

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 21st January 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) Sue Groome (SG)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk) Cllr Paul Ashdown Mr Mark Packard and two assistants

Members of the public – 14

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 Cllr Reeder and Bob 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 December meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd 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

None.

5. To receive information about the Coastal Management at Corton by Mr M Packard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management

Mr Packard addressed the meeting, talking about coastal erosion along the Suffolk Coast. He explained about the work the Coastal Management were doing at the moment and the effects of coastal erosion in Thorpeness. Corton will need a plan for any future erosion which will be funded by Central Government and the whole community needs to be involved. A transition management plan will be needed to make sure no one becomes homeless. A Planning Application for the start of the Garden Village is likely to be in shortly, concentrating on the first 100 homes. Mr Packard talked about a Neighbourhood Plan and how it would help the Village.

Mr Packard took questions from the councillors and parishioners about coastal erosion including a managed retreat, the Garden Village, the Sewage Works, the King's Footpath and the importance of keeping people updated.

6. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Councillors have been advised to increase the 2026/27 Council Tax by the maximum amount allowed. The refuse/recycling bins roll-out is about to happen. Another bin for food waste and other recycling will be delivered to homes shortly. Collections will start in June with collection planned for every three weeks.

A Strategic Planning Meeting was held on Monday. The Garden Village Development is still being looked into.

Cllr James Reeder

SP reported (on behalf of Councillor Reeder) that some yellow lines have been refreshed in the village but they have not been able to do the lines along The Street as the application to do this is still going through the system.

7. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

All the groups, except the religious group, are back in the Community Room after the Christmas break. Football is continuing, when weather permits. Six Craft Fayres are planned for this year. The Committee are looking at purchasing another piece of adult fitness equipment.

b) Speed Sign

An ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera was situated in Corton Long Lane last week. Further action may be taken against drivers who were recorded speeding. The Chair read out the November report for the camera in Corton Long Lane and the camera in The Street for December.

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

The meeting noted that window and door replacements were complete, and the residents are happy with them, external maintenance is ongoing. The Treasurer confirmed that the bank reconciliation and paid bills were up to date as of 5 January 2026. No correspondence or bills were received. Other matters discussed included upcoming internal maintenance, administrative updates to charity and bank records, staffing and cost updates and several resident-related issues. A new chiropodist had been found. Christmas benefits were distributed, in December, and were well received.

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

Planning application for Blundeston Road – concern raised from residents in Blundeston Road about the application for five houses, an access road and the further development planned at the back. The Parish Council will review the application and site, and consider residents' views, before sending in their comments to the Planning Department. Further discussion took place between the councillors and residents.

Resident asked where the new yellow lines were going and was advised that they will be installed near the White Horse, immediately to the left of Mill Lane and the area in The Street, where the No Waiting Cones are placed when the bus is re-routed.

9. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £8,717.51

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

Quotation from East Suffolk Services for Grass and Hedge Cutting on The Pit

To cut the grass between March and October on 8 occasions - £349.00 + VAT

To trim both sides and top of boundary hedge in late May/early June (depending on nesting birds and another during October/November (depending on weather conditions) - £273.00 + VAT

SG proposed to accept both quotations, seconded by GA, all agreed.

b) Payments

5 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £55.10

Three: 2x Mobile Phone bills – December £11.54 (£2.00 credit received on 31st December) and January £10.30

Barclaycard: £163.92 – No Waiting Cones £139.99, Printer Ink £23.93. The credit card has a credit balance of £237.60, and this invoice was taken off, leaving a credit balance of £73.68.

Clerk's Salary

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

c) Income

Barclays: Interest - £13.53

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

d) Correspondence

Report of broken handrail north of Tibbenham's Score – reported to Coastal Management who were checking it.

ANPR Camera installed in Corton Long Lane between 12th and 19th January.

10.To note Planning Applications received

DC/25/4891/OUT: Proposal: Outline Application (Some Matters Reserved) - Application of Outline Planning Permission (Access points to be considered, Landscaping, Layout, Appearance and Scale Reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended - Erection of 5 No: Self-build & Custom Housebuilding Plots

Site address: Plot , Blundeston Road, Corton - In Circulation

11.To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

No further information. One of the 'No Dog Signs' had fallen down. SP agreed to check and GA proposed that SP replace/repair the signs to include the new mobile number, as recommended in the last RoSPA report, seconded by SG, all agreed.

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

Cllr Reeder had asked the Chair to thank the people who had worked so hard clearing the drains in this area. Highways will be contacting DF to arrange further work. The drain on the beach side of the road also needs clearing which will be looked at tomorrow, weather permitting.

13.To discuss the Garden Village Development

Plans expected to be received in the very near future. GA said that she had contacted the residents who had been involved in the Neighbourhood Plan but were not keen to start again. As soon as the planning application is submitted, the Garden Village can be added to the Agenda again.

14. To discuss traffic congestion around Corton at school start and end times

Problems occurring at the start and end of the day with the amount of cars parking on the Playing Field Car Park. DF asked about using The Pit as a car park for the school. Following a discussion, the Parish Council decided to investigate the feasibility of having a parking area on The Pit.

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

On the next Agenda.

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

Nothing further to be added.

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

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 4th March 2026 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed Chair Date

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