

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 5th August 2026 at 7.00pm in the Community Room, Playing Field

Councillors Present: Stephen Pavey (SP) Maureen Boughton (MB) Gill Armstrong (GA)
 Peter Armstrong (PA) David Fermor (DF) Bob Groome (BG)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk) Cllr Paul Ashdown

Members of the public – 8

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the safety procedures.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paul Sutton and Sue Groome.

3. To record declarations of interest and requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests

None declared.

4. To approve the Minutes of the July meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2026 were recommended for approval, proposed by PA, seconded by DF, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Broadland Sands Sign at the top of Stirrups Lane - Cllr Ashdown has reported it to the relevant department who agree it should be removed, but as it is a Highways issue, it needs to be reported to them.

Hedge at bottom of Stirrups Lane – SP had spoken to someone from Highways who said they are aware of the hedge which they agreed still needs to be sorted.

5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Still having some problems with the emptying of the wheelie bins and Cllr Ashdown has been asked to apologise on the council's behalf.

Cllr Ashdown has had a meeting with the Coastal Management Team who will be meeting with the Parish Council shortly (see Correspondence item below).

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

18th July - Thai Boxing event. 26th July - Brainwave Charity event. Both went very well.

No big events or parties planned for August.

Two road drains which drain into the ditch by the play area were cleared by East Suffolk Council as requested by David Fermor.

Hedge cutting around the field has been done with the help of volunteers, so a big thank you to them – what would we do without you!

Chris Green has the village radio microphone kit last used at a Fun Day, which MB will collect.

b) Speed Sign

Corton Long Lane Westbound - for some reason the camera only recorded for 20 days.

From 1st July to 21st July there were 29,547 movements. A very high speed, more than twice the legal limit, was recorded at 15.00hrs on Saturday, 11th July 2026.

The overall average speed for the road was 33.2mph. Most speeders recorded between 16.00hrs and 19.00hrs

The Street – 25,424 movements. Over 23,000 of these were recorded at the speed limit or below. Highest speed was recorded on Wednesday, 8th July at 00:45hrs.

The average speed for the road was 19.9mph

Tuesdays are the busiest days probably due to the car boot, with up to 600 more vehicles than other days.

c) Corton Poor's Land Trust and Corton Almshouse Charity

Poor's Land Trust

All allotments are now rented and mostly being worked

Allotment Risk Assessments will be completed before the next meeting in September

Christmas benefit and home alarm lists will be looked at in September

All policies for both charities will be reviewed starting in September as there is no August meeting

Almshouse Charity

The fence behind the Almshouses has been mended

The Communal Garden area is being tidied, and the benches refurbished

We are waiting for the certificate now that all the Smoke alarms have been fitted

Another bathroom has been refurbished

Some trees that were overhanging the path to one of the bungalows have been reduced to hedge height

Legionella inspections will be completed before the next meeting

7. Public Forum – to receive questions or comments from Parishioners

Resident asked about the Strategic Management Committee and whether the number of 1,000 houses is correct for the new Garden Village Development. Originally there were a lot more houses planned. We need to wait until the application is submitted to find out exactly how many are proposed.

Blundeston Road Planning Application – residents had objected but nothing been heard. Cllr Ashdown hasn't heard anything. The planning process was discussed and Cllr Ashdown said he would bring this up at a meeting on Tuesday. He said there will be a lot of changes with planning coming up in the future.

Two members of the Public left the meeting at this point.

8. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £31,746.51

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

b) Payments

3 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £59.14

Three: Mobile Phone - £10.80

Clerk's Salary

BG proposed the accounts be paid, seconded by PA, all agreed.

c) Income

Corton Playing Field Committee: Monthly Contribution for Broadband - £23.00

True Network: Mobile Phone Discount - £2.00

d) Correspondence

East Suffolk Council – Defence and Coastal Risk for Corton: Councillors decided to request a meeting for Wednesday, 19th August at 7pm in Corton Community Room.

A resident had reported problems with parking in Mill Lane but the Parish Council are unable to help, as it is a private road. GA reported that residents in the road were trying to sort out the problem themselves.

East Suffolk Council - Changes to East Suffolk Council's Emergency Out of Hours Number

9. To note Planning Applications received

DC/26/2131/FUL - Construction of five dwellings comprising conversion of traditional barns to three dwellings, demolition of a steel framed barn benefiting from extant Class Q consent for two dwellings, and erection of two replacement dwellings within the adjoining paddock, together with associated works

Site address: Church Farm, Church Lane, Corton

10.To discuss complaints received about the smells from the Sewage Works

Clerk has received several complaints this month about the smells around Corton from the sewage works. These have been reported to Anglian Water. In future, Clerk will report all complaints about smells directly to Anglian Water. Cllr Ashdown recommended sending a copy of the emails to Kathryn Oelman at East Suffolk Council.

11.To discuss the hedge on the southern side of The Pit

Following a report about the hedge, which had overgrown a resident's fence and pushed it over, DF and SP visited the site. DF said that if we cut the hedge, the fence will fall over. This was discussed in detail. DF volunteered to cut the hedge, but a decision will need to be made about the debris. The Parish Council will fund the cutting of the hedge but the resident needs to be advised that the fence would be his responsibility and he would need to maintain it moving forward.

12.To receive an update on Suffolk Water Recycling Transfer and Storage Project

Teams meeting held and attended by some of the Parish Councillors. SP advised everyone about what was discussed.

A member of the public entered at this point.

13.To receive an update on the seat outside School Hall

Work has been delayed due to the extremely hot weather.

14.To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

As mentioned at the last meeting, a grant has been received to install more play equipment. The basketball net has been taken down and new signs have been erected as per the RoSPA report.

15.To receive an update on setting up a Men's Shed in Corton

BG reported that the Methodist Church are happy to accommodate the Men's Shed. Halesworth

Methodist Church has a Men's Club and they have offered to show some of the Councillors round – BG to arrange.

16.To receive an update on repairs needed to Corton Methodist Church roof

BG reported that it has been agreed for the roof to be replaced. The church will use the School Room at the back of the Methodist Church.

17.To receive Items for the next meeting's Agenda

Men's Shed

18.To agree the proposed date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in September

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 2nd September 2026 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.
The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed Chair Date