

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 7.30pm 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)
Sue Groome (SG)

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

Members of the public – 21

1. Welcome by Chair

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

The Chair paid tribute to Mr Michael Edwards, a well-loved and respected local resident, farmer and former Parish Councillor who had sadly passed away. The Parish Council send sincere condolences to Mr Edward's wife and family.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence

None

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 December meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 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 seat has been installed in the bus stop outside Waterside.

Hedge at bottom of Stirrups Lane overgrown. Clerk had reported it on the online reporting tool – to chase up.

DF asked that the Gate on Corton Long Lane not be locked in future.

5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr James Reeder

Monthly Newsletter emailed to Clerk. Cllr Reeder said that it was announced today in Parliament, that Council's will be changing to a Unitary Authority. He went onto explain the new arrangements and stated that in May 2026 there will be an election for one Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk.

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Cllr Ashdown expressed his concern that as the new authority will mean a reduction in Councillors, it could mean they may not be able to attend as many parish council meetings as they do now.

Cllr Ashdown talked about the Council Tax increase, car park charges and household waste collections. Coastal work will be taking place in Corton over the next two weeks. The Partnership on the coast has changed and East Suffolk will have the responsibility for Coastal Management. A new Coastal Management Strategic Director has been appointed.

BG asked if the new changes would mean that Council Tax will come down – the Councillors thought not.

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

Bookings are good with parties, meetings etc regularly being held. Lots of football taking place. A Celebration of Life is being held on 6th. The Urban Spec Group sessions have now finished.

b) Speed Sign

New speed sign in place in Corton Long Lane. No figures have been recorded yet. The old sign needs to be repaired.

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

Summary of Meeting held on 15th January 2025 on Teams

Corton Poor's Land Trust

The hedge cutting at Corton allotments is almost complete. A student grant application was received and approved. Sixteen Corton beneficiaries received the annual Christmas gift. New tenancy agreements for plot-holders have been issued. There are currently three plots available. The Trust will donate £200 to the Brain Tumour Society in place of payment for a Skip at the allotments. The list of seventeen Corton residents having home alarm pendants was reviewed and one person was added.

Corton Almshouse Charity

Christmas lunch was enjoyed by eleven Almshouse residents including the Warden and Secretary. Almshouse maintenance was discussed and EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) inspections will be undertaken. The transition of the Warden Call system from analogue to digital was discussed. The resident risk and support plans were reviewed with no immediate action required. It was agreed that the Secretary be added as a signatory on the Santander Bank Account.

The next Trustee Meeting would be on Wednesday 12th February 2025

Denise West – Secretary

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

Parishioner asked if consideration could be given for a speed sign along the road through Corton Woods. SP explained about the rules for putting up a speed sign and agreed to look at the options.

A car came off the road at the bridge in Stirrups Lane. Parishioner concerned about a dip in the road, but this has been checked by Highways and isn't a cause for concern.

Parking in Corton Long Lane – the Football Club are concerned about the parking and are trying to do everything they can to help reduce it. Discussion took place about ways which would help. Cllr Reeder has some Locality Funding which could be used for more cones and signs.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council had received permission to erect their sign down Tramps Alley. SP said no they hadn't. SP read out emails which had been received from local residents about the lewd behaviour seen on Corton Beach. A lengthy discussion took place with several residents sharing their observations. PC Smy recommended that any lewd behaviour should be reported to the police who would issue a reference number.

8. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £8,324.12

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

- b) **To agree Quotes from East Suffolk for Grass and Hedge cutting on The Pit** – Grass Cutting quoted at £336.00 plus VAT (compared to £320.00 + VAT last year) and Hedge Cutting quoted at £262.50 (compared to £253 + VAT last year). BG proposed to accept the quotes, seconded by DF, all agreed.

c) Payments

9 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband (Jan and Feb)- £52.14 and £51.78

Barclaycard: Nameplate for Seat in Bus Stop at Waterside - £15.45

Finding Fitness Ltd: Supply & install Monkey Challenge Wall on The Pit - £8,400.00

East Suffolk Services: Grass Cutting on The Pit – £384.00

East Suffolk Services: Hedge Cutting on The Pit - £303.60

SWARCO: Speed Device – £4,785.00

Clerk's Salary (Jan and Feb)

DF proposed the accounts be paid, seconded by SG all agreed.

d) Income

Corton Playing Field Committee: Monthly Contribution for Broadband - £18.00

National Lottery Community Fund: Monkey Challenge Wall - £7,000

e) Correspondence (circulated)

Parking on Corton Long Lane

East Suffolk Planning Policy Team – East Suffolk Developers Charter

Complaint about vehicles parking on the bend in Station Road

Coastal Partnership East – notification of repairs and maintenance of coastal protection assets in Corton

Report of manhole subsiding on Station Road outside No. 42 (reported to East Suffolk by resident)

9. To note Planning Applications received

DC/25/0137/P3Q: Prior Notification - Change of use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion - Conversion to 5 dwellinghouses.

Site address: Church Farm, Church Lane, Corton, Lowestoft

Objections raised about the access onto dangerous bend

DC/25/0402/TPO: Remove epicormic growth on Limes up to 5m, Remove dead/diseased wood from all trees in group. 1no. Sycamore - Reduce lateral growth on South by 2m

Site address: Magpies, 26 Station Road, Corton, Lowestoft,

Approved

10. To discuss improvements on The Pit

MB reported that the ground around the goal areas where the new kickboards have been installed is very uneven and is dangerous for the children to play football.

The children have asked if they can have solar lights.

MB asked what had happened about the multi-purpose court. BG had looked at quotes and investigated the equipment available. SP had put together some plans but was advised he would need to have a Neighbourhood Plan to get funding. Cllr Ashdown stated that funding could be available even without a Neighbourhood Plan. SP to arrange a meeting with other Councillors to have a look at The Pit to see what is needed.

11.To discuss the Corton in Bloom Planter in The Close

GA reported that the planter box in The Close is falling apart and is dangerous. SP to have a look to see what needs doing and report back.

12.To receive an update on the CCTV Camera in Stirrups Lane

No further information has come to light following the theft of the CCTV camera.

13.To receive an update on cars parking on the bend on Station Road (near Wheatacre Drive junction)

No further information received but cars have also been reported parking on the bend opposite. PC Smy said he would take a look following the meeting.

14.To receive an update on installing a footpath between Corton and Broadland Sands.

GA reported that new signs indicating the route of the King's Footpath have gone up along The Street. Cllr Reeder still waiting to hear about the path being moved to the side of the road between Corton and St Bartholomew's Church.

15. To discuss signage on Corton Beach

The sign states that Corton Beach is not a designated naturist beach and the Parsh Council will not accept any lewd behaviour. It was agreed that the wording is correct.

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

To discuss Parking in Corton
Hole appearing at end of Station Road/The Street
To discuss the feasibility of installing a path along Stirrups Lane

17.To agree the proposed date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in March

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5th March 2025 at 7.30pm in Corton Community Room. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

SignedChair Date