

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, March 18th 2025.

Minutes:

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

1) Apologies:

Cllr. J. Lewis, Cllr. M. Porter and Cllr. J. Winter all gave their apologies which were accepted by the Councillors.

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. 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. County Cllr. S. Burroughes was not at the meeting.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that she had spent the day with Essex and Suffolk Water and had learnt that the average person uses 150 litres of water a day and the aim was to reduce this to 110 litres a day. She said that there was to be more 'Park and Ride' facilities provided for the construction of Sizewell C and that parish councils should give their material reasons on any planning application decision.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported on the proposals for local government reorganisation with perhaps two unitary councils for Suffolk in the future. She noted that hedges were being cut back beside the roads and that the libraries were being taken back into direct control and operation by Suffolk County Council. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that the East Suffolk Council Communities Team were helping people access services as part of the Community Help Hub.

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 Parish Council Meeting held on February 18th 2025:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 18th 2025 were agreed with an amendment to Item 10.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

7) Highways:

There was no report but there was some discussion on road closures.

8) River Blyth Clearance:

Cllr. C. Leggett reported that four Village Green Willow Trees which had fallen across the river had been cleared. It was noted that the invoice for £60 to complete the work had not been received.

9) Neave Close:

Cllr. J. Henson reported that Flagship had sent a letter regarding the last workshop and that it was hoped to arrange another workshop.

10) Training:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that a date had not been set for the First Aid Course and Cllr. C. Leggett agreed to fill in the form to apply for funding from East Suffolk Council.

11) Email and Website:

Councillors agreed that the Clerk would contact Suffolk Cloud to discuss a quote based on their offer to set up 'gov.uk' email addresses and a 'gov.uk' website address.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Henson:

12) Planning Matters:

The Clerk reported that there were no planning matters for the councillors to discuss but the Clerk said that he had received a planning application for another parish council area which had been resolved.

Councillors discussed bringing 'Buildings at Risk' back into use and Cllr. C. Leggett agreed to lead on this issue.

13) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that he had received some business flyers, a Business Premium Account Interest Rate Change and Change to Terms and Conditions Letter from Barclays Bank and the latest information on the proposals for local government devolution and reorganisation from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

14) Donations:

After some discussion, it was agreed to make the following donations:

Walpole & Cookley Playing Field Trust	£500-00
Pear Tree Fund	£200-00
Halesworth Community Larder	£100-00
Halesworth Volunteer Centre	£100-00
East Anglian Air Ambulance	£100-00
Halesworth and District Museum	£100-00
Alzheimer's Society	£50-00
Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk)	£50-00
East Anglia's Children's Hospices	£50-00
St. Elizabeth's Hospice	£50-00
Citizens Advice Bureau	£50-00

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. C. Leggett:

At this point of the meeting it was noted that Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter would be meeting with an official from the East Suffolk Council regarding flooding.

15) Financial Report:

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

Business Community Account	£6 090-64
Business Savings Account	£11 380-74

b) Payments and Receipts:

SO	Maintenance Contract – March 2025	£220-00
SO	Maintenance Contract – April 2025	£220-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Salary for January until June 2025	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for October until Dec. 2024	£43-75
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for January until March 2025	£43-75
Internet Banking	Community Heartbeat 2025-2026	£162-00
Internet Banking	Walpole & Cookley Playing Field Trust	£500-00
Internet Banking	Pear Tree Fund	£200-00
Internet Banking	Halesworth Community Larder	£100-00
Internet Banking	Halesworth Volunteer Centre	£100-00
Internet Banking	East Anglian Air Ambulance	£100-00
Internet Banking	Halesworth and District Museum	£100-00
Internet Banking	Alzheimer's Society	£50-00
Internet Banking	Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk)	£50-00
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