

MINUTES OF COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION 21 OCTOBER 2013

Present: Cllrs. David Cask (Chairman) (DC), Zoé Mair (ZM), David Whitwood (DW), Anne Thomas (AT), Mike Porter (MP), In attendance: PCSO 3195 Julie Hinton (JH), Anne Powell Neighbourhood Watch (AP), District & County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes (SB), Raymond Catchpole (Clerk) and Nick Jarvis, prospective parish councillor candidate for Cookley.

Apologies: Cllrs. Bill Camplin, John Winter.

13/143 Appointment of new parish councillor for Cookley: The prospective candidate had not arrived so this item was deferred until later in the meeting.

13/144 Declarations of Interest: AT, MP & ZM declared pecuniary interests in CEA, but are permitted to discuss and vote on these matters by clerk and members through a previous resolution. ZM declared a non-pecuniary interest in Marsh View matters.

13/145 Public Participation: There being no public present, the chairman asked District & County Cllr. Burroughes to present his reports.

County Council: A new Suffolk travel card had been introduced to operate like an Oyster Card. The major bus companies had signed up and it was seen as more effective to get around the county. From 2015 it will become cashless. County is committed to helping young people with a policy of Study, Train, Work. DC asked if the new card is affected by any no-go times, SB confirmed there were no such restrictions and there was a 25% discount off travel costs. There had been huge improvement in education; the county had climbed 13 places. There was a 'raising the bar' policy and the county was working with Hackney. Answering DC, SB said the policy was working well with Ofsted, specialising on literacy and numeracy. DC was concerned as to use of calculators.

SB said homecare and meals on wheels had a new consultation coming out across the county. Public services were becoming more joined up across the county, information available on the county website.

District Council: SB referred to the Electoral Boundary Review consultation. Our ward will gain Yoxford. Clerk advised the consultation documents had been circulated to members and his advice had been that as SB himself had raised no objection we would go with the proposals.

SB mentioned his Locality Budget and the following items were raised:

1. Cemetery path resurfacing.
2. Access drive to Pavilion (for W&CPFT)
3. Allotments

Clerk confirmed these matters had been sent formally to SB, but he will follow them up with a further letter. AT will supply estimates for allotments requirements. It was also suggested by members that a bench should be applied for.

Anti-speeding measures were discussed. Members unanimously would prefer a lit SID speed indicator. ZM suggested a permanent feature was better than a volunteer speed gun team. AT suggested Halesworth Road was a speed area. Clerk referred to minutes of last meeting where JH had said she would try to get the loan of a SID which could be trialled in various places before committing to a permanent installation.

JH referred to a 30 mph sign covered by hedge growth.

Police Report: Following on from earlier discussions about traffic, JH confirmed that at any one time there could be three traffic cars across the county with other police officers on duty

who could do the same job. MP expressed concern that sometimes some of these may be based in Norfolk. DC and MP said many people were concerned that police do not seem to know the local geography, relying on satnavs and advice from HQ,

SB asked if JH had any update on rural crime around the parishes. JH replied that Mark Bryant was heading up the team and this was his priority. Suspicious vehicles should have their registration marks reported to 101. SB suggested mobile phones could be used to photograph the registration mark and then emailed direct to police. JH referred to a mixture of agricultural and domestic crime in the area. DC said advice on security was available from the police, but there did not appear to be any follow up from police to see if the advice had been followed. Residents probably were not acting on the advice.

AP said she sends out a Neighbourhood Watch newsletter in order to raise awareness. Reviews of crimes shows most are due to lack of security. MP sought more information on Police Direct. AP said this relates closely to post codes so information is very selective. Some victims request anonymity so not every crime is necessarily reported in Police Direct. JH mentioned House Watch and Farm Watch which is also sent out through Police Direct as long as you are registered for it.

JH reported that there had been no reported crimes in the parish between 1 and 30 September 2013.

The chairman thanked JH and AP who then left.

13/146 Appointment of parish councillor of Cookley: the candidate, Nick Jarvis (NJ), had arrived during the public participation so the chairman took up the deferred item. Clerk had supplied NJ with material regarding becoming a councillor as well as Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. DC asked why NJ wished to become a councillor. NJ said he had lived in Cookley for one year and wanted to work to keep Cookley a small rural community as it now was. He knows it is mainly a farming community and has met people locally. He has found people who need things done, but may be unable to do them for themselves and he is prepared to take things on for them.

DW suggested maybe NJ should sit in on a few meetings making a decision. ZM concurred, NJ agreed with the suggestion. He said there was nobody to speak up directly for Cookley and he was keen to become its councillor. It was unanimously agreed that NJ should sit in on meetings for the time being and the matter will be referred to again at later date.

13/147 Fibre Optic to Learning Centre: SB was about to leave the meeting when MP raised the issue of a special fibre optic supply delivering high-speed broadband solely to this location, ignoring the needs of the parish. The cable runs through the village, but no other connections have been permitted. Clerk is investigating and has been advised that it was part of a special programme to connect learning centres and schools throughout the county so pupils could have the benefit of fast connection. The programme was called New Generation Network and exclusive to the educational centres. Clerk will continue to make enquiries.

The chairman took the meeting into council mode. However it was agreed that Nick Jarvis, as a prospective councillor could continue to join members in the meeting, contribute fully to all discussion, but not vote.

13/148 Approval of Minutes: minutes of the council meeting on 23 September 2013 were approved by members and signed by the chairman.

13/149 Matters arising: there were no matters arising.

13/150 Planning: DC/13/3012/FUL Walnut Tree Farm, Mells Road, Walpole: construction of outdoor horse manege. The application as submitted was approved unanimously by show of hands. **DC/13/2201/FUL The Old Manse, Halesworth Road, Walpole:** the application as submitted was approved subject to the new accommodation remaining as part of the main house in one ownership and occupation and not let (as holiday

let or otherwise) or sold separately. In imposing these conditions, members were aware of the location of the application site on a right-angled bend with a minor road leaving the bend as a 'straight-on' and a further road joining this area as a T-junction and the difficult ingress and egress as a result. **Marsh View:** clerk reported there had been no further progress; planning conditions and legalities in hand by District Council. **Hill Farm, Cratfield Road, Cookley:** clerk reported there was no apparent progress in the proposal to erect a farm-scale solar array. He had received no reply from Kinetica Solar Ltd to his enquiry as to progress.

13/151 Fracking: District & County Cllr Burroughes had offered to address a meeting of the parish council as to the policies associated with fracking. Members considered the offer, but decided it was irrelevant to the parish in view of the underlying local geology.

13/152 Finance: (a) RFO Report: clerk presented his report and financial statement. No payments had been made since 23 September 2013 RFO Report:

The following had been received:
SCDC 2nd Instalment Precept 2013/14 £2,450.00

Invoices were approved and paid as under:
Clerk's Expenses £ 56.89
Will Austin Grass Cutting £ 612.50

Balances to carry forward were submitted as under, taking into account the above:
Community Account £8,282.83
Business Saver £1,092.81 £9,375.64

Financial statement was approved unanimously by show of hands.

13/153 Highways: MP said the lay-by boundary had now been painted, but the central junction surface will not be attended to for another three years. MP is following this up with Highways. ZM referred to hedge growth at The Old Post Office. Clerk confirmed this had been referred to Highways. DC referred to shrub growth at West House on Halesworth Road forcing pedestrians and vehicle out into the road. Clerk will follow up. Clerk reported that a fallen HGV sign at the Cookley Road/Halesworth Road junction had been referred to Highways.

13/154 Footpaths: NJ said the hedge on the footpath adjacent to Council Houses on Cookley Road was overgrown, making access difficult. MP said the hedge was the responsibility of the landowner and clerk will follow up. NJ said another footpath close to the Learning Centre was also blocked by fallen tree branches. NJ also said he had a contact who would cut the wood and take it away. Clerk will follow up. NJ also reported that a footbridge at Cricket Meadow needs a plank replacing. Clerk will refer to Highways.

13/155 Environment Agency: Clerk reported on following up EA with reference to a resident being prepared to take direct action in cleaning river by the Walpole bridge. Clerk will continue to press the matter.

13/156 Trees: ZM is chasing the tree surgeon regarding a dead tree on playing field.

13/157 Cemetery: DW reported that shrubs will need cutting in a month or two. MP referred to the depositing of grave soil on his land adjoining the cemetery. Clerk will contact all undertakers asking them to bring this to the attention of their gravediggers. MP has a photograph which will help identify the problem. Clerk brought up the question of consecrating the right hand side of the cemetery. He will contact Rev Edward Rennard.

13/158 Cookpole Energy Action: (a) ZM reported that the main focus was on the Wintercraft Barn to be held on 16/17 November 2013. It is hoped to raise funding and it is intended that some funds would go to the allotments and the CEA wind turbine projects. Progress is being made as to registration with HMRC as a charity. MP hoped allotment holders will help with Wintercraft Barn. **(b)** AT reported that Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust had not provided any funding, despite waiting for a decision for three months. CEA is donating

£500. Clerk reminded members that a decision had been taken some time ago that the allotment project should take precedence in our schedule of charitable donations. Clerk will put this on the November agenda.

13/159 Flagship Housing: (a) The earth-shelter houses at Neave Close still have no rain water harvesting facilities. There is no pipe connection in the system. Clerk will follow up. **(b)** NJ reported that 2 and 6 Council Houses, Halesworth Road, Cookley have continuing problems with the sewerage system. There is apparently a complicated private system which ignores the main sewer running under the main road. Clerk will take this up with Flagship.

13/160 Huntingfield Villages Together Meetings: clerk will take the initiative and set a date and time with the Pavilion as a venue; chairmen, vice-chairmen and clerks to attend; subsequent meetings to be twice a year.

13/161 Correspondence: none

13/162 Future Agenda: nothing beyond those matters referred to above in these minutes.

13/163 Next Meeting: 18 November 2013: Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 19.45pm

Chairman Date