

**MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 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 P Ashdown  
Cllr James Reeder

Lynne Pavey (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public – 4

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

SP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Ryan Harvey.

**3. Register of Interest**

None.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 were agreed and approved by GA, seconded by DF, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising**

A complaint had been received about the overgrown hedge in Station Road, opposite Wheatacre Drive. Cllr Ashdown to report the matter to the Enforcement Officer.

JC asked about the £400 government payment for people who don't have a direct link to domestic meters as she had been informed that they would be paid through the local Council. Cllr Ashdown hadn't been told about this and advised JC to contact Maurice Cook at East Suffolk.

**5. County and District Councillor Reports**

Cllr Paul Ashdown - This would be the last meeting he would attend before the election in May. He informed the meeting that East Suffolk has made a 2.81% increase in council tax. The Green bin cost would be going up to £47, if paid before April (£50 after). The Buzz Bus service is improving and looking to expand. Community Partnership has spent all its money (£85,000). It is hoped to continue the warm rooms scheme for social interaction and call it the Warm Welcome Room. It is hoped that Corton School will receive another planter shortly. A talk about the history of Somerleyton Hall is being planned which will be held in Somerleyton Village Hall.

Cllr James Reeder - Suffolk Newsletter sent to Clerk this afternoon (to be circulated). The Suffolk County Council budget will be increased by 3.99%. Cllr Reeder gave a breakdown of the budgets and how much money had been given to the various services. He talked briefly about some of the other items included in the Newsletter.

## 6. Committee Representative Reports

### a) Playing Field

The Committee had applied for a Grant from the Enabling Committee for another piece of equipment for the Children's Play Area. Unfortunately, the Gung Fu Club has had to stop due to low attendance. A successful party was held at the weekend. DF has layered the hedge on Corton Long Lane with help from Peter and Malcolm. The climbing frame has been repaired. The No Waiting Cones, recently purchased by the Parish Council, will be available to use at the Car Boot Sale when it starts in April.

### b) Speed Sign

42,316 vehicles were recorded in February (one way). Vast majority were travelling at 30mph or less. Report has been sent to Steve Wright at Lowestoft Police Station as usual.

Cllr Reeder had received a report about the ANPR Camera results from when it was placed in The Street. The majority of cars were travelling within the speed limit and no car was recorded at an excessive speed.

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

Summary of Meeting held on 8 February 2023

#### 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).

One application was received from a family in the village requiring assistance with school costs and the trustees agreed to grant funds to them.

After many years acting as a trustee of the charities, Councillor Mary Rudd announced that she would be resigning in May after the local elections as she was not seeking re-election. The Parish Council will be asked to nominate a new trustee to represent the council.

Gary Brown was agreed as the new Co-Operative (Local Resident) trustee and he will take Mr Taylor's place at the March meeting.

#### Corton Almshouse Charity

A new tenant for the vacant bungalow (no 50) was agreed.

The trustees reviewed the budgets against actuals for the previous quarter, and there were no significant areas of concern. The main variance was in respect of the Extraordinary Repairs due to the replacement of windows and doors in the 10 original bungalows and the warden's house earlier in 2022.

The trustees reviewed the budget for the coming year and considered the Weekly Maintenance Charge for the bungalows. Given that the rate of inflation was 9.2%, the trustees considered that it was important to at least partly keep up with increasing costs, and so agreed an increase of 5.6%. Even with this increase, the weekly WMC levels were still significantly below the last Fair Rent Assessment.

External repair works would be commencing in the next few weeks, and these mainly involved repointing of brickwork.

Claire Boyne, Secretary

The Parish Council would like to record their thanks to Mrs Rudd and Mr Taylor for all their hard work and support during their time as Trustees.

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

The No Waiting Cones had worked well, enabling the buses to divert successfully through The Street for most of February. The Parish Council would like to thank all residents in The Street who showed consideration in their parking, ensuring the bus service was able to continue through the village during the temporary diversion. Thanks also to Warners for clearing the area of foliage outside their holiday village. MB asked about the widening of Longfullans Lane which had been agreed when the planning application from Broadland Sands was approved and was advised that this should be carried out when the work at Broadland Sands commenced. MB asked if the right hand turns off the A47 are still being closed – Cllr Ashdown confirmed that the right hand turns into Stirrups Lane, Market Lane and possibly the one into Lound will be closed by National Highways but it is not known when.

## **8. Public Forum**

Resident informed the Parish Council that surveys had taken place on the drains in Manor Park Road.

## **9. Parish Clerk Report**

Bank Account Balances

Community Account - £6,733.68

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

### **Quote for Grass and Hedge Cutting on The Pit**

Quote for cutting The Hedge at The Pit - £211 plus VAT (compared to £187 in 2021/22).

Quote for cutting the grass - £290 plus VAT (compared to £250 last year).

PA proposed the quotes be accepted, seconded by GA, all agreed.

### **Internet Banking**

A Mandate for change of signatory had been completed and returned to the bank.

### **Finance**

#### **Payments**

One cheque awaiting authorisation – Clerk's Salary

#### **Income**

No income received.

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

### **Correspondence**

Report of fridge dumped in Stirrups Lane and parking on the pavement in The Street received.

Newsletters/updates from Sizewell C, Gull-Wing, Rural Services.

## **10. Planning Applications**

DC/23/0388/FUL Proposal: Removal of central barn, conversion of 5 remaining barns to 5 dwellings, associated parking and works

**Site Address: Whitehouse Farm Barn, Rackhams Corner, Blundeston** – No objections

DC/23/0664/TPO Proposal: Fell to ground level 1 Lime in rear garden due to stress fractures at base.

**Site address: 20 Station Road, Corton** – in circulation

## **11. Town and Parish Elections**

Clerk will deliver Nomination Papers to the candidates on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The completed forms to be returned to the Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> March as she has an appointment with East Suffolk to deliver them the next day.

**12. The Pit**  
Ongoing.

**13. The Cut**

Clerk reported that she had sent an email to the Diocese on 5<sup>th</sup> February asking them to cut back the hedges/trees overhanging the footpath from their property. A confirmation email had been received but nothing further. This was chased up on 26<sup>th</sup> February. If nothing heard in the next week, Clerk to contact them by telephone.

**14. Legacy from Michael Soanes**  
Matter to be decided later.

**15. Fruit Trees**

Planting fruit trees around the village was discussed in detail. Places suggested where they could be planted were on the Allotments and on The Pit. To be discussed in September.

**16. Internet in the Community Room**

Nothing further to report. SP to chase up BT about completing the installation.

**17. Items for April Agenda**

No additional items raised.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The meeting closed at 20.50pm.