

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 6th May 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) Bob Groome (BG)
Sue Groome (SG)

In Attendance: Lynne Pavey (Clerk) Cllr Paul Ashdown

Members of the public – 8

1. Election of Chair for 2026/27 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

BG proposed SP for Chair, seconded by GA, all agreed. SP accepted, signed the Declaration of Office and took the Chair.

2. Election of Vice Chair for 2026/27 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

BG proposed MB for Vice Chair, seconded by GA, all agreed. MB accepted and signed the Declaration of Office.

3. To consider accepting apologies for absence

None.

4. To record declarations of interest and requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests

None declared.

5. To agree/appoint representatives to Committees

The following committee representatives were appointed:-

Finance Committee: Stephen Pavey, Peter Armstrong, Maureen Boughton, Lynne Pavey - Proposed by DF, seconded by GA, all agreed

Playing Field Committee: Maureen Boughton - Proposed by PA, seconded by GA, all agreed.

Corton Poor's Land Trust and Almshouses: Peter Armstrong, Gill Armstrong, Sue Groome - all continue with their four-year term.

6. To confirm appointment of Internal Auditor for 2026/27

PA proposed to ask Mr T Cave to continue as the Internal Auditor for the 2026/27 year, seconded by GA, all agreed.

7. To approve the Minutes of the April meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2026 were recommended for approval, proposed by PA, seconded by DF, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Repair Work at Corton Methodist Church – SG reported that an emergency meeting had been held to discuss repairs/replacement of the church roof. The first quote obtained was for approximately £80,000, two more quotes will be sought. GA asked if we could give the Methodist Church a donation as we do with St Bartholomew's Church. SG said that the church will be looking at raising funds by applying for grants, lottery funding, crowd funding etc. Matter to be added to next month's Agenda.

Use of Government email addresses – three Councillors still not able to log in. Chair and Clerk are available to assist if required.

8. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown – The new waste bins should have been delivered as the new system starts on 1st June. No planning application yet for the new Garden Village. Cllr Ashdown is still waiting for his appointment with Broadland Sands about their Planning Application.

Cllr James Reeder – Annual report received and circulated.

9. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

Carpet and Short Mat Bowls have reduced their sessions from two afternoons to one. This may have to finish as not enough members. There is a Craft Fair booked for the 24th of this month. The Car Boot Sale is going well.

b) Speed Sign

Over the last year, 33 people driving along Corton Long Lane were issued with speeding tickets. SP has contacted SWARCO for a maintenance check on the Speed Indicator Device. SP read out the April report figures on The Street – 1,050 cars per day. Average speed was 20.5mph. Blundeston Road recorded figures for April – 36415 recorded. The vast majority were within the speed limit, the average speed recorded was 26.7mph.

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

The vacant allotments were advertised and, apart from one, have now been rented. Most of the allotments are being worked and looking tidy. The external maintenance, on the bungalows, is almost completed. Two vacant bungalows were advertised, new residents have now been appointed.

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

Speeding along Coast Road and Stirrups Lane – If a crossing is put outside Broadland Sands as planned, the speed limit would be reduced to 40mph along this road. Cllr Ashdown advised the Parish Council to bring it up with the new County Councillor when one is elected tomorrow.
Hedges overgrown along Stirrups Lane – Clerk to report on Suffolk Highways Tool
Noise from cars at night – Chair advised resident to report to Police.
Resident indicated that he knows someone who may be able to help with the Methodist Church roof and was advised to liaise with SG and the Church.
Would the Church consider solar? SG to mention it at the next Church meeting.

11. Parish Clerk Report

a) To review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

The Clerk went through the following AGAR which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- i. Certificate of Exemption
- ii. Annual Internal Audit Report (approved)
- iii. Section 1 Annual Governance Statement
- iv. Section 2 Accounting Statement

SG recommended the AGAR for approval, seconded by BG, all agreed

b) To review the End of Year documents

The Clerk went through the following End of Year Documents which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- i. Bank Reconciliation

- ii. Asset Register
- iii. All items of expenditure over £100
- iv. Explanation of Variances
- v. CIL Expenditure

BG recommended the End of Year documents for approval, seconded by PA, all agreed.

c) To note date of Notice of Public Rights and Publication

Clerk stated that the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return will be displayed on the Website and Noticeboards from 28th May and the financial documents will be available to the public, if required, from Monday, 3rd June to Tuesday, 14th July 2026.

d) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £16,380.05 Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

e) Payments

Four payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £59.14

Three: Mobile Phone - £10.20

L Pavey: Stationery (New Ring Binder & Index Dividers) - £11.78

Clerk's Salary

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

f) Income

East Suffolk Council: Precept - £8,203.34

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

True Network: Mobile Phone Discount - £2.00

g) Correspondence

Alfie Bower: Geological and Archaeological Fieldwork request – Chair read the letter to the meeting. Mr Bower would like permission from the Parish Council to arrange some field work to recover archaeological materials on the beach. Cllr Ashdown advised the Parish Council to consult Karen Thomas at Coastal Management. PA proposed the Parish Council give permission, seconded by BG, all agreed.

East Suffolk Council: Funding Opportunities

Resident re: Overgrown Trees and Hedges on south side of The Pit – this was discussed and Councillors PA, DF and SP will have a look.

12.To note Planning Applications received

None

13.To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

SP had a meeting with a playground designer although nothing has been received yet.

14.To receive an update about setting up a Men's Shed in Corton.

BG has discussed with the Methodist Church about using their land - further discussion has been delayed due to the church roof problem. Cllr Ashdown advised that Planning Permission would be needed for any building or container placed there.

15.To receive an update on the management of hedges in The Cut

It was confirmed that the hedges had been cut back.

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

Methodist Church Roof

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

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The Parish Council would like to send their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Alan Lack who had recently died. Mr Lack had attended many Parish Council meetings and was a valued member of the Community.

Signed Chair Date

