

DRAFT MINUTES OF CORTON VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held using the Zoom platform on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 19:00

Present: Stephen Pavey (SP)
Gill Armstrong (GA)
Peter Armstrong (PA)
Maureen Boughton (MB)
Sue Groome (SG)
Bob Groome (BG)

CLlr Keith Patience
CLlr Paul Ashdown

Anne Webb (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public – 3

2.1 Welcome by Chair

SP welcomed all to the meeting.

2.2 Apologies

None

2.3 Register of interest

None

2.4 Minutes of December meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed and proposed by GA and seconded by SG. They were duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

GA informed the meeting that the replacement finger post would be delivered on Friday and should be in place over the weekend.

BG commented on point 12.5 from the previous minutes, he had checked and the dip in the road surface was being repaired.

2.5 Appointment of Vice Chair

GA proposed Maureen Boughton as Vice Chair to which she agreed. It was seconded by PA and agreed by all

2.6 County and District Councillor reports

Councillor Patience informed the meeting that the new speed sign finances had been approved. GA thanked KP for all his work in obtaining the new sign. SP said it was much appreciated by the Parish Council.

Councillor Ashdown stated East Suffolk would not be increasing Council Tax in the next financial year although there may be increases from the Police Commissioner and Parish Councils.

Up to ten applications had been received for grants which will be considered by the panel. The locality budget will cover the cost of a new gate for the play area on the playing field.

PA asked if BG had sourced cricket stumps, BG would look into this further. **ACTION - BG**
Garden Village consultation is ongoing. It was asked if the Garden Village would be a separate entity with its own Parish Council. Councillor Ashdown did not know the answer at the present time.

As Councillor Ashdown had to leave the meeting early, item 2.11 was brought forward.

2.11

New Garden Village

GA stated that there was only a short amount of time for a group comment from the Parish Council. PA suggested Parish Councillors should send their comments to GA to collate. KP advised there is another Council meeting next week where the Garden Village will be discussed, he informed the meeting there have been a lot of emails from Corton and the Gunton residents group. KP urged everyone to comment whether they were for or against. Councillor Ashdown stated the project will go ahead and stressed it needs to be a development that suits all, comments from residents are of great importance. GA stated the distance between the sewage works and residential housing criteria has reduced from 400m to 100m.

SP suggested a separate meeting just to discuss the Garden Village should be arranged as soon as possible, it was felt this would be a good idea.

ACTION - SP

Councillor Ashdown asked for a copy of all comments after this meeting. GA requested everyone to email their comments before the meeting.

ACTION - ALL

2.7

Public Forum

A member of the public stated Broadland Sands has put fifty new vans on site from the plans that were approved. The Garden Village could cause further traffic problems.

2.8

Committee Representative Reports

Playing Field

MB reported that remedial works are to be undertaken on the play area and thanked Councillor Ashdown for funding the gate.

Speed sign

Speed statistics for December and January

The speed indicator was located westbound in Corton Long Lane for the month of December.

76,983 vehicles were recorded passing the sign during this time. The vast majority of these vehicles had a recorded speed of 35mph and below.

5389 between 35 and 42mph

1221 between 42 and 49mph

294 recorded at 50 with 90 over 55mph

23 vehicles were recorded over 60 and 5 over 65mph

Movements averaged 2,500 to 3,000 vehicles per day with a drop over the Christmas period.

The speed indicator was then moved to Blundeston Road for the month of January.

20,125 vehicles were recorded passing the speed indicator

19,139 vehicles were recorded at below 35mph

This is a huge percentage of vehicles staying at or near the speed limit.

There were still some vehicles recorded at high speeds.

879 vehicles were recorded between 35 and 42mph

114 between 43 and 47mph

9 between 48 and 54mph

1 vehicle recorded at 55mph

Average daily traffic is 750 to 800 a day with less on Sundays.

Corton Poor's Land Trust

Two plots are still to be allocated at the Church Road allotments, and these will be allocated to the next two Corton/Hopton (Ancient Parish of Corton) residents on the waiting list.

The east side of the allotments had flooded on a couple of occasions over Christmas. This was due to a blockage in the drainage pipe on site. One of the tenants kindly cleared the blockage and the water flowed away through the pipe towards Bakers Score.

The trustees are currently considering the erection of a small shed on the site to provide shelter for the tenants during bad weather.

The Christmas Benefits were distributed in early December and letters of thanks were received at the meeting.

Corton Almshouse Charity

The Almshouse Association was celebrating its 75th Birthday and so was inviting Almshouses to hold a garden party in the spring and invite the community to celebrate the work of the Almshouses. A celebration pack could be ordered from the Association. The trustees agreed to wait and see if restrictions had eased by the spring and then review.

2.9 Community Speed Watch

GA reported nothing can be done at present, as the volunteers need to undergo training with the police, which can't be organised until after lockdown.

2.10 Fun Day

BG had been asked if the Parish Council will be organising a Fun Day this year.

Following discussion SP suggested BG put some dates together for further discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION - BG

2.11 Brought forward after 2.6

2.12 Parish Clerk finance report and precept agreement

The Clerk had circulated the finance report in advance of the meeting, all agreed they had read it. PA proposed to authorise cheques, seconded by SG.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the draft budget that all had sight of, had been approved by the finance committee. To keep the precept to an acceptable figure, it was agreed by the finance committee to reduce the Clerk's hours from 9 to 8 hours.

To cover a budget of £6935 we would need to increase the precept this year.

GA proposed this was accepted, SG seconded, it was agreed unanimously.

The Clerk informed the meeting that two quotes had been received from Norse Commercial, the first for hedge cutting twice a year at The Pit at a cost of £187.

PA proposed this was accepted, seconded by SG and agreed by all.

The second quote was for hedge cutting at The Pit, 8 times a year at a cost of £250.

GA proposed this was accepted, seconded by BG and agreed by all.

2.13 Correspondence

A letter had been received from a resident who was concerned about the water on the road and pavement outside the Hairdressers and felt it could be a safety hazard in the bad weather. Following discussion Councillor Patience suggested that as the Parish Council had previously contacted various bodies, it may be worthwhile emailing Suffolk Highways.

ACTION - CLERK

2.14 Neighbourhood Plan

GA stated a meeting was scheduled for February 4th

2.15 Community Support

GA informed the meeting that support in Corton had been amazing, the ongoing Good Neighbour Scheme has had lots of volunteers and the Christmas parcels were a great success. The Parish Council appreciate all that volunteers are doing and offered their thanks to all of them. There is one resident, Doug Olley in Mill Lane who has been fantastic during the lockdown, displaying his artwork with positive messages and generally cheering up the community. He did an amazing display at Christmas which was really enjoyed by the children on their way to and from School.

BG mentioned the shop have been delivering groceries during the lockdown which has helped some residents, along with providing a takeaway service for Sunday lunches.

2.16 Co-option of new Parish Councillors

There have been two applications for the Parish Councillor roles. The Clerk confirmed both applicants, who were present at the meeting, fulfilled the requirements for the role.

The first applicant, Joy Clutten was proposed by PA, this was seconded by BG and agreed unanimously. The second applicant, David Fermor was proposed by PA, seconded by BG and agreed by all. The Clerk will send them the appropriate paperwork. **ACTION-CLERK**

SP mentioned the Clerk has tendered her resignation as she is moving house, someone is interested in the role, SP will make contact with them. **ACTION – SP**

2.17 Items for March 2021 agenda

Queens Jubilee 2022

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20.20

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 19.00 by Zoom