

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 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)
Sue Groome (SG)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk) Cllr Paul Ashdown Cllr James Reeder
Robert Lee (Concertus) Emilie Farrimond (Concertus) Rob Hancock (SCC)
Gareth Roberts (Lovell)

Members of the public – 18

1. Welcome by Chair

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

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 June meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June were recommended for approval, proposed by PA, seconded by BG, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

PA asked if there had been any response to the Freedom of Information request submitted to Suffolk Police concerning the lewd behaviour on Corton Beach. SP replied that he hadn't heard anything but hoped that a response would be received shortly.

Traffic Convex Mirror request at Corton Long Lane – Clerk had contacted the person who had raised this concern to ask if there were other people who had the same concerns but nothing received yet.

5. Presentation by Concertus regarding the proposed Garden Village

Robert Lee from Concertus started the presentation, talking about the amendments to the original plans originally shown to the Council last year. He was followed by Gareth Roberts from Lovell (Builders), who told the meeting about the company and the proposed plans.

The presentation was followed by a 'Question and Answer' session where strong concerns were raised about :-

- the smell which has been a major concern for many years
- houses being built too near the Sewerage Works even with a 135m buffer zone (the smell affects the whole of Corton)
- the new plans show houses being built a lot nearer to Corton Long Lane than the original proposal
- current flooding problems in Corton Long Lane (west end) getting worse
- existing drainage in Corton not being able to cope with the waste. Adding 1100 more houses will cause additional problems to this already failing system.

- All emphasis has been centered on the infrastructure of the proposed Garden Village. No consideration appears to have been given to the existing village, even though the proposed houses will be entirely within the existing parish of Corton
- Doctors Surgeries not being able to cope with the increased number of people

Meetings are taking place with CYP about the school but no further information available yet.

Emilie stated that she would send the presentation to the Clerk.

6. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr James Reeder

Cllr Reeder had emailed the Suffolk Town and Parish Newsletter for June which had been circulated to councillors.

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Cllr Ashdown will report the residents comments concerning the Garden Village at the next Strategic Planning Meeting.

Signs for beach are now being prepared and Cllr Ashdown has said they must be installed before the start of the summer holidays.

Proposed bungalow in Manor Park Road – need to ensure that Anglian Water sort out problem with the drainage.

Cllr Ashdown wanted to thank the police who had increased their presence on the beach and in the Dip Farm area and it was noted that there had been fewer nudists.

7. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

All classes well attended. Charity BBQ being held this weekend. Yoga taster session on Friday at 5.30pm. Hedge cutting round the field in progress. Thanks to all the volunteers. The Car Boot Sale had another successful week. The charity, Brainwave will be holding an event on 27th July.

b) Speed Sign

SP was unable to download figures from the SID. He requested permission to ask for a call-out from the company. BG proposed the council agree to a call-out, seconded by PA, all agreed. GA reported that a speed sign cannot be put along the road through Corton Woods due to it being a 40mph road.

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

Corton Poor's Land Trust

Five allotment plot holders have been contacted regarding the condition of their respective plots, following concerns about upkeep and cultivation standards. In addition, an agreement has been made to proceed with replacing the perimeter fencing around the allotment site. An arborist will also be attending to advise if pollarding of the trees at the rear of 4 properties in Fowlers Crescent needs attention. East Suffolk Services has advised of its intention to cease supplying the Home Pendant Alarm service effective from 30th September 2025. In response, the Trust will begin exploring alternative providers to ensure continuity of this vital service for Corton residents who rely on it.

Corton Almshouse Charity

External inspections have been completed at the 17 Almshouses, alongside installation of

Surge Protection Units (SPDs), and a legionella assessment is to be undertaken. Insulation upgrades have been conducted on seven properties, while the remaining eight are awaiting inspection.

The warden's report has been received and acknowledged for reference.

Peter Armstrong stepped down with immediate effect, expressing his gratitude to the other trustees for their support throughout his tenure as Chair for both the Almshouse and Poor's Land Trust.

The next Trustee Meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th July 2025

Thanks were given to Peter for his service.

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

With reference to the Traffic Convex Mirror at end of CLL mentioned earlier – a resident agreed that it is getting more and more difficult to see traffic coming east along Corton Long Lane.

Bin Collections will shortly be carried out every 3 weeks instead of every 2, resident asked if there will be a reduction/refund for the cost of the green bin? Cllr Ashdown will ask East Suffolk and report back.

Small parking area outside 15/17 The Street – this is so small that when cars park here, they block the driveways. Cllr Reeder stated that to put in a yellow line is exceptionally expensive. SP to check other options.

9. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £13,622.93

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

b) Payments

3 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £55.10

HMRC: PAYE - £152.80

Clerk's Salary

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

St Bartholomew's Churchyard: Annual Grant – Mr David Butcher had written to ask the Parish Council if they would increase their grant this year. Following a discussion, DF proposed to ask Mr Butcher to come to the meeting to talk to the Parish Council about the grant, seconded by MB, 1 for, 1 against and 1 abstained. Clerk to invite Mr Butcher to the next meeting.

c) Income

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

Barclays: Bank Interest - £15.41

d) Correspondence (circulated)

Lowestoft Town Council – Asset of Community Value (Dip Farm)

East Suffolk Council – Funding Opportunities

10.To note Planning Applications received

DC/25/2465/TPO - A1 1no. Oak (T1 on submitted plan) - Reduce 1 limb overhanging No. 116 Corton Long Lane by 2m

Site Address: Four Stones, 110 Corton Long Lane, Corton, Lowestoft

DC/25/2217/FUL - New detached Bungalow to Garden Plot

Site address: Avondale, Blundeston Road, Corton, Lowestoft

Approved (subject to neighbour’s agreement)

11.To discuss setting up a Speedwatch team

Unfortunately only two people had volunteered which does not reach the minimum number required.

12.To discuss overgrown footpath between The Street and Mill Lane

An advert to be put in Coastline to ask for volunteers to help. Thanks were expressed to the residents who have been tidying up the area.

13.To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

SP & MB had met to discuss ideas. SP had written a draft proposal for improvements which he circulated to Councillors. Councillors to look through the proposals and report back.

14.To discuss car park promised to the Church by Broadland Sands

Nothing further to report.

15.To discuss ideas for a Sensory Garden at Corton Methodist Church

SG said the Sensory Garden project has been put on hold as there is a building issue that has to be addressed. On 27th July, a Pet Blessing Service will be taking place on the grass area outside the Chapel.

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

Garden Village

Anglian Water – Smells

Drainage on Tramps Alley (DF)

Diseased Tree on corner of allotments near bungalow (DF)

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

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 6th August 2025 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

SignedChair Date