

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, June 17th 2025.

Minutes:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and District Cllr. J. Ewart (Left after Item 7).

1) Apologies:

Cllr. J. Henson and Cllr. M. Porter gave their apologies which were accepted by the Councillors.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart both gave their apologies.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. J. Lewis declared an interest as an employee of Suffolk County Council.

Cllr. Z. Mair 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:

There were written reports from County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart.

Cllr. R. Chase reported that he had attended with Cllr. C. Leggett and Cllr. M. Porter an event held by Suffolk County Council in order to promote their preferred option of one council for all Suffolk in the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation. Cllr. R. Chase noted the arguments made by Suffolk County Council and that the District Councils view was that there should be more than one council.

Councillors wondered if Suffolk County Council's One Council would have the level of link that the Parish Council have currently with the District and County Councillors

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

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on May 20th 2025:

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on May 20th 2025 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Thomas:

7) Highways:

As Cllr. M. Porter was not at the meeting, Cllr. R. Chase said that the Walpole Road had been patched up and Cllr. R. Leggett reported that speeding was to be monitored through the village.

There was some discussion on the effect of the new 30mph speed limit on the A12 south of Yoxford and the prospect of a speed limit around Darsham as councillors believed that traffic was now avoiding the A12 by going through Walpole. Therefore, councillors agreed that Suffolk Highways should prioritise filling in the potholes and keeping the verges and hedges cut back at the sides of the roads through Walpole.

8) Cil Money:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust were obtaining quotes for the Pavilion. It was also noted that the Chair of the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust had written to the Parish Council thanking the Parish Council for their recent £500 Donation.

9) Training:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that she was planning to hold two First Aid Courses in September.

10) Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:

Councillors continued the discussion on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation from Agenda Item 4. It was noted that there was a leaflet available and it was recommended that councillors read it. Councillors noted that one council for Suffolk may save money but were concerned about the lack of local accountability owing to the size of Suffolk. A councillor said that they were against having just one council for the whole of Suffolk.

11) Planning Matters:

The Clerk reported that there were no planning matters. Councillors agreed that they liked having unusual buildings in the area.

12) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk reported that the Notice of Public Rights 2024-2025 had been put on the noticeboards and on the website and the Exemption Certificate had been sent to the External Auditors. He also said that he had been informed that the Parish Council needed to adopt the gov.uk email and website addresses by March 2026 which the Clerk believed the Parish Council would meet. The Clerk also noted as in Agenda Item 8 that the Chair of the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust had written thanking the Parish Council for their recent £500 Donation.

13) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on June 7th 2025:

Business Community Account	£9 165-30
Business Savings Account	£11 418-55

b) Payments and Receipts:

SO	Maintenance Contract – May 2025	£220-00
SO	Maintenance Contract – June 2025	£220-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Salary for April until June 2025	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax for April until June 2025	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for April until June 2025	£50-00
Internet Banking	SALC Internal Audit 2024-2025	£219-60
Internet Banking	Cookley Telephone Box Refurbishment	£124-29
Internet Banking	Clearing of Goat Willow Tree on Village Green	£60-00

Receipts:

BACS	Cemetery Headstone	£165-00
BACS	Bank Interest – December 2024	£37-81

The Financial Report was accepted.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Thomas:

There was some discussion at this point in the meeting about the telephone box in Walpole near the Old Chapel. Cllr. A. Thomas agreed to oversee its tidying up with perhaps establishing it as a place for borrowing and donating books.

14) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding

Footpaths:

Cllr. J. Winter reported that all was fine and foliage had been cut back in May.

Trees:

It was reported that there was nothing to report.

Cemetery:

The Clerk reported that £165 had been received for a new Headstone in the Cemetery. Councillors noted that the Cemetery looked immaculate.

Allotments:

It was reported that there was nothing to report.

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

Cllr. R. Chase gave his apologies for the next Parish Council Meeting on July 15th 2025. Councillors discussed Buildings at Risk at this point in the meeting and agreed that Buildings at Risk should be an Agenda Item for the next Parish Council Meeting.

The Meeting ended at 8-25pm.