

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 5th March 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) Sue Groome (SG)

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

Members of the public – 8

1. Welcome by Chair

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

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence

BG was on his way home by train and may attend later.

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 February meeting and Matters Arising

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

Matters Arising

Hedges overgrown in Stirrups Lane – East Suffolk advised that the hedges are the responsibility of the landowner who will be asked to have them cut back.

5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown

Residents should receive letters shortly from East Suffolk about the Council Tax increase for 2025/26. Discussions taking place with the Leader of the Council about when the next elections will take place – could be next year or the year after.

Cllr James Reeder

Cllr Reeder talked about the re-organisation of SCC including Adult Social Care/Services, Mayoral elections and Suffolk Libraries. He also mentioned that cold callers/scammers have been reported around the area.

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

Youth football is going well. The No Waiting Cones and fencing along the edge of the Playing Field seem to be working well in reducing the parked vehicles in Corton Long Lane. MB asked that all dog owners keep their dogs off the children's football areas.

b) Speed Sign

SP had circulated the figures from the new speed indicator device positioned along Corton Long Lane and from the one in The Street.

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

Corton Poor's Land Trust

Twenty-nine tenancy agreements have been signed leaving just three plots vacant. For further details, interested parties are encouraged to email the Secretary at cortonallotments@googlemail.com. Measures will be implemented to monitor beneficiaries receiving home alarms on a six-monthly basis, conducted either by telephone or in person.

Chiropodist services will continue to be offered at the reduced rate for Almshouse residents and recipients of the Christmas benefit.

Additionally, plot holders have been offered free chicken manure.

Corton Almshouse Charity

The pest controller continues monitoring rodent activity in Fowlers Crescent. The Secretary is to attend a one-day course in Norwich, conducted by The Almshouse Association. Energy performance inspections have been conducted at two of the Almshouses bungalows.

The Warden's report has been reviewed for reference, and the recent EICR inspections have identified works that will be prioritised based on their importance. Updates to the Warden Call System are underway in preparation for the transition from analogue to digital.

The next Trustee Meeting will be on Wednesday 12th March 2025

Denise West – Secretary 18th February 2025

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

Question about the proposed multi-purpose court mentioned in the last minutes – was advised that the cost of installing this was too high so was not going ahead. Other play equipment was being looked at. The behaviour of some teenagers on The Pit was discussed.

SP to put together a plan for more play equipment for the Parish Council and members of the public will be consulted. MB asked that parishioners let the Parish Council know if they have any ideas for The Pit.

SP talked about the levelling of the football pitch and was waiting for further information.

8. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £3,302.37 Business Premium Account - £4,638.45
Community Account balance includes the £1,000 legacy from Mr Soanes and £749.17 CIL money leaving a balance of £1,553.20.

b) Payments

3 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £51.78

Barclaycard: Wickes 2 padlocks for Speed Indicators - £18.00

Clerk's Salary

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

c) **Income**

Corton Playing Field Committee: Monthly Contribution for Broadband - £18.00
Barclays: Interest - £16.40

d) **Correspondence**

Report of Fly-tipping at the bridge in Stirrup's Lane
East Suffolk Council: Funding Opportunities } Circulated
East Suffolk Council: Nature at Work Scheme }
Local MP's Office: Corton Beach - Jess Assato will be holding a meeting for local residents in the Community Room. Tickets available from Eventbrite.

9. To note Planning Applications received

Planning reference: DC/25/0598/TPO Proposal: - Reduce crown by 4m, 1no. Eucalyptus - Fell
Replant 1no. Oak or Beech
Site address: 6 Station Road, Corton, Lowestoft - Approve

10. To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

Discussed in the Public Forum.

11. To receive an update on the Corton in Bloom Planter in The Close

One of the planters has been removed. Thanks to DF, GA, PA and Bill Canham.

12. To discuss land promised to the Church by Broadland Sands

MB and the Clerk had contacted Broadland Sands but had not heard anything to date.

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

Vehicles are still causing problems on the bend at the top of Wheatacre Drive. Cllr Reeder said that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is very expensive but, if the Parish Council want to do this, he would put in a formal request. Cllr Reeder and SP agreed to meet to check which areas need parking restrictions, as well as traffic warning signs on the bends in Church Lane and Coast Road and general parking around Corton.

14. To discuss Warning Traffic Signs on the bends in Church Lane and Coast Road

No warning signs are in place on the sharp bends near Church – to be looked at by Cllr Reeder and SP.

15. To discuss parking in Corton

To be included in the above meeting (SP and Cllr Reeder).

16. To discuss a possible sinkhole in The Street/junction of Station Road

Clerk has reported the sinkage on the Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool and Cllr Reeder said he thought this would now be monitored due to the previous repair work. He offered to check if SCC are continuing to monitor.

17. To discuss the feasibility of installing a footpath along Stirrups Lane

There is already a path from the railway bridge inside the hedge along Stirrups Lane. Cllr Reeder and SP to check if there are signs for the footpath at their meeting.

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

CLlr Reeder read out a report from Natural England and a discussion took place. CLlr Reeder will contact Natural England and report back at the next meeting.

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

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

To discuss installing CCTV at Azure Seas.

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

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at 7.30pm in Corton Community Room.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

SignedChair Date

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