

**MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON Wednesday 6th July 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)

Cllr Paul Ashdown
Cllr James Reeder
Cllr Ryan Harvey

Lynne Pavey (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public – 2

1. Welcome by Chairman

SP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

S Groome

3. Register of Interest

Bob Groome - Planning Application

4. Minutes of June meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed and approved by GA, seconded by MB, all agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

PA asked if anything had been heard about the repairs to the bus shelter outside The Vicarage - Clerk had received an email from Passenger Transport advising the council they are aware of the damage and looking into arranging repairs.

McDonalds Planning Application – Cllr Ashdown advised that no planning application had been submitted.

5. County and District Councillor Reports

The Chair welcomed Mr Danny Steele from Community Partnership/Lowestoft Vision who attended with Cllr Ashdown.

Cllr Paul Ashdown

The new bus system 'Buzzabout' was launched. The bus does not come into Corton but if anyone who has difficulties getting into town and would like to use it, they can contact the booking line number who will be able to help.

The increase in the cost of living, is causing concern as it will affect many more people in the Community and people will be struggling. The Community Partnership has received funding which will be used to support local communities in providing hot meals, warmth and companionship for anyone feeling isolated. Cllr Ashdown and Mr Steele will be looking at raising more funds to purchase freezers, microwave ovens, etc. Places in Lowestoft have already been identified as centres such as the Over 60s Club in Clapham Road South and Sam's Café in Bevan Street.

Cllr Ashdown – Looking to start the scheme from September onwards. This is the biggest project Community Partnership have been involved in.

The Community Partnership have 12 schools taking part in the Healthy Eating scheme and planters are being delivered at the moment, ready for the children to start growing their own food. Lound Plant Centre have been helping as well as someone from Lowestoft College who will go into local schools to talk to the children about growing their own food.

GA asked if it would be better to ask people to volunteer to prepare 'proper' food instead of microwave meals. Mr Steele said that this would be really good if they could get people who would be happy to prepare the food, but microwave meals are better than nothing

Cllr Harvey entered the meeting.

BG stated that we need to look at the number of residents who have mobility issues and may need help. Cllr Ashdown said that the 'Buzzabout' Bus will be able to help with this and the Community Partnership may be able to help with some of the costs.

MB asked if there would be any workshops offered before the scheme started? Mr Steele said there would be as they wouldn't expect people to start something like this without support. In the middle of town it is likely the scheme would run 2 to 3 times a week but smaller parishes may only want to do it 2 – 3 times a month, it is whatever the parish feels is needed.

Cllr James Reeder

The Suffolk Newsletter had been circulated to Councillors last week. Cllr Reeder talked about Suffolk Trading Standards who have been working hard to stop scams including the selling of illegal tobacco. He also talked about the National Grid's East Anglia GREEN proposal, which would see many pylons installed across the county, affecting the Suffolk countryside and its communities.

BG stated where the electricity comes on land in north Norfolk, it is being installed underground.

Cllr Reeder talked about the budget and future budget planning. Next year, the budget is going to be really difficult due to the increased cost of living. He would just like to reassure everyone that a large amount of work is already taking place and Suffolk's administration want to keep any increase as small as possible.

A resident in Corton had contacted Cllr Reeder about a number of items in Corton Long Lane including speeding, lack of lighting, vegetation and hedges growing over the footpath and a 30mph repeater sign. Highways have agreed to move the 30mph repeater sign from outside his property and the resident will then cut the verge. A particular problem he reported was the overgrown hedge alongside the playing field. SP stated that the hedges are not cut whilst birds are nesting and a planned cut had already taken place last week. The hedge is usually cut twice a year. The Playing Field Committee are talking about laying the hedge at a slight angle to the road to keep it away from the footpath. Further along Corton Long Lane, Highways have been contacted about cutting back the vegetation over the footpath.

Cllr Harvey asked GA about a query she had received concerning the installation of a railing in Tramps Alley. GA had contacted the County, District and Gunton Ward Councillors but had not heard anything back. Cllr Harvey to look into it further.

6. Committee Representative Reports

a) Playing Field

Hedge has been trimmed (as previously discussed in Cllr Reeder's report!) The Community Room hire is going well, as are the Car boot sales. Football training is taking place and there have been no cases of vandalism.

b) Speed Sign

The monthly figures had been circulated with the amount of traffic in Corton Long Lane back to pre-pandemic figures. Over 114,000 cars recorded travelling in Corton Long Lane. The average speed was recorded as 33mph.

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

Summary of Meeting held on 8 June 2022

Corton Poor's Land Trust

There are currently no vacant allotments at Church Road. If any Corton residents would like to be added to the waiting list, please email the secretary cortonallotments@googlemail.com.

The accounts for 2020/21 were reviewed by the trustees. Much of the book value of investments that had been lost during the COVID pandemic has been recouped. There are no concerns regarding the financial health of the charity.

Corton Almshouse Charity

Work has been completed on the last vacant bungalow and the new tenants have now moved in.

A response has still not been received from East Suffolk Council regarding whether it is necessary to prepare Energy Performance Certificates for all of the bungalows.

The accounts for 2020/21 were reviewed by the trustees. There has been an increase in repairs and maintenance expenditure in this financial year due to the deposit being paid for the replacement windows in the 11 original bungalows and the warden's house. There are no concerns regarding the financial health of the charity.

The warden organised a garden party at the Almshouses on the Thursday of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. The party was well attended by the residents and it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

7. Representative for Corton Poor's Land Trust

GA's term of office as trustee for Corton Poor's Land Trust expires on 8th July but was happy to continue as Trustee. BG proposed that GA be appointed as Trustee for a further 4-year term, seconded by MB, all agreed.

8. Public Forum

Resident from 20 Manor Park Road reported about a planning application on a piece of land next to his property. The resident was not objecting to a building as there was outline planning permission

when he bought his property. The problem is about the drains causing toilets/baths to back up in the surrounding bungalows. This has not been addressed in the planning application. Anglian Water has not been consulted. BG explained the situation of the drainage problem in the road.

The resident had reported the problem to Highways but they had not responded. James Reeder asked the resident to email him with all the information as he is attending a meeting where Highways will be in attendance and can discuss it with them. Cllr Ashdown asked for the planning application number and he will also look into it.

Discussion took place about land ownership and planning applications.

9. Community Facilities

Discussed in item 5

10. Defibrillator Signs

Three signs are needed showing the four places where the defibrillators are - one in Corton Long Lane, one in each noticeboard (The Street, Station Road) and one at the Community Hall (Clerk can print this one).

11. Clerk's Salary

The auditor had noted in his report that there was no record of the Clerk's agreed salary when she commenced employment. The salary was agreed on Point 11 for 4 hours per week at the May meeting before the Clerk commenced her post. BG recommended that the clerk is paid on this point, seconded by JC, all agreed. Chair informed the councillors that the clerk had been asked to assist Oulton Parish Council as a temporary clerk.

12. Village Cameras

Two quotes for the metal boxes for the cameras have been received from local companies. Still waiting for a quote for the cost of supplying electricity to the boxes.

13. Parish Clerk Report

Bank Account Balances

Community Account - £10,073.64

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

Finance

Four cheques and one direct debit awaiting authorisation

Churchyard Donation - £500.00

Jubilee items - £198.99

HMRC - £123.20

Clerk's Salary

Data Protection Fee (Direct Debit) - £35.00

GA recommended these for approval, seconded by BG all agreed.

Income

Bank Interest - £0.35

Correspondence

Sizewell C - Updates

Planning Policy – Consultation of small-scale housing in the countryside. Consultation Period: Friday 17th June to 5pm Friday 5th August 2022

Highways Enforcement Officer – Overgrown hedge in Corton Long Lane to be cut back within 21 days. Clerk informed them that the work had already been carried out.

Local resident - Bridge on Stirrups Lane appears to be sinking - PA to investigate.
Dog bin on Station Road – when the hedge grows, the branches cover the bin and it cannot be seen. Agreed to put this matter on the Agenda next time.
Query about whether we will be installing a new Bottle Bank in Corton now the one at The Hut has been removed. There are two locally - one at the Rugby Club and one at Tesco's. It was thought that there were no suitable places to site one in Corton at the moment.
Responsibility of cutting the Hedges through The Cut – this is the responsibility of the person who owns the property where the hedge is, even if it's on the other side of their fence.
Station Road – There are two properties where hedges are growing over the path. James Reeder to mention it to Highways tomorrow at his meeting.

14. Planning Applications

DC/22/2268/ARM 20 Manor Park Road: Erection of one single storey dwelling – Object
DC/22/2059/TPO Hillcroft, 334 Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft: Tree reduction work – No objections
DC/22/2225/FUL Awelon, Blundeston Road, Corton: Construction of single storey rear extension – No objections

15. The Pit

Cost of screens to go behind the goals was £1,200. BG - Attended training on raising funds and will start looking into this at start of summer holidays. Add to next Agenda

16. Plaque on Village Memorial

SP to find out who can clean this professionally.
BG suggested asking a school if we could borrow their laser printer to etch the names onto a plaque
BG to find out more about this.

17. The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

The celebrations went incredibly well. Money was raised for Alzheimer's, Heart to Heart and the Playing Field. The Chair, on behalf of Parish Council, thanked Mrs Armstrong for organising this event so well.

18. Neighbourhood Plan

Struggling with numbers again. Cllr Ashdown informed the parish council that Lound and Somerleyton had submitted their plans. A meeting to be held tomorrow evening.

19. Garden Village (JC)

This matter to be taken off Agenda until there is something to report.

20. Items for August Agenda

No additional items raised.

Next meeting to be held on 3rd August 2022. The meeting closed at 21.16pm.