

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday, 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Room, Playing Field

Councillors Present: Stephen Pavey (SP) Maureen Boughton (MB) Gill Armstrong (GA)
Peter Armstrong David Fermor (DF) Sue Groome (SG)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk) Cllr Paul Ashdown Cllr James Reeder

Members of the public – 8

1. Welcome by Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Bob Groome.

3. To record declarations of interest and requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests

None declared.

4. To approve the Minutes of the December meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023 were recommended for approval, proposed by MB, seconded by GA, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

The Chairman informed the meeting that the change of the bus route in Corton due to a road closure in Hopton during January had worked well and he thanked the Corton residents for their co-operation in keeping The Street clear during this time. He had written to the bus company and thanked them for continuing to provide the service.

5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Cllr Ashdown has asked about the beach huts for the Parish Council but had not received a reply. The East Suffolk Council budget will be increased by 2.8% in 2024/25.

Cllr James Reeder

Cllr Reeder informed the meeting that a Full Council meeting will be held on 15th February. He talked about the changes that are needed to some funding including the Arts and Museums and the Children and Adult Services and talked about the recent Suffolk SEND Ofsted inspection.

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

Everything is going well. Youth football is expanding and they have asked about having a football pitch on The Pit. Events held in the Community Room include a Board Game afternoon, a Table Top Sale, (next one is on Saturday 17th February) and several parties have being booked. Complaints have been received from footballers about dog excrement in the goal area. DF and other people from the Community have been laying the hedge along the playing field in Corton Long Lane. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair thanked them for

doing such a good job. Some copper pipe has been stolen from ladies toilets.

b) Speed Sign

45,362 vehicles were recorded travelling one way along Corton Long Lane. Some higher speeds were recorded this month although the vast majority did keep within the speed limit.

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

Corton Poor's Land Trust

It was reported that the remaining vacant plots had been taken up by Corton residents and all the tenancy payments were in for the current year.

The Christmas Benefits had been distributed and were very well received along with an Almshouse Association voucher for an Almshouse resident who was over 90 years of age.

It was agreed by the Trustees to offer a Student Help Grant again this year and this was to be advertised on the noticeboard and in Coastline with a closing date of the end of February.

It was also agreed to continue the reduced cost Chiropody Service for 2024 strictly for recipients of the Christmas Benefit and residents of the Almshouses, whereby they could access this service for half price, with the Trust contributing the other half.

Corton Almshouse Charity

Maintenance issues were discussed, and most jobs had now either been completed or were well on the way to completion.

The current Residents Handbook had been brought up to date and it was decided by the Trustees that this would be reprinted in A4 format which was cheaper to produce and easier to read than the current A5 format.

The issue of security on the residents' front doors by using chains was discussed. It was emphasised that it was important to put the chain on when answering the door until the resident was certain who was calling, but that it should not be left on, especially at night, as this prevented access. The Chairman agreed to look in to more up to date alternatives using modern technology instead of a chain.

The position of Relief Warden had been advertised and it was reported that interviews would be taking place on 18th January.

It was pointed out that community transport was available to take Almshouse residents out for lunch and to clubs etc if they wanted to go. This information was to be given to the residents, so they were aware.

The payments and account balances for Corton Almshouse Charity and Corton Poor's Land Trust had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no queries from the Trustees.

It was confirmed that the next Trustee Meeting would be on Wednesday 14th February 2024.

7. Public Forum – to receive questions or comments from Parishioners

- A resident talked about not being able to park on the Playing Field Park Car Park due to the barrier – to be discussed later in the Agenda.
- Yesterday, the Coast Road was blocked due to a bus and lorry (transporting lodges for Broadland Sands) not being unable to pass each other. Following a discussion, it was agreed to send a letter to Broadland Sands as no escort vehicle was seen.
- Roe's Farm – old caravans being dumped there – is this allowed? Cllr Ashdown agreed to look into this.
- Resident asked about what consideration is given to drainage in planning applications. His garden is now flooding as a result of the changes to the level of land next to his property due to the work being undertaken at Broadland Sands. Cllr Ashdown agreed to look into this - the matter will be added to next month's Agenda.

- Stirrups Lane bridge is sinking on both sides and is getting much worse.
- What is happening with the former public house (The Hut) – this is owned by Warners and MB stated that it is used for their Maintenance and Housekeeping section.
- Hedge in Station Road overgrowing the path - this has been reported to East Suffolk.
- Is the Motorcycle parked in The Street legal – residents can report it if they are concerned that it is parked illegally.
- The land at the bottom of Stirrups Lane (near A47) is being used as a rubbish dump.
- Is the new pond at Broadland Sands going to be used as some sort of drainage – SP and Cllr Ashdown will look at this and report back.

8. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balances

Community Account - £ 8,317.10

Business Premium Account - £4,638.75

b) Payments

3 payments awaiting authorisation: -

BT: Broadband for January (£39.90) and February (£39.59)

Barclays: Credit Card for 4 security cameras at the Pavilion - £78.08

Clerk's Salary (January and February)

GA proposed the accounts be paid, seconded by SG, all agreed.

c) Income

Corton Playing Field Committee: Monthly Contribution for Broadband (January & February)- £36.00

d) Correspondence (circulated)

- Overgrown hedges near corner of Corton Long Lane/The Street. Clerk expressed her thanks to members of Corton Woods Project who had cleared the path very promptly.
- Illegal Parking on the path in Corton Long Lane during children's football training – has been reported.
- East Suffolk – Plug-in Suffolk funding opportunity for parish councils regarding the installation of EV chargers
- Corton Youth Football Club – Replacing container on the Playing Field. Playing Field Committee to discuss at their next meeting and let the Parish Council know their decision.
- East Suffolk – Removal of car tyres on the beach and cliff following a land-slide. The loose tyres had been collected and the house and the landslip is being dealt with by Building Control which would take longer to sort out.
- East Suffolk – Information about the Planning Committee Member Call-in Process

9. To note Planning Applications received

None received

10. To receive an update on double yellow lines/parking in Corton

SP and Cllr Reeder had looked round Corton and the only area where they think parking restrictions should be in place is the small area where the cones have been used recently. This would allow Emergency Vehicles and buses to pass through The Street. Following a discussion about different ways to achieve this, GA proposed we write to Waterside to ask if they would consider allowing the wall opposite to be moved back, seconded by DF, all agreed. We would need their agreement before the work could go ahead.

SG asked about the parking at the corner of Station Road/The Street – as parking close to any corner is illegal, it was not felt to be necessary to install any double yellow lines here.

11. To discuss parking restrictions on the Playing Field Car Park

The Chair had received 5 emails about the problems caused to local residents by the installation of the new barrier. DF told the meeting about all the problems they had encountered which had led the Playing Field Committee to make the decision to install a barrier.

Following further discussion, SP proposed the Parish Council write to the Playing Field Committee to ask them to reconsider the barrier, seconded by SG, 3 opposed, 1 abstained. The proposal was rejected.

The Chair reminded Councillors that any letters/notices, where the Parish Council's name is used, must only be sent out with prior approval of the Parish Council and on official headed paper.

12. To receive an update on registering Community Assets

A valuation exercise is currently being undertaken on the land at the bottom of Wheatacre Drive.

13. To receive an update on the installation of a footpath from Corton to Broadland Sands.

Nothing further to report. Cllr Reeder waiting to hear.

14. To receive an update on the plans for the Corton Fun Day on 26th May 2024.

Next meeting to be arranged shortly.

15. To receive Items for next meeting's Agenda

History Room/Museum (subject to knowing about the beach huts)
Additional Security Camera for Playing Field
Drainage issues in Coast Road/Stirrups Lane

16. To agree the proposed date and time of the next Parish Council meeting

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 6th March 2024.
The meeting closed at 20.56pm.

SignedChair Date