

MINUTES OF COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION 20 JANUARY 2014

Present: Cllrs. David Cask (Chairman) (DC), David Whitwood (DW), Mike Porter (MP), Zoé Mair (ZM), Anne Thomas (AT). In attendance: Raymond Catchpole (Clerk), Nick Jarvis (NJ), prospective parish councillor candidate for Cookley, Ian Newton (IN) prospective parish councillor candidate for Cookley and County, District Cllr Stephen Burroughes and Ross Bangs (Flagship).

There were no public present.

Apologies: Cllrs. Bill Camplin, John Winter, PCSO 3195 Julie Hinton.

14/001 Appointment of new parish councillors for Cookley: The chairman and members agreed that the two new candidates would be permitted to join in debate during the evening, but not to vote. The chairman offered best wishes to NJ for an early recovery from his car crash. A warm welcome was extended to IN on his first evening of attendance.

14/002 Declarations of Interest: MP declared a pecuniary interest in CEA, but is permitted to discuss and vote on these matters by clerk and members through a previous resolution. He further declared a pecuniary interest in matters relating to Packway Farm Wind Turbine. ZM and AT also declared interests in respect of CEA and related matters including the allotments project. NJ declared a pecuniary interest in matters relating to Council Houses, Cookley Road.

14/003 Public Participation: The chairman invited Ross Bangs of Flagship to update the council on matters previously raised.

Flagship Housing: (a) Earth Shelter Houses: rainwater harvesting. This was acknowledged to be a problem and a quote was awaited for rectification. The difficulty appears to have been with filtration blockage. ZM enquired who was responsible for filter cleaning; Ross Bangs said it was the responsibility of their site rangers. MP was concerned as to how rangers would know attention was needed, Ross Bangs will enquire, but the system had originally worked well. The rainwater harvesting had actually been turned off because of blockages. MP thought this was a system which all new Flagship developments should be considering. **(b) Council Houses, Cookley Road: sewerage.** Apparently sewage is tankered away monthly. NJ pointed out it was a bacterial system which should not need tankering. He had seen tankers from Kent two or three times weekly. MP said there was a high pressure sewerage system in the road. Ross Bangs will investigate further; he is receiving conflicting information at present. MP suggested a feedback questionnaire could be delivered to all local Flagship residents; Ross Bangs preferred that their community manager should visit tenants. **(c) Storage heating in Council Houses, Walpole.** AT said older housing stock had no gas and all heating was electric. Fireplaces had been blocked in so there was no alternative. What insulation was in place to counter these drawbacks?

Ross Bangs said pre-payment of electricity was not endorsed by Flagship as this inevitably led to higher cost. All insulation complied with current standards, but Flagship would be open to any reports from independent surveyors. NJ confirmed from experience that opening of fireplaces would be allowed if carried out professionally. Ross Bangs confirmed any tenant in fuel financial difficulty can be helped by Flagship. DW said problem was that storage heaters on Economy 7 don't come on till midnight and go off in the morning; heat drains away during the day and it is cold when tenants return from work. IN pointed out that Economy 10 has the option of two extra boosts during the day and less overnight electricity use, better than Economy 7. Ross Bangs will commit to their community manager visiting these Walpole properties. MP expressed surprise at Flagship allocating isolated rural properties to tenants without transport.

Ross Bangs concluded his update by offering to attend council meetings whenever needed.

The chairman took the meeting into council mode.

14/004 Approval of Minutes: minutes of the council meeting on 18 November 2013 were approved by members and signed by the chairman.

14/005 Matters arising: DW referred to attendance by NJ. DC asked NJ if he was prepared to become a parish councillor and, on agreeing so, NJ was duly elected unanimously by members to represent Cookley.

There were no other matters arising.

14/006 Planning: There were no new planning applications. **Marsh View:** MP updated IN on the past history of the site; clerk updated members on the current position with planning issued subject to outstanding physical site testing, and general discussion ensued.
County & District Cllr Stephen Burroughes arrived.

SB confirmed that the site is being monitored by the planners and photos of ongoing activities are with the enforcement team.

The chairman opened the meeting to public participation and SB submitted his reports.

14/007 Suffolk County Council:

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.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL PARTNERS UP WITH NORFOLK

SCC has signed an agreement committing the two counties to working more closely together. In signing the 'Memorandum of Understanding', the two leaders of Suffolk and Norfolk announced a pledge to simplify and improve health and social care for people living near the county boundary. While both county councils will remain as independent sovereign bodies, they will now work together to strengthen existing joint-working arrangements and explore areas where the county councils can join forces, cut duplication and so save money for the tax payers of East Anglia whilst protecting front-line services. Areas where closer co-operation will be explored include: Collaborative working to maximise the benefits of the Norwich and Ipswich City Deal proposals; sharing the benefits of the latest information technology, drawing upon initiatives under development in Norfolk; joining up the commissioning of Mental Health services. Norfolk and Suffolk have one Mental Health Trust and so it makes sense for the councils to commission services in collaboration.

We are determined to do all we can, in the current financial climate, to protect our vital front-line services for the people of Suffolk.

SUFFOLK BID FOR BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT MONEY

Suffolk County Leader Mark Bee, together with many of Suffolk's MPs, recently met the government minister Ed Vaizey in a bid to secure a multi-million pound investment to extend the Suffolk Better Broadband programme.

Although the programme is well into its two-and-a-half-year implementation period, which will see 100,000 homes and businesses given access to faster broadband, the next steps are already being considered. While the current pledge to ensure all properties have access to speeds of at least 2Mbps by 2015 is well on track, the aim is now to extend the current target (85% of properties to have 25Mbps or more) to reach 90% of properties with this extra speed. The meeting in Westminster was positive and an announcement on the precise details of any potential extension is expected in the early New Year.

TOPPING OUT CEREMONY MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CARE PARTNERSHIP

The first anniversary of the partnership between Suffolk County Council and Care UK - which is building state-of-the-art care homes across the county - was marked with a recent 'topping-out' ceremony. Representatives from SCC, Care UK, and its development partner on the project Castleoak, placed a fir tree on the roof of the under-construction new Davers Court care home in Bury St Edmunds. This new care home and wellbeing centre, at the site of the former Davers Court in Shakers Lane, is part of a £60million three-year plan for 10 similar new developments. Construction of seven of the 10 new care home developments is well under way as part of the phased modernisation programme. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities is a key priority. We are working to a long-term plan to identify and then deliver a long-term solution to the changing care needs of people in the county. The existing care homes have serviced their communities well but it is the right time to replace them with facilities that support staff in the delivery of high quality, personal care.

MORE FUNDING FOR 'QUALITY OF LIFE' CARE FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS

People with dementia in Suffolk are being helped to live more independently, thanks to £960,000 of funding from the government. The money is being used to make additional improvements to the environments where people with dementia live and are cared for - such as in their own homes, as well as in residential care and nursing homes. SCC has developed 22 projects across Suffolk to enhance both internal and external (including gardens) elements of the properties, and also to install new assistive technology.

Examples of some of the projects being developed, or delivered, include: making improvements to people's homes, such as improving lighting, changing fixtures and fittings or installing new dementia support technologies; a dementia café at Anglesea Heights Nursing Home in Ipswich. The café will provide dementia-sensitive social activities for residents and their families and help people to access information on ways of coping with dementia; six dementia community parks in residential and nursing homes in Sudbury, Risby, Halesworth and Ipswich. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities is a key priority. The growth in the number of people with dementia is one of the top challenges we will face with an ageing population. This welcome investment will make a vital contribution to our plans going forward.

DC invited questions. ZM asked for further information on mobile phone coverage. Details of dementia service in Halesworth are needed.

14/008 SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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.

DC invited questions. AT hoped the apprenticeships initiative will support the Skills Centre in Halesworth. ZM asked how the educational partnership with Hackney was going; SB will provide feedback in due course. IN, as a governor of Bungay High School, reported that staff has visited Hackney and input has been well received.

MP asked if grants could be drawn down from both SCC and SCDC or were they the same pot. SB confirmed both could be drawn on.

DC referred to the police service; if Norfolk and Suffolk are to work together what about geographic knowledge? Locally the police service does seem to be reducing. SB replied that SCC has no responsibility for policing, but he would be happy to pass on these concerns to the Police & Crime Commissioner. SCC is responsible for the fire service and there is discussion about co-operation between all the blue light services.

SB referred to grant applications previously made and said they need to be followed through. AT said a solar pump would be useful and she will contact SB at SCC.

MP referred to solar powered speed indicator signs and enquired about costs being met from SB's funds. Clerk intervened to say he will chase PCSO Julie Hinton who had said earlier she would supply us with information. SB is able to help finance a permanent sign for the parish council.

DC wondered if a representative from Highways could attend a council meeting. MP thought a site meeting about the location of a sign or signs may be better. Clerk will enquire of Highways.

MP raised the matter of his recent planning application for a wind turbine at Packway Farm which had been refused. Clerk presented his view of Para 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework by which the view of District Council members appeared to have been swayed and pointed out there was possibly a conflicting interpretation of that paragraph which could have changed the outcome of the meeting had it been possible to have more time to address the meeting. General discussion ensued and the clerk will make his point to SB who will then take it up with the Director of Planning services.

The chairman took the meeting back into council mode again.

14/009 Finance: (a) RFO Report: clerk presented his report and financial statement. No payments had been made since 18 November 2013 RFO Report:ire

The following had been received:

Zurich Assurance (Notice Board Claim) £ 350.00

Invoices were approved and paid as under:

Clerk's Expenses £ 62.57

Clerk's Salary (PAYE) £ 525.00

Walpole & Cookley Playing Field Trust (Hire) £ 108.00

Donations approved 18 November 2013 were paid as under:

Home Start £ 33.33

East Anglian Air Ambulance £ 33.33

Halesworth Volunteer Centre £ 33.33

SARS £ 50.00

Allotments Group £ 200.00

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

Community Account £6,070.37

Business Saver £1,092.81 £7,163.18

Financial statement was approved unanimously by show of hands.

14/010 Highways: ZM reported verge growth outside Old Post Office was still excessive and uncut. Highways should be notified of grass and leaves on footway from Pavilion to T-junction. Elder, previously cut, opposite church is now growing through. SCDC maintain the closed churchyard and flints are falling from the boundary wall onto the highway. Clerk will take necessary action.

14/011 Footpaths: ZM reported a fallen beech tree previously reported to the council has now been cleared.

14/012 Environment Agency: no update on private work to clear river. MP reported that the EA website does now offer availability of foreknowledge of potential flood risk. ZM said the river on the boundary of the playing field was a little clogged. NJ reported excess storm water drainage flow across the Cookley Road outside bungalows owned by Heveningham Hall. This could be caused by a blocked culvert and clerk will advise Highways.

14/013 Trees: There was no collective report. Generally it was thought trees on the Village Green were looking good.

14/014 Cemetery: Clerk reported on correspondence with clergy and diocese about consecration of the unused half of the cemetery. MP thought the cemetery had been originally consecrated in 1954 and there was no collective memory of only half being consecrated. Clerk will advise bishop's office accordingly so they may confirm the situation. MP suggested clerk should examine cemetery charges against those charged by other parish councils.

14/015 Cookpole Energy Action: ZM submitted her report. The Winter Craft Barn organized by CEA last November was a great success, enjoyed by many and clearing a profit of £1600 of which £500 has been donated to the Allotment start-up fund and £100 to Cookpole who provided invaluable help with the catering. The remainder goes towards our general capital fund.

Once Charity registration with HMRC is complete, we will have the Charity number to include in our information leaflet and our correspondence for our impending grant seeking initiative.

CEA is still planning to train up a suitable person to lead teams (for example from Mencap) to carry out woodland management in neglected local copses providing sustainable fuel for local consumption and reducing dependence on fossil fuels in line with CEA's fundamental green commitment.

AT reported that the allotments project had received a donation from Co0mmunity Action of £200.

14/016 Buckingham Palace Garden Party. It was unanimously agreed that the names of Cllr Mike Porter as a former chairman and his wife will be submitted by the clerk.

14/017 Villages Together: meeting set for Tuesday 28 January at 7.30pm at Walpole Pavilion: clerk will send out a reminder, although take up was disappointing.

14/018 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.

14/019 SALC Planning Workshop: Clerk will raise the possibility of a Walpole based workshop on planning and other matters at the next meeting of Village Together, whenever that may be.

14/020 Correspondence: Clerk had received a letter from Halesworth & District Museum in connection with their project, Saving the Seventies. A contact with the local community was required. It was agreed clerk will put the museum in touch with Mr Calloman as History Recorder for the Villages.

14/021 Future Agenda: none other than arising from the foregoing.

14/022 Next Meeting: Parish Council meetings 17 February and 17 March 2014. Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman Date