

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 7.00pm in the Community Room, Playing Field

Councillors Present: Stephen Pavey (SP) Gill Armstrong (GA) Peter Armstrong (PA)
David Fermor (DF)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk) Cllr Paul Ashdown Cllr James Reeder

Members of the public – 5

1. Welcome by Chair

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 Maureen Boughton, Bob Groome 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 November meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November were recommended for approval, proposed by PA, seconded by GA, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

The bus service has now resumed along its normal route after the closure of Coast Road. The Chairman stated that the one-way loop around Corton had worked very well and expressed his thanks to all the people who helped by not parking along the narrow sections of The Street. As some of the cones had disappeared, PA proposed that more are purchased, seconded by GA, all agreed.

Remembrance Day Service – GA reported that the service was very well attended and everything had gone well.

5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Cllr Ashdown talked about the importance of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and said that it could be done in about 18 months. Cllr Ashdown said he would help and talked about the things that needed to be done. He thinks we can get some funding from Coastal Management and asked the Council to give it some consideration.

Cllr Ashdown talked about the new Garden Village and said that it will go ahead. When it is built, it will be part of the parish of Corton which means the Parish Council will receive the CIL money - £60 per sq metre of floor space, a significant amount of money.

The Planning Application for 20 Manor Park Road had been approved. Cllr Ashdown and BG had attended the meeting and spoken against it. The new property, when built, will only be connected to the mains if the maintenance work on the drainage system has been carried out.

Cllr Ashdown had attended a Cabinet meeting about air pollution where he asked if something could be done to help the current problems with smells from the Waste-Water Treatment Centre in Corton.

Leaflets handed out tonight about the Local Government Re-organisation

The Cut – trees/hedges will be cut sometime during the winter. GA asked if it would be done every year – PA thought that it would be.

Cllr James Reeder

The Monthly Newsletter had been circulated to Councillors.

The consultation for the Local Government Re-organisation is now taking place. The mayoral elections will definitely be taking place, most likely in May 2026.

Cllr Reeder had dealt with a complaint about the signs showing Stirrups Lane was closed, when in fact, it was the Coast Road that was closed, and not Stirrups Lane. Although he did report that Stirrups Lane may be closed this week.

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

Football is going ahead and General Maintenance work is being carried out.

b) Speed Sign

An engineer came out to help with the downloading of information from the new speed indicator device. The camera in Corton Long Lane only recorded for a short time this month, therefore the figures for November weren't complete.

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

Corton Poor's Land Trust

The tenant will continue to rent the field.

Christmas benefits are in hand, there was one new application this year.

Allotment invoices will be sent out to all tenants.

There was a query about the hedge cutting, this will be looked into.

A meeting will be held in the new year to discuss the possibility of electing a chairperson as liaison between the plot holders and the Trustees.

All Home alarms have been installed, everyone is happy with them and with the change of Provider.

We're changing the address of the charity.

A Mobile has been purchased, for the secretary, we are now sourcing a sim card.

Corton Almshouse Trust

The window and door replacements in the final four bungalows will be completed this week, along with the trickle vents in the original bungalows.

External work is in progress, weather permitting.

Gas safety inspections have been completed on all bungalows.

Boiler servicing has been completed.

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

Parishioner asked a question about 'the rollback policy' which Councillor Ashdown had explained when he talked about the Garden Village. Cllr Ashdown said that this was for both permanent homes and temporary homes and the roll back to appropriate sites would have to be negotiated.

Another question was asked about the ongoing work at Broadland Sands which was discussed.

A resident thanked everyone for their help with the planning application in Manor Park Road. He raised his concern that the land is being sold to professional builders and will not be a self-build as per the planning application. Cllr Ashdown asked to be kept informed.

Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer & Storage Project (Essex and Suffolk Water) – SP explained about the TEAMS meeting where the proposed plans were presented. This was discussed and will be added to future Agendas.

When will the Garden Village building work start – Cllr Ashdown said this could probably start in three years and will continue for many years – Garden Village Development to be added to the next Agenda.

8. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £9,948.50 Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

b) To approve the Precept and Draft Budget Plan for 2026/27

The Finance Committee had met and discussed the precept for 2026/27. For it to remain the same as 2025/26, the precept needs to increase by 1.8% (24p per year) per Band D property.

The Finance Committee had drawn up a Draft Budget Plan, which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk went through the plan. PA recommended the Precept and Draft Budget Plan be accepted, seconded by GA, 1 agreed and 1 abstained.

c) To approve the Local Government Inflation Pay Increase

Local Government has agreed the 2025/26 inflation pay increase. The Clerk confirmed her contract is for 4 hours per week on Point 11 of the payscale. Her salary will increase by 46p per hour to £14.59 (plus £10 per month for costs related to working at home). This month's pay includes the backdated pay from 1st April 2025. GA recommended the pay increase be approved, seconded by PA, all agreed.

d) Payments

6 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £55.10

RBL Poppy Appeal: Poppy Wreath - £30

East Suffolk Council: Hedge Cutting on The Pit - £315.00

East Suffolk Council: Grass Cutting on The Pit - £403.20

L Pavey: Printer Ink - £23.93

HMRC: PAYE - £167.40

Clerk's Salary

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

e) Income

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

f) Correspondence

Essex & Suffolk Water - Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer & Storage Project

Sizewell C – Project Update

Suffolk Connected – Suffolk Constabulary new messaging service

Suffolk County Council - Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk

Parking in Private Driveways in The Close – during the school run, people park on private driveways – SP to investigate.

East Suffolk Planning Policy Team - Local Plan Call for Sites

Broads Authority - Local Plan for the Broads

9. To note Planning Applications received

DC/25/4318/LBC: Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Replacement Windows to Tower
Site address: The Old Mill, 8A Mill Lane, Corton - Approve

10.To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

Nothing to report at present.

11.To receive an update on overgrown hedges/trees in The Cut

Cllr Ashdown had covered this in his report.

12.To receive an update on the drainage on Tramps Alley

Flood signs are in place. As there are gas pipes along this area, the Gas Board refused to allow the installation of permanent signs stating 'Road liable to Flooding'. However, a sign can be situated on the north side with another sign on the back. It is uncertain when this will happen, but it is 'on the list to be done'.

13.To receive an update on the Broadland Sands planning application

Covered during the Public Forum.

14.To receive an update on the purchase of a Village Christmas Tree

The Methodist Church had been unable to commit to having the Christmas Tree so unfortunately there won't be a village tree this year.

15.To receive an update on the installation of double yellow lines near the White Horse

Cllr Reeder said the yellow lines will be outside the White Horse, up to the bollards, as that land is owned by Highways. The yellow lines on the narrow part of The Street have been added to the request.

16.To discuss the possibility of setting up a Men's Shed in Corton

To be added to next Agenda.

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

No additional items added.

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

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 21st January 2026 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.
The meeting closed at 8.13pm.

SignedChair Date