

**DRAFT MINUTES OF CORTON VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held using the Zoom platform on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 19:00**

Present: Stephen Pavey (SP)  
Gill Armstrong (GA)  
Peter Armstrong (PA)  
Maureen Boughton (MB)  
Sue Groome (SG)  
Bob Groome (BG)  
Joy Clutten (JC)  
David Fermor (DC)

Cllr Keith Patience

Anne Webb (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public – 2

**3.1 Welcome by Chair**

SP welcomed all to the meeting.

**3.2 Apologies**

Cllr Ashdown would be joining the meeting later

**3.3 Register of interest**

None

**3.4 Minutes of February meeting and matters arising**

GA updated the meeting on the repaired fingerpost, paint has to be removed before the fingerpost can be put in place, this will be done when the weather improves.

GA informed the meeting that Speed Watch training should begin in April.

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

**3.5 County and District Councillor reports**

This item was moved to the end of the agenda to await Councillor Ashdown.

**3.6 Public Forum**

A member of the public raised concerns over the new Garden Village. These included the children's playground being sited close to the sewage works, the odour from the site and the development being built on arable land rather than a brownfield site.

GA raised the point that most of these comments have been included in the response from the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Group, as well as in individual comments from Parish Councillors.

Councillor Patience will highlight all concerns at the next meeting with the consultants.

It was mentioned there has been an issue with bins not being emptied in the village, SP stated that collections have been out of sequence due to the snow.

**3.7 Committee Representative Reports**

**Playing Field** – Nothing to report

**Speed sign**

SP informed the meeting that the new speed sign had arrived, once the post is in place the sign will be put up in The Street. SP thanked Councillor Patience on behalf of the Parish Council for funding the sign. It was very much appreciated.

**Statistics for February**

From 1st to 17th February, sign recorded 10036 vehicles in Corton Long lane, travelling east out of Corton towards A47

Average speed was 33.3mph

Approximately 8.5% recorded speeds between 38 and 39.5mph.

Saturday was the highest day where 15% averaged 39.7

From 19<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March, sign recorded 14988 vehicles in Corton Long Lane travelling westbound.

Average speed was 33.7mph

Approximately 8% recorded speeds between 35 and 40mph

Sunday was the highest day where 10% averaged a speed of 39mph.

PA requested the report be submitted in advance of the meeting. SP agreed to circulate beforehand in future.

**Corton Poor's Land Trust**

All vacant allotment plots are now allocated on Church Lane.

Grants totalling £400 were allocated to two students in Corton to assist them with their study costs.

**Corton Almshouse Charity**

The trustees reviewed the budget for the Almshouses for the quarter ending 31 December 2020.

The trustees then went on to review the budgets for the coming year and agree the Weekly Maintenance Contribution (rent). An increase of £2.00 per week was agreed in order to ensure that the charity would be able to meet its ongoing maintenance costs, salaries and administration overheads. This increase will take effect from 1 April 2021.

**3.8****The Prom**

GA informed the meeting that several maintenance tasks, along the promenade, were identified by the coastal partnership team, and works by contractors have progressed well. A length of guardrail has been erected to replace the section which was damaged in the recent stormy weather. Work should be completed this week. Closure of the promenade has been necessary, at times for safety reasons, but is being managed to minimise inconvenience.

**3.9****Fun Day**

BG mentioned that although keen to go ahead with planning, this year may not be the right time as the future remains uncertain. Following discussion, it was agreed to postpone this year and plan for the Queens Jubilee celebrations in 2022.

**3.10****Parish Clerk finance report**

The Clerk reported the following:

Savings account balance on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - £4638.45

Business current account on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - £5170.50

One uncleared cheque for £114.00

Income in February  
Suffolk CC – SID sign      £2208.75  
VAT refund                      £226.94

Cheques issued since February finance report and awaiting authorisation  
HMRC – PAYE                  £243.40  
Clerks Salary for February  
Final Clerks salary to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

BG proposed payments were accepted, seconded by GA and agreed by all

**3.11 Correspondence**

A letter had been received from a resident who was concerned about a newly created parking area in Wheatacre Drive.

Councillor Patience suggested contacting an officer from East Suffolk Council.

**ACTION: GA**

**3.12 Neighbourhood Plan**

GA informed the meeting that a comprehensive letter of comments, about the proposed new village, was submitted. There had been lots of positive comments about the garden village banners which had been funded by the Parish Council.

Interest was also increasing through social media. Corton primary school had been invited to take part in a competition to make posters, this will be judged in the near future.

The next meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**3.13 Queens Jubilee 2022**

There will be an extended Bank Holiday from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to mark the Queens Jubilee. It was proposed to mark the celebration with a big picnic on the playing field with various attractions including a brass band. If Parish Councillors could give some thought to the best day to hold this celebration, then organisation can begin. Suggestions to GA as soon as possible would be appreciated.

**ACTION: ALL**

**3.14 Online Banking**

PA has 'read only' access to Parish Council accounts and explained the process of online banking. PA proposed online banking for payment purposes, this was seconded by BG and agreed by all.

**3.15 New Parish Clerk**

SP informed the meeting that the new Parish Clerk would be working with the Parish Council from 8<sup>th</sup> March, he thanked the current Clerk for the work she has done.

**3.5 County and District Councillor reports**

Councillor Ashdown joined the meeting and informed the Parish Council that Corton had received funds through the small grant scheme, the playing field have also been awarded some funding.

The Community Partnership scheme have used almost all of its funding for this year.

Councillor Ashdown mentioned he is happy to cover the cost of cricket stumps for the village in the next financial year.

Councillor Patience notified the meeting that elections will take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> when he will be standing again. He also reminded the meeting that the Census will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Councillor Ashdown mentioned the virtual walk project which will launch on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, it features walks in the Lowestoft area of which residents may not be aware.

**3.16 Items for April agenda**

None

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 19.58

**Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 19:00 by Zoom**