

CORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 7 September – 7 PM AT THE PAVILION THE PLAYING FIELD

Welcome by Chairman

Present: Cllr Maureen Boughton (Vice Chair), Cllr Peter Armstrong, Cllr Gill Armstrong, Cllr Heather Habbin, Cllr Bob Groome, County and District Cllr Keith Patience, County and District Cllr Janet Craig, District Cllr Mary Rudd, District Cllr Stephen Ardley and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Stephen Pavey (Chairman), Jane Haverson (Clerk), Cllr Chris Green

Register of Interest: None

Minutes of July Meeting and Matters Arising:

SOLD were closed for the summer, a visit will be planned for the near future to look at Noticeboards

The sign on the corner of Corton Long Lane and Station Road has still not been replaced

The rugby club may be included within the proposed new boundary for Corton, we need to know what this will mean for the PC

Minutes proposed by Cllr Bob Groome and seconded by Cllr Peter Armstrong. All agreed.

Meeting opened

County and District Councillors Reports:

District Cllr Mary Rudd said that Tingdene had asked for the Waterside planning applications to be postponed until the October Waveney planning committee meeting

If anyone would like to comment or ask questions they can arrange to do this prior to the October meeting

Public Forum

A question was asked, by a member of the public about the nudist beach. They thought that it was no longer a nudist beach. The bye law was removed but it is still legal for anyone to be nude, on any beach in Suffolk, as long as they aren't causing a nuisance or offending other users of the beach. Anyone who is offended can ring 101 and report to the police. It was suggested that we start proceedings to implement a new bye law. This will be looked into regarding any costs involved and will then be discussed at a future meeting

There are still business signs on a house in the street, as Cllr Pavey was not in attendance and he was dealing with this issue it was moved to the next meeting

Broadland Sands have erected signs on public property, need to check with highways or county to see if they have permission, if not they will be removed

HGVs and coaches are still driving through the village although the Street is not suitable for these vehicles. Keith Sampson to be approached re erecting a lollipop sign saying that the road is unsuitable for heavy or wide vehicles. County and District Cllr Keith Patience may help with funding

Committee Representatives Reports:

Playing Field

Car boots - are still very successful

Play area - has had some remedial work carried out on the climbing frame as suggested by ROSPA when we received their report

Disabled toilet - the door has been broken as people leave it open to swing in the wind, awaiting another quote, in the interim it is locked

We are awaiting a new gate for the field

Emails from Chris Green and Steve Pavey were read out

Cllr Chris Green

As I have to apologise for absence, I feel it necessary also to make a short report with regard to the traveller situation.

Following the actions that we took collectively I was invited to a meeting at WDC wearing my parish hat. Present were the gypsy liaison officer (who had been on holiday during the time of the trespass) The police in the form of an officer and two PCSOs who I think were on site when Steve served the Common Law notice to quit. Also present was Victoria Cotterill of "private sector housing" who deals with matters relating to travellers on Council land. Previously she had said that she could assist with drafting notices, but it emerged that perhaps she could have done more with regard to getting the liaison officer to site. There was some confusion as to whether the land, as owned by the parish is "private", it seems that because it is open to the public without restriction, it should be viewed as "public land".

It was apparently a more junior liaison officer (John Cross) who attended site to do the welfare check. The officer at the meeting revealed that the liaison officer will usually also serve the common law notice at the same time as the necessary welfare check, and as a result of frequent contact with travellers is able to do this in a manner that does not become confrontational. At this point I suggested that there needs to be a published protocol for parish councils so that the right people do the right thing at the right time. This was accepted, and I await feedback from Vicky, both on the form of the protocol and clarifying the services Waveney will undertake on "publicly accessible land".

The liaison officer commented that he knew the travellers in question, and they were good to their word with regard to moving on. I pointed out that we didn't know that and the central government advice contained in https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7837/143582.pdf suggested swift action was usually wise / required.

I will provide the names of the police and gypsy officer when Vicky confirms them to me, as I wasn't note taking.

This brings us to the ditch. I understand that there are voices now suggesting this should be infilled and a fence erected. We took the action to rapidly protect our asset, in a way that a fence could not have been swiftly provided and would need to be substantial to offer a barrier. I suggest that prices need to be obtained and reported, for both a fence and its foundations and the infilling of the ditch and another price for the importing topsoil and planting of the ditch and bund as it is. The original chain and post fence was just stuck in the ground and took 5 seconds to remove!

So while I know Mo hates the ditch, one has to balance cost against what the ditch could look like with a bit of landscaping. Is it dangerous? As the field has long been surrounded by ditches and hedges, I would suggest that with a hedge on the bund it will not be dangerous.

Further report regarding Funday: Maureen, Beverley Cooper and myself met last night at the White Horse (25th August) for a wash up session. Others were invited by email, but no replies were received or attendance forthcoming. This for me illustrates the point that there is little enthusiasm to continue the event or develop it with new ideas. I might be proved wrong if others are to step forward.

There are two aspects to the event, financial and community. We do not have finalised income figures, but it is likely that the event raised less money than the takings in the café for the average Tuesday car boot sale. It is not worth continuing, from a financial standpoint unless radically changed, and this would have no certainty of success. From the community perspective, it clearly is attended by a lot of people who enjoy themselves, but if they don't participate in the organisation, have they not only themselves to blame if the event disappears from the calendar. One suggestion I will make is that Beverley at the White Horse is quite keen. The parish could hand the event over to the pub as a commercial venture and simply charge a ground rent for the field. I leave this for debate.

Chris

Cllr Steve Pavey

I thought I would contribute and apologise at the same time for missing the next meeting when I will be trekking the great wall of China when you are at the pavilion.

I also feel the action we took was appropriate for the situation we faced. The ditch acts as an instant barrier against persons returning to the field and this was its intention. If we had gone for a fence, we would have had to get 3 quotations, wait for the fence to be manufactured and then get it installed. This would have taken weeks (If lucky). The ditch was in place on the day of the "campers" departure leaving them with a clear signal that we didn't want them back.

The quotation for the gate is well over a £1000 so imagine how much a substantial fence would cost.

If you have a vote at the next meeting I would like it to be known that if I was there I would consider the ditch and bund to be the best option. I agree with Gill that after time, and with a bit of landscaping, it would be more pleasing on the eye.

Many thanks to Chris for the feedback from the WDC meeting. I agree that there should be a clear, concise handbook for Parish Councils on what to do in these situations. I believe we could still class the land as private because although it is open to the public, we do have it within our powers to withdraw public access from the land at any time and secure the entrances.

I was also informed by Chris that it was said at the meeting that I could have been charged with assault when issuing the papers to the campers because a piece of paper landed on one of the gypsy's when he threw it at me and I put it back in his car. Apparently the fact that the piece of paper touched him could be classed as assault. I also have spoken to legal advisors at the court who said this is rubbish and they would be amazed if CPS ran with it because there would be no chance of a conviction.

We did what we thought was best at the time to bring the situation to swift conclusion, but we must now put together a plan of action either for us, or councillors who come after us, so that everyone knows who to phone and what to do.

Steve

Poor's Land Trust – Summary of meeting held on 13 July 2016

Corton Poor's land Trust

The trustees agreed an application form and process for dealing with requests for grants from students residing in Corton requiring assistance with college study fees

There are currently vacant allotments at Church Road and so anybody wishing to take on an allotment should email the secretary at cortonallotments@googlemail.com

Mr Edwards was looking to stand down as a trustee but was prepared to continue until a suitable replacement could be found by the parish council

Corton Almshouse Charity

The secretary reported that repairs to the warden's bathroom had now been completed

Planning permission for two new semi-detached almshouses on the land next to 39 Fowler's Crescent had been granted. The trustees agreed to seek three quotations for the building of the bungalows via sealed bids

The secretary reported that she would be circulating the annual Resident's Satisfaction Survey to all residents in August

Claire Boyne - secretary

Funday Sunday

Maureen reported that the finances had not been finalised

See Chris Green's comments above. Councillors agreed to discuss his suggestion at the next meeting

Defibrillator Cllr Groome stated that the training evening was not very well attended, but as he has all the information he will arrange more training at a later date.

He thanked Ed Davey, Peter Armstrong and Gill Armstrong for agreeing to help with the weekly and monthly checks

Recruitment of Parish Councillors

Three people have shown an interest in becoming Parish Councillors, their details will be passed to the clerk

Baker's Score Picnic Table

Several quotes have been received but the final design has not been agreed, as yet, this will be discussed at the next meeting

Drainage of the Playing Field

One area of the playing field is regularly flooded, this needs to be addressed. It was decided that professional help be sought. There have been various other solutions implemented in the past but nothing is working now

Plans for the Pavilion

This will be discussed at the next full council meeting

Village Hall Trustees Meeting

This will be held at 18:30 prior to the next PC meeting, this will be a closed meeting for the trustees only

Parish Clerk's Report:

Correspondence

2 planning applications

DC/16/3364/ROC 21 The Street - lifting of driveway restrictions

DC/16/3106/COU Midway, Yarmouth Road - change of use from storage to holiday let

Great Yarmouth Borough Council - local plan, call for sites and policy suggestions

Finance

Cheques

Accountant for clerk's accounts and wages slips £48

Clerk's salary Aug/Sept and stationery £327.71

HMRC PAYE £11.20

A Brown digger driver £336.00

Came and Co Insurance £275

AOB for next meeting

Car parking outside the school

Date and Time of Next Meeting Wednesday 5 October 2016 7pm The Pavilion the Playing Field

Meeting closed at 20:14