

**MINUTES OF COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE PAVILION 16 JUNE 2014**

Present: Cllrs. David Cask (Chairman) (DC), David Whitwood (DW), Zoé Mair (ZM), John Winter (JW), Nick Jarvis (NJ), Ian Newton (IN). In attendance: District & County Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Raymond Catchpole (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs. Anne Thomas, Bill Camplin, Mike Porter, PCSO Julie Hinton.

14/091 Declarations of Interest: ZM declared continuing pecuniary interests in CEA, Cookpole and Allotments matters, and non-pecuniary interest in Marsh View matters, but is permitted to discuss and vote on these matters by clerk and members through a previous resolution.

14/092 Public Participation: Cllr Stephen Burroughes spoke to his **County Council Report**, reproduced below:

COUNCIL LEADER, MARK BEE, SETS OUT PRIORITIES

SCC's priorities for the next three years include raising education attainment, improving the county's road network and supporting those most vulnerable in our communities, Mark Bee has announced. In a speech to Suffolk's county councillors, he said: "The next three years are going to see some major changes. While our budget may be significantly reduced, we certainly have no intention of simply sitting here talking while services are crudely pared back. On the contrary, we always believe there is a way — a way of protecting the front-line services that the people of Suffolk value the most. To do so, we are going to oversee a radical redesign of the council: to create a leaner, more focused organisation that, through strong financial management, innovation, local leadership and market development, will provide or enable the provision of, good-quality services for the people of Suffolk, all with a heavy dose of pragmatism — focusing on what works.

During his speech, he outlined the council's five priorities between now and 2017 — some a continuation of previous focal points, and some new. The priorities are: raising educational attainment and skill levels; supporting the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to increase economic growth; maintaining roads and developing Suffolk's infrastructure; supporting those most vulnerable in our communities; empowering local communities.

We have a clear vision for the shape of the county council and are ensuring that, even in tough financial times, it has a sharp focus on the services that matter to the people of Suffolk.

CAN YOU SUPPORT AND INSPIRE A TEENAGER THROUGH FOSTERING?

SCC is encouraging potential carers to come forward and consider fostering an older child. This is part of the Fostering Network's national campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the shortage of foster carers across the UK. Suffolk's fostering service wants to encourage people to come forward to explore fostering, especially when it comes to older children. There are currently around 720 children in care in Suffolk, and over half are aged 11 or over. The fostering service deal quickly and sensitively with any queries. Foster carers can provide care on a short-term basis whilst permanent plans are made for children to return home to a birth family, to an adoptive family or another permanent foster family. Carers can also provide care on a long-term or permanent basis where the child will be fully part of the carer's family for the remainder of their childhood and hopefully throughout their adult life. Contact the Fostering Service on 0800 328 2148 or visit www.suffolkfostering.com. There can be little the council does that is more important than helping young people in Suffolk find a settled and loving home in which they can live and grow. We are totally committed to supporting those most

vulnerable in our communities, and would strongly encourage anyone who might be interested in fostering older children to contact our fostering service.

PLANS FOR SYNCING TRAFFIC LIGHTS ACROSS IPSWICH MOVE STEP CLOSER
Motorists in Ipswich should find it easier to get around the town centre over the next month as the latest phase of the Travel Ipswich programme is introduced. The Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) system, which will link up traffic lights in a bid to keep vehicles flowing, is due to be switched on within the next month - a move which should help ease traffic flow around the town. Meanwhile, work should soon start on the transformation of Queen Street — and an artist's impression has now been published showing how that should look when work is completed at the end of the year. Among the areas expected to benefit from the new system are the roads around the docks, including Star Lane and Fore Street. It should also help traffic using the new junction between Civic Drive and Princes Street — and that heading over Stoke Bridge towards Wherstead Road or Burrell Road. Paving work at Queen Street is due to start in the summer. It will not be fully pedestrianised and vehicles will still be able to use the road, but it will be narrower and motorists will be expected to share the road with pedestrians and cyclists. The work at Queen Street is due to be finished later in the year. It is hoped the new-look road will be completed by the Christmas period to allow festive markets to take place in the area. We are ambitious for Ipswich. The Travel Ipswich scheme is designed to help make it easier, and a more pleasant experience, for people to travel round our county town; improving the traffic flow and also the look of the town centre. The switching on of the UTMC system is an important step, and a sign of the progress being made by this ambitious scheme.

SUFFOLK URGED TO 'JOIN THE FIGHT'

As part of Suffolk Trading Standards' biggest recruitment drive to date, strong, community-focused people are being asked to step up and "Join the Fight". Launched at the Suffolk Show, Colin Spence, SCC's cabinet member for public protection began recruiting his army of Consumer Champions to protect Suffolk residents and fight against unscrupulous rogue traders. Started in 2011, the Consumer Champion network acts as a bridge between Trading Standards and the local community. Working hand in hand with Suffolk residents, the network aims to make it easier for people to access information about consumer rights, protecting themselves and their community in the process. Anyone over the age of 18 can "Join the Fight" and become a Consumer Champion. We are committed to work with our partners to keep Suffolk safe. We are also determined to support those most vulnerable in our communities — too often the targets for consumer scams.

CABINET TO DECIDE ON FIREFIGHTER CREWING ARRANGEMENTS AT FELIXSTOWE

A decision on the firefighter crewing arrangements at Felixstowe Fire Station will be made by SCC's Cabinet this month. The cabinet will be asked to decide on the implementation of 24/7 on-call firefighter crewing at Felixstowe fire station. This would see the removal of the last four full-time firefighters from the station. The 21 on-call firefighters at Felixstowe already respond to all incidents at nights and weekends. Careful consideration will be given to the impact of the changes that were made in 2012/13 and the responses received during the recent public consultation on the proposed final changes. The introduction of the on-call firefighter-only response from Felixstowe delivers a further saving of £140,000. This is the final part of an overall annual saving of £440,000 that was agreed as part of the funding reduction for the Fire and Rescue Service in 2011/12. We are justly proud of Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service, which has an excellent reputation locally and nationally. Unfortunately, the continuing financial challenges mean that difficult decisions have to be made. However, the delivery of these changes over the last three years has been very carefully considered, and we are pleased that Felixstowe will continue to receive an excellent service from the 21 on-call firefighters and two fire engines at the station.

LINGUAMARQUE PAVES THE WAY FOR PRIMARY LANGUAGES IN SUFFOLK'S SCHOOLS.

SCC has this week launched Suffolk Linguamarque, an initiative aiming to support schools in

the teaching and learning of the so-called primary languages - such as French, Spanish and German. The new National Curriculum guidance published last autumn states that primary languages will become a statutory requirement in schools as from September 2014. Developed by SCC's Learning and Improvement Service, Suffolk Linguamarque will provide schools with a structured approach to support the development of primary languages within the curriculum. It will also provide a methodology to benchmark and define achievement in those languages. Suffolk is already recognised nationally as a leading county in the development of primary language skills and, through our Raising the Bar initiative, we want to ensure that Suffolk continues to lead the way in this area. For more information on Suffolk Linguamarque and the support available, please contact Dr. Marina Dixon, Primary Partnership Adviser for the Learning and Improvement Service marina.dixonc@suffolk.gov.uk 'Raising educational attainment and skill levels' is our number one priority. Driving up standards will involve a number of innovative projects, and the 'Suffolk Linguamarque' initiative is an exciting part of that work.

LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, SUFFOLK

'Let's Look Out for Each Other', an educational campaign that encourages both cyclists and drivers to share Suffolk's roads safely, has been launched this month. As part of the campaign there is a "bells and blind spots" giveaway with Goliath, the Road Safe bus, which is going on tour this summer. Suffolk cyclists and drivers are being given the chance to grab free blind spot mirrors and bike bells when they visit the bus. Goliath will be at various locations across the county sharing information with car drivers and cyclists, giving tips and advice and increasing awareness. Goliath Roadshow dates and locations are: Haverhill Recreation, off Camps Road — 31 July; Felixstowe, outside the Leisure Centre — 6 August; Bury St Edmunds, Nowton Park — 13 August; Lowestoft, Nicholas Everitt Park - 20 August. All events will run from 10am to 2.30pm. More dates will be announced shortly. Let's Look for Each Other serves to remind both cyclists and drivers of the importance of looking out for each other to avoid serious and life threatening accidents occurring. Each week approximately four cyclists are injured in Suffolk with almost three cyclists killed or seriously injured every month. Driver error has been attributed to 68% of all collisions in Suffolk. Campaign posters can currently be seen on buses in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft. It is great news that more and more cyclists are taking to Suffolk's roads. But this places an extra responsibility on all road users to take care and act responsibly. The Look Out For Each Other' campaign is one way of helping everyone travel safely on our roads.

A WEEKEND OF EVENTS TO CELEBRATE QUEEN'S BATON VISIT TO SUFFOLK

A series of community sporting events, organised to celebrate the imminent arrival of the Queen's Baton in Suffolk, will take place this weekend. The events are being arranged to provide opportunities for Suffolk residents to be active on the weekend immediately prior to the Baton's visit to Suffolk and, in doing so, support Suffolk's aspiration of becoming the most active county in England. It's also an opportunity to demonstrate Suffolk's support for Team England. The events include: a 'Six Villages Baton Relay'; a Golf Open Day at Rookery Park Golf Club in Lowestoft; a Skatepark Day at Hadleigh Skatepark; a Football Fun Day at Barnards Meadow in Lowestoft; Indoor Rowing Festival at Peninsula Sports Centre, Holbrook; Come and Try Cycle Speedway at Whitton Sport and Community Centre; and Come and Try Orienteering at Nowton Park in Bury St Edmunds. On the day, the Queen's Baton will notch up some 120 miles and will be seen by an estimated 10,000 people as it makes its special visit to Suffolk - its only stop in eastern England on its way to the XX Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Once again, it is Suffolk that, of all eastern counties, is playing host to a prestigious sporting event. It is hoped that the range of events organised to celebrate the arrival of the baton will help inspire the next generation of sporting stars.

ZM thought the fostering item could usefully be put on the website and Cllr Burroughes will provide more editorial for this purpose. Cllr Burroughes is now chairman of education, children's service and scrutiny committees and fostering is an important issue. ZM asked for an update on the education partnership with Hackney. Cllr Burroughes said this was going ahead and SCC was also working with Norfolk. ZM asked if cleaning of road signs had been cut out of the new budget. Cllr Burroughes confirmed the budget was limited, for example roadside cutting was restricted to once a year on C roads. ZM pressed the point and wondered if an 'invisible' road sign would mitigate a road traffic offence.

DC regretted the lack of prior notification of road closures which affected local transport services. He wondered why Community Pay Back could not be used to clean road signs. Cllr Burroughes will look into these issues.

Cllr Burroughes picked up on a comment made by ZM during discussion on road signs and did not see any reason why local residents should not 'adopt' a road sign to care for its cleaning and visibility.

IN referred back to the high number of children in care in Cllr Burroughes report; confirmed again by Cllr Burroughes., Cllr Burroughes said fostering was a better environment and could give hope to a child. There are variable allowances available to assist.

Cllr Burroughes presented a short **District Council Report**. SCDC has a new chairman, Cllr Bob Snell, and a new chairman of Planning. It will be three to four years to occupying a new HQ for the District Council following the sale of Melton Hill to provide the funding.

In the absence of PCSO Julie Hinton, clerk read her **Police Report** which had also been previously circulated. There have been no reported crimes of interest to Cookley and Walpole during the period 1 April to 31 May 2014.

14/093 Approval of Minutes: minutes of the AGM of the parish council and the parish council meeting on 19 May 2014 were approved and signed by the chairman. There were thanks to the chairman for steering us through the three meetings that evening.

14/094 Matters arising: ZM noted the late start of the final meeting on 19 May and suggested reverting in future to a 7pm start for the triple agenda meeting involving the Annual Parish Meetings; approved unanimously by show of hands. Clerk will take this into account next year.

14/095 Planning: (a) **DC/14/1491/AGO Hill House Farm: proposed storage building (General Permitted Development Order)** The decision taken by email between meetings not to raise any objection or comment was ratified unanimously by show of hands. (b) **Marsh View:** ZM said it appeared that the developer was not after all purchasing the site outright as had been previously thought, but would be developing the site in partnership with the present owner. This was confirmed by JW to the best of his knowledge, but he felt the project was moving forward. Clerk pointed out that ownership of the site and development was not properly a matter for the parish council, but will advise SCDC in case there is any impingement upon planning issues.

14/096 Finance: (a) RFO Report: clerk presented his report and financial statement.

The following had been received:

SCDC First Instalment Precept 2014/15	£2,511.39
UK Power Networks Wayleaves	£ 51.67
Rosedale (Interment/Fenn)	£ 240.00
Mrs Smith (Cemetery - added inscription)	£ 25.00

The following invoices were approved and paid:

Clerk's Expenses	£ 29.15
------------------	---------

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

Community Account	£6,686.83	
Business Saver	£1,094.65	£7,781.48

Financial statement was approved unanimously by show of hands.

14/097 Highways: Cllr Burroughes reported that repairs were subject to a three year rolling programme with the exception of urgent specified issues. NJ referred to observing core samples being taken in the area to check on infrastructure of road surfaces. Cllr Burroughes felt this would be part of preparing the three year programme.

ZM asked that condition of road signs be kept on future agendas as a separate item. ZM raised the issue of the weedkilled hedge in Cookley that had had been raised between meetings. Clerk reported this had been taken up with SCC who had no hand in it. Clerk had kept the complainant informed and notified the police.

14/098 Trees: There being no specific tree items, ZM referred to the Village Green generally as being the focal point of Walpole especially in the context of the Village of the Year submission. Some potential improvements had been identified: (a) upgrading of the bench, (b) improving the sign on Blyth Bridge. (c) smarter fencing on the corner of the Village Green, (d) painting and glazing of the adopted K6 telephone kiosk, now the Walpole Information Point, (e) getting Royal Mail to repaint its post box.

DC confirmed the state of the bench and this will be taken forward to a future agenda after members have had an opportunity to research local craft skills.

JW thought as children were currently on holiday they might have a hand in repainting the fence referred to by ZM.

ZM asked for the Village Green to be placed back on future agendas as a separate item.

ZM asked if it would be possible for Cookpole to have a set of keys to the parish council notice boards so as to keep them neat and tidy and remove any extraneous material from time to time. Clerk said he did take down out of date items when he put up notices and agendas, but did from time to time accede to requests for notices from residents about lost parrots, cats and dogs. DC said he had a duplicate set of keys which could be made available, but thought it was unlikely that the keys could be copied.

14/099 Cemetery: (a) Clerk reported one interment and an added inscription accompanying a scattering of ashes. (b) Clerk had circulated suggested cemetery fees based on comparisons with SCDC, Waveney and Peasenhall. Following brief discussion DW made the point that fees should be not-for-profit and be kept low for Cookley and Walpole residents who had already contributed to the parish council through Council Tax.

This view was seconded by IN and generally members were in agreement although no vote was taken. DC asked for comments at next meeting when it will be an agenda item. (c) Clerk updated members on the consecration of the cemetery. The petition had been submitted and fee paid, all that was awaited was a date for the Bishop's attendance. Clerk will chase this for an early date.

14/100 Cookpole Energy Action: ZM reported that a charity number had now been received from HMRC so information brochures and grant funding letters could be sent out. Dr Weeks was prepared to produce a feasibility study for electric bike charging and hiring at the Pavilion at CEA's expense. It was hoped this would be free to residents and charged to holiday makers.

14/101 External Meetings: It was noted SALC Area Meetings always clash with parish council meetings. ZM will attend the Emergency Workshops meeting.

14/102 Future Agenda: nothing beyond those matters already raised and minuted.

14/103 Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting 21 July 2014, 7.30pm at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman

Date