

**MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 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)      Bob Groome (BG)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk)      Cllr Paul Ashdown

Members of the public – 5

**1. Welcome by Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. To consider accepting apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Sue Groome, Cllr James Reeder.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were recommended for approval after one small amendment, proposed by GA, seconded by PA, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising**

Beach Huts – Cllr Ashdown was advised by East Suffolk to ask the Parish Council to write to Kerry Blair with a copy to Councillor Paul Ashton at East Suffolk to request the beach huts.

Cllr Ashdown advised that Broadland Sands are looking into the drainage system (Coast Road).

The Clerk had sent letters to Broadland Sands about the lack of an escort when transporting mobile homes but had not received a reply.

The Clerk had written to Tingdene (Waterside) asking about moving the pebbled wall back along The Street but had not received a reply. Cllr Ashdown said to send him a copy of letter sent to Tingdene and he will have a word with them.

Security Cameras – East Suffolk has the registration details of the owner of the car caught fly-tipping and are currently pursuing the matter. After further discussion, BG proposed the Parish Council buy another camera using the CIL Funding, seconded by PA, all agreed.

Stirrups Lane Bridge – the Chair is arranging to meet with someone from Highways to have a look at where the bridge has been reported sinking.

**5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors**

Cllr Paul Ashdown

An application about the Garden Village should be in later this year. Other matters had already been raised under Matters Arising.

Cllr James Reeder

The monthly newsletter had been circulated to Councillors.

## **6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives**

### **a) Playing Field**

The Playing Field Committee have finished laying the hedge along Corton Long Lane. Football had been cancelled due to the field being too wet. Two further events are booked in March – a Craft Fair on 24<sup>th</sup> March and a Board Games afternoon on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The copper piping has been replaced and a new camera installed in the corridor. BG said that the work carried out laying the hedge along the playing field in Corton Long Lane was fantastic and expressed his, and the parish council's, thanks for all the hard work.

### **b) Speed Sign**

The total vehicles recorded Eastbound in February was 45,333. This is quite high when you consider February is a short month. (90,666 assuming those who went into the village also went out). No one recorded at 70mph this month.

9.00am is the time most high speeds were recorded but this was only 4 drivers through the whole of February. More concerning is that at 9.00am there could still be small children going into the Nursery in Corton Long Lane.

ANPR was in place in The Street this month – figures not yet available.

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

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

It was reported that one Corton resident had sent in an application form to apply for a student grant and the Trustees approved her application.

It was agreed by the Trustees to offer Financial Assistance to families in need and this was to be discussed with the Headteacher of Corton Primary School and a poster added to the noticeboard.

#### **Corton Almshouse Charity**

It was reported that the new Relief Warden had started in post and was proving very popular with all the residents and with the Warden herself.

There had been several maintenance issues during the past month, but most had been solved or were close to being solved.

The Residents Handbook, updated and in A4 format, had been distributed to the Residents and to all Trustees.

The Chairman reported that he was still investigating the possibility of video doorbells, and this was adjourned until the next meeting.

The budget for 24-25 for the Almshouses had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was discussed among the Trustees. It was agreed that a small increase in the maintenance charge to residents would need to be made from 1st April 2024.

It was reported that some residents were anxious about the switch from analogue to digital phones and what would happen to their landline. It was agreed that the Secretary would send a newsletter to all residents explaining about this, the maintenance charge increase and include updates on the Warden and Relief Warden.

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 13th March 2024.

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

Flooding at the Bottom of Stirrups Lane – Cllr Ashdown stated that if it is on private land, it is the landowner's responsibility. This can be reported on Suffolk County Council Highway's website. SP will have a look and report back at next meeting.

Mr Taylor thanked the Parish Council and the people who volunteered at the Playing field for all the work they do.

Community Assets – the matter of the valuation of the land at the end of Wheatacre Drive is still ongoing.

**8. Parish Clerk Report**

**a) Finance**

**Bank Account Balances**

Community Account - £ 8,039.72

Business Premium Account - £4,638.75

**b) Payments**

2 payment awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband for March - £39.59

Clerk's Salary

DF proposed the accounts be paid, seconded by PA, all agreed.

**c) Income**

Interest received on Community Account - £17.34

Corton Playing Field Committee: Monthly Contribution for Broadband - £18.00

Corton Playing Field Peppercorn Rent – 0.10p

Corton Woods Project Peppercorn Rent – 0.05p

**d) Quotes to cut Grass and Hedges on The Pit**

East Suffolk have provided quotes for:

Hedge Cutting - £253.00 + VAT and Grass Cutting - £320.00 + VAT

GA proposed to accept the two quotes, seconded by BG, all agreed.

**e) Correspondence (circulated)**

- NHW Network Coordinator for Lowestoft – email address to contact local police
- East Suffolk Council – Funding opportunities for Village Halls
- East Suffolk – Environmental events coming up
- Sizewell C Project Update February
- East Suffolk Council - VCSE Funding Opportunities

**9. To note Planning Applications received**

**DC/24/0318/TPO** Proposal: One Holm Oak located adjacent to caravan number AZ9. We would like to reduce the crown by three meters, the main stem has areas of decay and creates concerns for the elderly residents. One Holm oak adjacent to AZ10 Reduce the east facing lower lateral limb by two meters. The limbs are exposed and likely to fail without a reduction in weight.

Site address: Azure Seas Caravan Park, The Street, Corton, Lowestoft

Parish Council to note that if the caravan hadn't been put right next to the tree, there wouldn't be an issue. Too many trees have been removed, which exacerbates the surface water issues and coastal erosion from the top

**10. To approve the Equality and Diversity Policy**

GA had checked through the policy and recommended it for approval, seconded by PA, all agreed.

**11. To consider the purchase of additional security cameras on the Playing Field**

SP has looked into the Pan, Tilt and Zoom Cameras which would cost about £500 including the recorder. DF wants the cameras to record people who let their dogs poo on the playing field as it is a considerable health risk for younger children playing there. This would enable the parish council to prosecute any offenders caught on camera. Cllr Ashdown agreed that he could fund a camera out of next year's Locality Budget. PA proposed to buy the camera, DF seconded, all agreed.

**12. To discuss drainage issues on Coast Road, Corton**

This was discussed under Matters Arising.

**13. To receive an update on registering Community Assets**

This was raised under Matters Arising.

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

Cllr Ashdown advised that he believes discussions are taking place with the landowner.

**15. To receive an update on the plans for the Corton Fun Day on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

As other events are already planned around this time, it was decided not to continue.

**16. To receive Items for next meeting's Agenda**

Feedback on Resilients Coast Project  
Lamp Post in Stirrups Lane

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

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed .....Chair ..... Date