

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.00pm in the Community Room, Playing Field

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

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

Members of the public – 9

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 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 January meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 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 reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr James Reeder

The Newsletter had been sent to Councillors. Elections will take place on 7th May 2026. This could be Cllr Reeder's penultimate parish council meeting as the Corton Division will amalgamate with the Oulton Division. In May 2027, there will be another round of elections for the new unitary authority. The mayoral elections have been postponed and will be held in 2028.

The Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council (SCC), Nicola Beach has resigned after eight years in the post. SCC have decided that the Deputy Chiefs, Andrew Cook and Mark Ash will jointly cover this position.

BG asked how much all the changes would cost and Councillor Reeder said it would be about a million pounds.

Chair thanked Cllr Reeder for everything he has done during his term in office, but hoped to see him at the next meeting.

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Leaflets about the new bins will be distributed in the next few days. The Green lid will be changed to a brown lid shortly and collections are scheduled to start in June. Cllr Ashdown had sent an email about a grant which had been forwarded to the Chair, who is looking into applying to purchase items for The Pit when the funding starts in April.

Locality funding will be reduced when the changes in SCC take place.

Cllr Ashdown had spoken to Mark Packard (Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management) this morning and his team will give a presentation about the coastal erosion in Corton shortly.

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) **Playing Field**

Recent wet weather temporarily suspended football activities; however, matches resumed last weekend. General maintenance is going ahead, including clearing the ditches and the ivy. Events in the room are continuing as normal.

b) **Speed Sign**

The Street (Jan and Feb) – there were 78,400 vehicles and some high speeds were recorded. The vast majority were within the speed limit. The average speed overall was 23mph.

Blundeston Road – 100,800 vehicles travelled along here during Jan and Feb. Again, only a small number were speeding with the average speed recorded at 24.9mph.

Corton Long Lane - 155,002 vehicles with the average speed working out at 27.4mph.

Friday was the busiest day on all three roads.

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

In the meeting our new secretary Rebecca Morris assumed her position and is currently learning all aspects of the role.

We approved the renewal of our insurance and work that needs to be done on six of the Almshouses.

We updated our application form for new residents, to ensure better clarity on our criteria.

A letter was sent to our local MP Jess Asato regarding National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), particularly as it affects charitable housing providers and almshouses.

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

A resident asked about the Coastal Erosion and what was happening. Cllr Ashdown replied, informing the meeting that Corton is a priority and some maintenance work is taking place at the moment. The Coastal Management Team will be giving a presentation at some stage in the near future, and residents will be able to attend. A discussion took place about the local erosion and coastal management.

The newly laid road outside Broadland Sands is flooding. Clerk to report this on the Suffolk Highways Tool.

8. **Parish Clerk Report**

a) **Finance**

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £8,193.87

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

b) **Payments**

4 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £55.10

Three: Mobile Phone - £10.20

Community Action Suffolk: Website Hosting - £66.00

Clerk's Salary

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

c) **Income**

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

True Network Solutions: Discount - £4.00 (£2.00 on 30th Jan and £2.00 on 2nd March)

Barclays: Interest - £11.74

d) Correspondence (circulated)

East Suffolk – Funding Opportunities and RNLI Water Safety Information Session, Statement of Community Involvement,
Suffolk Connected: Opportunity to quiz the PCC and Chief Constable

9. To note Planning Applications received

DC/26/0304/TPO Proposal: TPO/048/2021 - W1
1no. Sycamore (yellow circle on submitted plan) - Raise crown to 5m from ground level
Site address: Azure Seas Caravan Park, The Street, Corton
Object

10. To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

SP is currently looking into funding for another piece of play equipment that could be added to the current equipment. Cllr Ashdown had a meeting with officers from Sizewell C who would be happy to organise a team to help with the labour and equipment.

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

The drain is now clear and DF explained how it was done. The Parish Council would like to record their thanks to the people involved in clearing the drains, Joan Pinter for her divining skills and to David Fermor, Paul Rogers, Joe Walsh, Roger Thurston and Bill Canham for all their hard work.

12. To discuss the feasibility of having a parking area on The Pit

DF said the big advantage would be for the school. Cllr Ashdown said that East Suffolk are looking to have wardens round more regularly to monitor cars that are parking illegally. SP to look into drawing up a plan.

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

BG explained that a question on Social Media had been raised about setting up a Men's Shed. The first step would be to find out if there is an interest and where this could be set up. SP will put a post on Social Media to ascertain interest.

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

Men's Shed
Maintenance of Hedges in The Cut

15. To agree the proposed date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in April

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 1st April 2026 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.
The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed Chair Date