

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, January 21st 2025.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. R. Chase (Chair); Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chair); Cllr. L. Andrews, Cllr. J. Henson, Cllr. J. Lewis; Cllr. Z. Mair; Cllr. M. Porter; Cllr. A. Thomas and Cllr. J. Winter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and District Cllr. J. Ewart (Left 8-16pm).

1) Apologies:

County Cllr. S. Burroughes gave his apologies.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. J. Henson declared an interest in the Allotments, Neave Close and the Pear Tree Centre.

Cllr. J. Lewis declared an interest in Suffolk County Council.

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter declared an interest in the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:

It was noted that County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart had sent written reports.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that she had held an event on Saturday at the Huntingfield Hub which had gone well. It was noted that the Community Caravan had visited Walpole. Cllr. R. Chase noted that he had been travelling around London at 20mph and wondered if Walpole should revisit the idea through the village. District Cllr. J. Ewart also said that Councillors' Allowances had risen by 7% and that she believed that there should be a fund held at East Suffolk Council so that Parish Councils can access it to fight planning applications.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported on the County Councils' response to the Government's Devolution Proposals. She wondered about the size of the electoral areas if the proposed unitary councils are created. Councillors wondered if the Devolution Proposals could cause instability in the workforce.

5) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

There were no parishioners at the meeting.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 19th 2024:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 19th 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Porter:

7) Highways including the B1117 and Cratfield Road, Cookley:

Cllr. R. Chase reported that the closure of the B1123 road had caused many to come through the inadequate roads of Cookley. Councillors wondered why the Parish Council was not notified of the closure. Councillors also believed that there was too much traffic through Walpole and some was too large for the roads. It was suggested that there should be a 40mph speed limit from the Water Tower to the 30mph sign on the Peasehall Road.

8) Flooding:

Cllr. R. Chase reported that he had met with a representative from the Environment Agency and they had walked through the River Blyth area. He said that he had been told that the Parish Council could complete remedial work and the Environment Agency was willing to give advice. Cllr. C. Leggett said that he would speak to Will Austin to see if he was willing to do some of the remedial work.

9) Neave Close:

Cllr. J. Henson said that there was nothing to report but it was suggested that social housing was needed and not affordable housing as there was a difference.

10) Training:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that she now had a schedule of dates from the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust and that the course needed to be run on a Saturday. It was asked how much the course would cost? Cllr. Z. Mair said that it would be a nominal sum. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that her locality budget could make a contribution and she would send the forms to the Clerk.

11) Planning Matters:

Proposal: *Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) - To confirm implementation of Planning Permission DC/22/4049/FUL (Conversion of barn to dwelling including new vehicular access) prior to expiry of consent, and that this Planning Permission remains live.*

Address: *Redundant Barn At The Old Thatch, Peasenhall Road, Walpole, Suffolk.*

Ref: *DC/24/3581/CLE*

The Parish Council has no objection to this Lawful Development Certificate.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Porter:

Proposal: *Listed Building Consent - Replacement of first floor windows to east elevation with new to exactly match existing.*

Address: *Walpole Old Chapel, Halesworth Road, Walpole, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 9AZ*

Ref: *DC/24/4478/LBC*

It was agreed that the Parish Council would hold an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday, January 27th 2025 at 10am in the Pavilion to consider this planning application.

12) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter' and an email regarding outdoor play and fitness equipment. He said that he had sent the Cil Report and the Precept for 2025-2026 to East Suffolk Council. The Clerk reported that Suffolk Association of Local councils (SALC) had emailed the changes to Holiday Pay for Employees and that Suffolk Cloud had become part of Freethought Ltd. The Clerk said that he would be contacting Suffolk Cloud regarding moving to a 'gov.uk' email address.

The Clerk noted that Barclays Bank were reducing the Interest Rate on the Premium Account by 0.05% from 1.4% to 1.35% and reported that SALC was providing up-to-date information on the Government's Devolution Proposals. He said that East Suffolk Council Planning Department were holding a Planning Forum on January 30th at Riverside, Lowestoft and February 3rd at East Suffolk House, Melton. Cllr. Z. Mair said that she would go and the Clerk said he would book her on the course.

13) Cil Money:

Cllr. R. Chase said that there was plan currently to obtain a report on the foundations of the Pavilion to try and stop flooding of the Pavilion in the future. Councillors wondered if cleaning the river out would stop the Pavilion being flooded in the future. Cllr. R. Chase said that he would look for advice from the Suffolk County Council Engineers Department and Cllr. J. Winter would look for local advice.

Trees:

There was nothing to report.

Cemetery:

There was nothing to report.

Allotments:

There was nothing to report.

20) To receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting:

It was agreed to hold an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday, January 27th 2025 at 10am and the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 18th 2025 at 7-30pm.

It was noted that the next scheduled Parish Council Meetings for 2025 were as follows:

- March 18th 2025 at 7-30pm
- April 15th 2025 at 7-30pm
- May 20th 2025 at 7-30pm
- June 17th 2025 at 7-30pm
- July 15th 2025 at 7-30pm
- September 16th 2025 at 7-30pm
- October 21st 2025 at 7-30pm
- November 18th 2025 at 7-30pm

The Meeting ended at 9-11pm.