

**MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 19:30 at The Pavilion**

Present: Stephen Pavey – Chair (SP)  
Maureen Boughton – Vice Chair (MB)  
Gill Armstrong (GA)  
Peter Armstrong (PA)  
Joy Clutten (JC)  
David Fermor (DF)  
Bob Groome (BG)  
Sue Groome (SG)

Cllr James Reeder

Lynne Pavey (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public - 2

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

SP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr R Harvey.

**3. Register of Interest**

None

**4. Minutes of November meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were agreed and approved by PA, seconded by BG, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising**

The Lowestoft Civic Carol Service planned for Sunday 11th December has been cancelled. Tibbenham's Score has been opened since 30<sup>th</sup> November. The steps will be closed again in January to replace the handrail. GA has asked the Coastal Management Team to keep her informed.

**5. County and District Councillor Reports**

Cllr Paul Ashdown (written report read out by SP)

We now have 12 Warm Rooms in the Lowestoft area and residents can find them on the East Suffolk Web site under Communities and Ease the Squeeze programme. There is also some grant funding for smaller groups to have sessions on a more flexible basis of up to £2000.00 - information and application forms are on the web site, and a grant is available for people with allotments to grow fruit and vegetables to help communities. The nearest warm room to Corton would be Pathways Care Farm (post code NR32 4WB). Next Monday at Lound Village Hall from 10.30 till about 1.00pm they are going to be issuing their grants to those local residents who qualify, similar to our Poor Lands Trust, but the event is open to anyone who would like some help in dealing with this cost-of-living crisis. Megan from ESC will be attending to give advice along with Louise Thomas, our Community Support Office. I will be there but not before 11.30 as I have two on-line planning meetings first, Next Community Partnership Meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> December at Corton Pavilion starting at 4.00pm so I hope some of you can attend.

Finally, I hope everyone has a very happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year

BG said that most of the information for the warm rooms is online but some of the residents don't have access to the internet. There are flyers which will be posted in the Noticeboards in the village.

Cllr James Reeder

The SCC Monthly Newsletter had been circulated to councillors.

Suffolk All Age Strategy – This is the first time we have had an all-age strategy. Cllr Reeder said that the key priority was to identify who the carers are, and to help and improve the health and wellbeing of these carers. If anyone needs signposting, please contact Cllr Reeder. He will send information to the Clerk to circulate to Councillors.

## **6. Committee Representative Reports**

### **a) Playing Field**

All the groups are well attended. The Egyptian Dance Group will be holding their Christmas Party on Monday. Football is going well. A Craft Fayre is booked for Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 11am and a Tabletop Sale is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 10am to 2pm. The Extraction Fan over the griddle and a chip pan is being installed on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### **b) Speed Sign**

No data this month due to problems with the laptop.

### **c) Corton Poor's Land Trust and Corton Almshouse Charity**

#### **Corton Poor's Land Trust**

All plots are currently occupied at Church Road. If any Corton residents would like to be added to the waiting list, please email the secretary [cortonallotments@googlemail.com](mailto:cortonallotments@googlemail.com).

The trustees considered whether there was a method for allotment tenants to donate excess produce to Food Banks, Salvation Army etc to help those struggling during the cost-of-living crisis. It was agreed that this should be reviewed again in the Spring when crops would start becoming more plentiful.

#### **Corton Almshouse Charity**

The trustees considered a quotation for a fire safety assessment to be carried out on the bungalows. Further information was required regarding the details in the quotation and so this would be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Trustees discussed the loft insulation in the bungalows, as in the past residents had been eligible for grants for the full cost of upgrading the insulation to the current standards. The secretary was asked to investigate what grants were currently available.

A second quotation had been received for the replacement of the wooden fascias on the porches with UPVC and the trustees are waiting on the third quotation before making a final decision as to whether to repair existing or replace with UPVC.

A quotation had been received for upgrading the current analogue warden alarm system with a digital system, as support for analogue communications will be turned off in 2025. The details of the quotation will be considered at the next meeting and a final decision made then.

Claire Boyne

BG asked if they could suggest sharing the crops with any residents in the village who needed it. GA will ask at the next Poor's Land Trust meeting

## **7. Bus Service and Parking Problems**

SP talked about the recent problems with the bus service not being able to come through Corton. Cllr Reeder explained the reasons why a diversion had not been suitable. The matter concerning the lack of communication received from the authority and the bus company was discussed. Cllr Reeder had obtained permission to put temporary No Parking Cones where buses had trouble getting through, but the Police and Suffolk County Council no longer provide them. Cllr Reeder offered to help purchase No Waiting Cones through his Locality Budget. Further discussion took place about offering residents alternative parking if the bus service was suspended again. Councillors suggested asking Waterside, the Methodist Church, Warners and the Playing Field about cars parking on their land until the bus service resumed. Cllr Reeder said a permit could be issued stating the length of time parking would be allowed.

BG proposed the Parish Council purchase No Waiting Cones, to be used when the bus service has to change its route through the village, seconded by PA, all agreed.

## **8. Public Forum**

A resident stated that the bus company should be responsible for informing residents when the bus service was cancelled as this had not happened. He reported that no one had been back about the drains in Manor Park Road – Cllr Reeder to check.

It was reported that a tree was down across the footpath through Box Iron Woods. SP to check and report to Suffolk County Council if required.

## **9. Parish Clerk Report**

Bank Account Balances

Community Account - £8, 421.86

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

### **Finance**

#### **2023/24 Budget**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Finance Committee had met and discussed the budget for 2023/24. This had been circulated to Councillors. SG proposed the 2023/24 Budget be approved, seconded by MB, all agreed.

#### **Payments**

4 cheques awaiting authorisation –

Village Hall Account: £25.00 (paid into Parish Council account by SCC in error)

HMRC: PAYE - £160.60

Norse Commercial Services Ltd: Grass and Hedge Cutting on The Pit - £524.40

Clerk's Salary (includes the Local Government Services pay agreement backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022).

GA proposed the accounts be paid, seconded by BG, all approved.

#### **Income**

Interest - £2.59

SCC - £25.00 paid into Parish Council's account in error

#### **Correspondence**

- Email about speeding in The Street – Chair had responded
- Corton Methodist Church (Mrs D Marskell) – Letter of thanks
- Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) – notification of appointment of external auditor for 2023 – 2027 (PKF Littlejohn)

- Sizewell C - Announcement of Government Investment
- The Rural Bulletin
- Gullwing – Monthly Newsletter

#### **10. Planning Applications**

DC/22/4364/FUL: Proposal - Side extension, 18 Colman Road, Corton, Lowestoft – Approved subject to creating parking spaces on their land.

DC/22/4421/FUL: Proposal - Construction of a portable office cabin onto an existing hard stand/footings, 2 Elm Cottages, Yarmouth Road, Corton, Lowestoft – Approved.

DC/22/4614/FUL: Proposal - Extension to and modernisation of existing building.  
22 Corton Long Lane, Lowestoft – in circulation.

#### **11. The Pit**

BG had received information about suppliers from Cllr Ashdown as promised. BG to continue to look for estimates.

#### **12. The Cut**

It was reported that the work had been carried out, but DF said that the trees had not been cut. PA and SP to check and, if the work has not been carried out, Clerk will contact East Suffolk.

#### **13. Warm Rooms Scheme**

Covered in Section 5

#### **14. Metal Spikes in Sea**

GA had contacted the Coastal Management Team who keep an eye on the area. A resident had sent photographs of the metal spikes to the Clerk and GA. The Coastal Management Team are regularly monitoring the beach area and GA will continue to liaise with them.

#### **15. Garden Village**

The building of the village is a joint venture between Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Lovells. SCC will have some input into the type of houses that are built. Next meeting to be held in the new year.

#### **16. Internet in the Community Room**

SP signed the installation papers on 6<sup>th</sup> December and is now waiting for BT to arrange.

#### **17. Neighbourhood Plan**

It has proved very difficult to engage local residents with the importance of producing this plan. Next meeting is on 18th January 2023 – group members to come up with ideas for things to do in the village for next meeting. Cllr Reeder suggested they ask for a consultant to help.

#### **18. Remembrance Sunday**

Chair thanked SG for organising the service which went really well. SG thanked the parish council for opening the school hall to provide refreshments after the service.

#### **19. Items for February Agenda**

Michael Soanes Legacy to Parish Council  
Fruit Trees

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 1st February 2023. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.