the Trust as Trustee and Treasurer. This was accepted by the Parish Council.

8) **Monitor:**

The Clerk said that the monitor had not been delivered and the Parish Council was not paying for it. He said that he would be ringing Hughes for the latest situation.

9) **Planning Matters:**

*Proposal: Variation of Conditions 3 and 4 on Application DC/19/3532/FUL (Proposed Stable Building and Related External Works)*

*Address: Walnut Tree Farm, Mells Road, Walpole, Suffolk. IP19 0PL*

*Ref: DC/20/1325/VOC*

The Parish Council refuses this planning application because the Parish Council believes that the proposed building is an insufficient reason for the loss of the trees which provide a habitat for a wide variety of life.

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

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter', a VAT Refund of £742-40, the first precept of £5000 and a letter from East Suffolk Council authorising a co-option of a new councillor to replace Cllr. Anne Thomas.

The Clerk said that he had received the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) Annual Subscription 2020-2021. It was agreed to pay the subscription.

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

The Clerk said that he had been asked by Peter Wilkinson in Peasenhall to bring the following Draft Letter which he hoped would be signed by all the local parish councils near to Sizewell C to the attention of the Councillors.

Dear Cllr Hicks and Cllr Gallant,

We are writing in response to your letter to EDF of 9 April concerning its Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Sizewell C.

We are very disappointed that your Councils state they are “supportive” of EDF submitting the DCO at this time. Just knowing the Sizewell C application is about to be submitted is creating additional anxiety in our communities at a very difficult time. We do, however, note and appreciate that the Councils are questioning whether the public consultation period should start after the application is accepted. We urge you to strongly hold the line that it would be completely inappropriate for this period to start unless coronavirus restrictions are entirely lifted. It would be unfair to begin for example while libraries remained shut and public meetings prohibited. We recognise that EDF is proposing this period could be extended. However, time is not the main constraint for those who would struggle to access EDF’s proposals online, or would be unable to get together with others to discuss the implications of EDF’s plans. We are depending on you to be extremely robust on this point when EDF will be applying considerable pressure to proceed.

We further note that the Planning Inspectorate still does not know how examinations would work for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. We understand PINS will likely issue more guidance on this, but their representatives have repeatedly stated that digital examinations will not be suitable for all projects. Given its scale, it is vital that you uphold the view that the Sizewell C DCO would be totally unsuitable for a digital examination process.

Signed by X Parishes and Towns (32 at the time of writing)

Following some discussion, the Councillors agreed for the Parish Council to sign the letter.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:    Second: Cllr. C. Leggett:

11) **Coronavirus Decisions: Ratification of Decisions Taken by Council Members by email since the last Parish Council Meeting held on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

The Clerk said that the Hire of Monitor and a new contract for Will Austin had been negotiated at £150 per month for the next 24 months. He also said that the following payments had been made.

**Cheques**

Chq 101064	Clerk’s Expenses for January – March 2020	£89-33
Chq 101065	Hetty’s Little Shop – Coronavirus Emergency Fund	£32-00
Chq 101066	R. J. Negus – Tidy up village Green Hedge	£1000-00
Chq 101067	Ladywell Accountancy Services for C & W Payroll	£47-00

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair:    Second: Cllr. J. Winter:

12) **Financial Report:**

**a) Balances at the Bank on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2020:**

Business Community Account	£7 674-94
Business Savings Account	£1 101-18

