

MINUTES OF COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION 17 FEBRUARY 2014

Present: Cllrs. David Cask (Chairman) (DC), David Whitwood (DW), Zoé Mair (ZM), Bill Camplin (BC), John Winter (JW). In attendance: Raymond Catchpole (Clerk), Nick Jarvis (NJ), and PCSO 3195 Julie Hinton. There were no public present.

Apologies: Cllrs. Mike Porter, Anne Thomas, prospective parish councillor candidate for Cookley, Ian Newton, County & District Cllr Stephen Burroughes.

14/025 Declarations of Interest: ZM declared a continuing pecuniary interest in CEA, including Allotments matters, but is permitted to discuss and vote on these matters by clerk and members through a previous resolution. NJ declared a continuing pecuniary interest in matters relating to Council Houses, Cookley Road, but by previous resolution is permitted to discuss and vote on these matters. BC declared an interest in matters relating to Sizewell C and will not vote.

14/026 Public Participation: The chairman invited PCSO Julie Hinton to speak to her Police Report, previously circulated. There had been no reported crimes in the parishes for the period 1 January to 31 January 2014.

DC raised the issue of possible highways dangers arising from construction behind the church. This led to general discussion about the restricted access to the proposed development. DW referred to historic use of the South View access by substantial traffic when the field was used for recreational purposes.

ZM mentioned we were considering the installation of a permanent speed indicator and Julie Hinton had promised to look into lending us a machine for trials. A 150 meters straight is required for trials and the only such stretch is by the cemetery. Julie Hinton will chase this up, but there is a delay within the service whilst equipment is being integrated. Julie Hinton can arrange for a traffic officer to attend our meeting to give advice and she will keep in touch with clerk about this.

Julie Hinton mentioned community speed watch. DC and BC suggested this should be on a future agenda and something for Villages Together in due course.

Julie Hinton mentioned measures in place to increase physical fitness in the service and councillors wished Julie the best of luck.

ZM will place the Police Report on the website, together with advice to lock and alarm oil tanks. Julie Hinton can arrange for a crime prevention team to come to Walpole with locks, etc. ZM suggested combining this with a CEA car boot sale. Julie Hinton also offered the mobile police station to attend at the same time.

SCC Report: clerk had previously circulated the report by County Cllr Stephen Burroughes, reproduced below.

- **PLANS FOR A14 TOLL DROPPED**

The Government has scrapped proposals to introduce a toll on the A14 in Suffolk as part of its plan to fund improvements to the vital trunk road. The good news follows months of campaigning and lobbying by Suffolk businesses, residents, media, councillors and MPs, who have been united in opposition to the toll as unhelpful to Suffolk's economic dynamics.

Improvements planned for the A14 however are much-needed, and will be a significant financial benefit rather, than a burden, to the Suffolk economy, particularly with regard to the ports and the through-put of freight. It was on that basis that SCC agreed to invest £1million towards the scheme, an investment that gave us a strong voice at the table, when it came to negotiations.

SCC has been at the forefront of the campaign, passing a motion last October calling for the toll to be dropped; a view that was echoed by the county's MPs, who held a debate on the issue in Westminster, and personally met with the Prime Minister to persuade him against this proposal. The funding of the scheme will now be met by other means.

- **SCC CABINET AGREES TO INVEST IN NEW APPRENTICESHIPS**

SCC's Cabinet has endorsed the Greater Ipswich City Deal. At the same meeting, they gave the go-ahead to the investment of £1.5million to establish a local Apprenticeship service for Suffolk.

The deal will bring in investment to cut youth unemployment, develop local skills and work with businesses to help them create new jobs. The Cabinet also agreed new investment in apprenticeships – a three-year plan to increase apprenticeships across Suffolk. The plan involves three key programmes of activity: Making apprenticeships more accessible to employers, particularly to small and medium-sized businesses; raising the profile of apprenticeships in schools and supporting young people to participate; and finally, community-based marketing and communications to raise awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships.

Jobs and growth are a key priority for the county council. The City Deal is great news, not only for our county town of Ipswich but across the whole of the county, which will benefit from the investment in the local economy. The push on apprenticeships is a vital way that we can help improve the skills of young people in our county – helping meet the need for high-skilled employees, and therefore reducing unemployment and improving the quality of life for young people and their families.

- **SCC shortlisted for Most Improved Council award**

Suffolk County Council has made it through to the final shortlist in the Most Improved Council category for the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards.

In being shortlisted – for the second year in a row - we have been recognised for being at the cutting edge of the national broadband project, in the vanguard of moves to share office accommodation with other public sector organisations, helping secure the City Deal for Greater Ipswich, as well as managing the multi-million-pound energy from waste project towards its completion. The other councils on the shortlist are all from eastern England – Norwich City Council, Luton Borough Council and Thurrock Council. Overall, 640 entries were submitted for 19 different awards this year. Winners will be announced on 12th March 2014. We are focused on finding better, more effective and efficient ways of providing the services people need, within increasingly tight budgets. Being shortlisted for this award is national recognition for our innovative approach and on-going push for improvement

- **Cabinet approves budget savings & council tax freeze for 2014/15**

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet gave its approval to the budget proposals for the new financial year, at its meeting in January.

The savings proposals are the first part of a four-year plan designed to fill an estimated budget gap of £156 million, equivalent to 30% of the council's current annual budget (excluding schools). This on top of more than £90 million saved since April 2011.

The proposals include savings of: £8.2 million in landfill taxes next year thanks to the new Energy from Waste site, which is scheduled to open next year; £9 million from administrative costs following the end of the Customer Services Direct contract; £10million from the Adult and Community Services budget – including a greater focus on early prevention and closer working with the NHS; £6.7 million from the children and young people's budget – including a review of children's centre services, to ensure they can best meet the needs of young families, and £4 million from the capital budget. All four years, between now and 2017 will also see a complete freeze in SCC's portion of council tax. Final approval of the budget is in the hands of the full council, who will debate it at their next meeting on 13th February 2014.

We are determined to meet the budget challenge head-on: managing the county's money extremely carefully; seeking new and better ways of providing the services people need, while helping with residents' cost of living by keeping council tax down.

- **Interested in adopting a child?**

Suffolk County Council is urging people interested in adopting to come forward, with 30 children in Suffolk currently looking for a permanent adoptive family.

This New Year push is aimed at addressing the desperate need for more people to come forward and provide 'forever families'. The council is especially on the look-out for families for sibling groups, older children and children with disabilities. Applications are welcomed from all sections of the community, to offer a child, or sibling group, a loving and supportive family for life. Anyone interested in finding out more about adoption can call Suffolk Adoption Agency on 01473 265595, or visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support/fostering-and-adoption/adoption

Providing a secure and loving home for young people who don't have one, is one of the most important roles we can play. Anyone able to adopt, is giving a young person a far better chance of a happy and fulfilling life that would otherwise be the case, and we urge anyone interested to come forward.

- **GCSE results move Suffolk up five places in league table**

Last month's publication of the national league tables for schools, based on the most recent GCSE results, saw Suffolk move up to 137th out of 151 local authority areas.

This is a five-place improvement on last year. It also means Suffolk is climbing nearer to the national average. 54.6% of Suffolk pupils gained five or more GCSEs graded between A* to C, putting Suffolk 6.4% off the national average of 61%. This compares with the previous year's results, when Suffolk was 8.5% off the national average of 59%. The results are a reflection of the hard work put in by young people and all those individuals in the Suffolk education system who have been relentless in the pursuit of improved standards in the county and there is still work to be done to get Suffolk further up the league tables and performing above the national average.

SCDC Report: clerk had previously circulated the report by County Cllr Stephen Burroughes, reproduced below.

- **District Moving forward with Boundary Changes**

Suffolk Coastal has submitted its proposals for the new warding arrangements and the reduction of Councillors from 55 to 42 to the Boundary Commission for its approval. A review had to take place in order to equalise the amount of 'electors' per District Council 'Ward' and Suffolk Coastal have put in their suggestions for the Boundary Commission to study. Reducing the number of councillors will save money and more fully engage councillors in the day to day running of the council.

- **Suffolk Coastal may move to new HQ**

A move to new offices is being considered by Suffolk Coastal Councillors. The current HQ in Melton are becoming costly to run, are not particularly accessible and not 'fit for purpose'. Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet are looking at options to see if a move to new premises is possible and how to make it happen without putting any cost onto the council tax payer.

- **NEW LOCAL ENABLING BUDGET FOR COASTAL AREA**

A new community enabling budget is being introduced across Suffolk Coastal District to help promote the core aims of the council, i.e., protecting the environment, promoting healthier lives, and increasing physical involvement of young people. It is seen as a way to significantly help promote active community involvement and applications for funding can be made to your District Councillor setting out the nature of the scheme, how it will be of benefit to your community, and how it will be delivered sustainably.

The County Council already operates a successful 'Locality' Scheme, which is vital in the Council's objective of supporting communities financially.

In the absence of County & District Cllr Burroughes there were no questions.

The chairman took the meeting into council mode.

14/027 Approval of Minutes: minutes of the council meeting on 20 January and the planning committee on 3 February 2014 were approved by members and signed by the chairman.

14/028 Matters arising: (a) election of a new councillor for Cookley was deferred through absence of the candidate. (b) no other matters arising.

14/029 Planning: There were no new planning applications. **Marsh View:** clerk updated members on the present position having previously circulated an email update from the proposed developers indicating slow but steady progress with planning conditions.

14/030 Finance: (a) RFO Report: clerk presented his report and financial statement. Payment made to Zurich Municipal for insurance premium at the planning Committee on 3 February 2014 was ratified. There were no invoices to approve

Balances to carry forward were submitted as under, taking into account the above:

Community Account £5,802.76

Business Saver £1,092.81 £6,895.57

Financial statement was approved unanimously by show of hands.

ZM referred to a SALC Training Day for One Suffolk website trainees. Expenditure of £45 plus VAT for her place was unanimously approved, together with a further place for the new webmaster against refund of that fee.

14/031 Highways: Cllr Porter's report was deferred in his absence. ZM followed up the falling flints from the church wall on Church Hill. Clerk has heard from SCS Ltd, facilities operators for SCDC and they are looking into it. Clerk confirmed the issue of shrubs outside West House was with Highways.

14/032 Footpaths: BC was not aware of any pressing problems. However the river footpath does become wet.

NJ reported an excessively strong spring to the gate at the top of the footpath adjacent to Council Houses, Cookley. BC will look at it.

14/033 Environment Agency: no update on private work to clear river.

ZM referred generally to environmental matters and approved the recent circulation of newsletters and contact details from UK Power Networks.

14/034 Trees: Nothing to report.

14/035 Cemetery: Clerk reported on consecration of the remaining half of the cemetery. Bishop's office had confirmed it had not been consecrated by consulting their 1954 records. Consecration could be carried out at a fee of £150 plus VAT. Clerk will proceed accordingly. Members wish entire cemetery to be consecrated for Christian burial. Clerk will report back on what may be required by way of processions, ceremony and teas.

14/036 Cookpole Energy Action: (a) CEA: ZM had little to report. CEA are investigating providing electric charger points for electric bicycles in the village. **(b) Allotments:** Anne Thomas had submitted her report which the clerk had circulated. The report is reproduced below.

"Although one or two hardy perennials have been at work on their allotments, most of my activity has been at the computer, applying for grants.

We have been advised that we're unlikely to be able to claim VAT back legitimately for the purchase of goods and services by going through the Parish Council, but have had some very generous grants and donations from County Councillor Stephen Burroughes and from Flagship Housing via Ross Bangs.

These funds have made it possible for us to commission a solar powered pump for our borehole, as well as a good size and sturdy Community Shed, and I must express our gratitude for the generosity which has made this possible. I anticipate that the work will be completed and the pump operational by the end of February, weather permitting.

The solar powered pump will raise water during sunny periods, when the supply will be most in demand, and will fill a storage tank which will supply water on dull and sunless days. In addition, it will be much easier for people with less strength to fill their watering cans, and make it possible to run a hose to parts of the site furthest from the borehole, and to keep newly planted fruit trees well watered.

I am currently obtaining estimates for the Community Shed, and with the funding available, have more choice than I'd anticipated. Flagship require 3 estimates which I should be able to provide by the end of the week, and we will be buying in diy kit form, so hope to be able to afford one or two photovoltaic panels for the roof with batteries to run an electric kettle for tea breaks.

The Parish Council's donation and funding received from Community Action Suffolk's Local Foods Funding will buy us a good selection of fruit trees, some of which have been ordered. Weather permitting we hope to be on site later this week to start planting.

I have also applied to Suffolk Coastal District Council for a Capital Fund Grant and will know this week if this has been successful. This may pay for all the rabbit and muntjac –proof fencing, with Cookpole Energy Action’s donation paying for the gates which the Rights of Way Officer has specified.

In a mood of great optimism we have also agreed the date of Saturday September 13th for our first Flower and Produce Show, which will be open to everyone, not just Allotment Holders.

We have had terrific support for our project, and again I would like to thank all our donors for their generosity, and for Raymond Catchpole for his support with the time consuming administrative tasks”.

Clerk reported that hard copy of the planning permission for change of use had now been received.

ZM was highly appreciative of the financial input from Flagship Housing.

14/037 Villages Together: the meeting set for Tuesday 28 January at 7.30pm at Walpole Pavilion was cancelled. Clerk will take up matter again when the weather improves. An informal agenda could include: Flagship Housing, SALC Workshops in Walpole and Community Speedwatch.

14/038 Sizewell C Community Forum: clerk had circulated minutes of the meeting on 21 November 2013 and general discussion ensued; next meeting 27 March 2014, clerk will attend.

14/039 Correspondence: ZM mentioned the Cookpole website on which CAPC will have a page. Minutes and notices, etc. can be uploaded. Members considered that in addition to specifying which village members represented, they should also be tied to photographs.

Clerk will also introduce the CAPC webmaster to the Campsea Ashe webmaster as both will be using the same software and may be able to share future problems.

14/040 Future Agenda: (a) ZM suggested Cookpole might like some financial assistance from CAPC towards the costs of carrying on with a hard copy newsletter for those who declined digital online versions. (b) Update from Anne Thomas on progress at Halesworth Campus.

14/041 Next Meeting: Parish Council meeting 17 March 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman

Date