

MINUTES OF CORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 2nd September 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 Cllr Paul Sutton

Members of the public – 12

1. Welcome

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the safety procedures. The Chair and Clerk arrived at this point and gave their apologies. The Chair continued with the meeting.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from 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 August meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2026 were recommended for approval, proposed by DF, seconded by GA, all agreed. They were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

No matters raised.

5. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Paul Ashdown

In the Planning application for 899 houses recently received, changes to Corton Long Lane have also been submitted.

East Suffolk have agreed that tenants who do not maintain their properties to a reasonable level will be dealt with in a more stringent manner, this includes any anti-social behaviour.

The Planning Application for 110 Corton Long Lane was refused.

SP asked about the consultation deadline date of 24th September. Cllr Ashdown said that this would probably be extended but to get the comments about the Outline Planning Application back by 24th.

Cllr Paul Sutton

The parking restrictions near the White Horse/Mill Lane entrance should be installed shortly.

Cllr Sutton will be looking into the outline planning application for the Garden Village.

6. To receive reports from the Committee Representatives

a) Playing Field

The car park has been partially resurfaced. Warners had held a charity football match between Corton and Gunton in aid of Macmillan - Corton won. August has been a quiet month in the hall and not many parties were booked. Waiting for the remaining galvanized fencing on the play

area. Cllr Ashdown said that funding is available for the re-surfacing of the car park.

b) Speed Sign

Speed reports for Corton Long Lane (5th August to 27th August 26) eastbound.

Although some high speeds were recorded, the overall average speed for the month was 27.1 mph with Tuesday being the busiest day, most likely related to the Car Boot Sales.

An average of 2,500 vehicles per day were recorded

43,054 total vehicles recorded, assuming the same number went out of the village, the total vehicles would be in the region of 86,108

Speed Statistics for The Street (5th to 14th August and 24th to 31st August 26) northbound.

Again, some high speeds were recorded but the average speed was 20.0mph with Tuesday being the busiest day. Total vehicles recorded was 14,169 (28,388). The Street has been closed for some days due to road works which would explain why the figures are lower than usual.

GA asked if we could look at having the speed sign further down Corton Long Lane, near Old Lane. SP to meet with GA to apply for the permission that is required before this can be done.

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

No meeting held last month.

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

Parishioner said that he understood there is more money for The Pit and asked what is going to be done with it? SP explained where the new equipment will be installed and that further equipment will be added in the future. Discussion took place about the improvements being made to The Pit.

When will the hedge/bramble cuttings be cleared from The Pit? SP said that it would be sooner rather than later, but no date had been set.

Footpath from the Church to Broadland Sands – Cllr Ashdown said that East Suffolk have put enforcement plans into place, but it is an ongoing matter.

Sign at Stirrups Lane – has been moved back but is still causing problems for vehicles coming out of Stirrups Lane onto the Coast Road. Cllr Sutton will look into this matter and report back.

Hedge on corner of Station Road/Wheatacre Drive is overgrown and is narrowing the walkway along the pavement.

A resident asked about the traffic calming plans in Corton Long Lane, included in the Outline Planning Application for the Garden Village. SP said that legally, speed bumps or raised platforms cannot be installed in a 30mph zone and a discussion followed.

The condition of the bridge on Stirrups Lane is getting worse. Engineer had been out to inspect and said it was okay.

Junction at end of Station Road/The Street, road dropping again – Clerk to report to Suffolk Highways.

8. Parish Clerk Report

a) Finance

Bank Account Balance

Community Account - £31,444.28

Business Premium Account - £4,638.45

SP explained that the balance is high as it includes a Grant for the new equipment which will be installed on The Pit later this month.

b) Payments

8 payments awaiting authorisation:-

BT: Broadband - £59.14

Three: Mobile Phone - £10.80

Mrs G Armstrong: Cork board and materials for Village Noticeboard - £19.99

Mr P Armstrong: Ronseal stain for bench outside School Hall - £35.64

Mr H Smith: Sand down & stain seat and Noticeboard outside School Hall - £180.00

Community Action Suffolk: Renew domain name and 8 mail-boxes - £243.50

Community First: Parish Council Insurance - £367.45

Clerk's Salary

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

c) Income

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

True Network: Mobile Phone Discount - £2.00

d) Correspondence

The majority of correspondence received this month were complaints about the smells from the Sewage works.

9. To note Planning Applications received

DC/26/2316/OUT: Outline application (with all matters reserved except access) for mixed use development including up to 899 dwellings (use class C3); up to 1.6 ha of Adult Care Services (use Class C2); up to 1.52ha of commercial (use Class E(g), B2 and B8); up to 0.6ha for a local centre (use Class E and F2); up to 2.2ha for a primary school and early years facility (use Class F1a); and associated works including public open space, landscaping, Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space, access and infrastructure (phased development).

Site address: Land to the North of Corton Long Lane and East of the A47 Lowestoft

The Parish Council will be opposing the plans.

SP said he had put information on the Parish Council Facebook page and was surprised to read that some people hadn't known about the plans especially as public meetings had been held, leaflets had been distributed to every property in Corton and information had been published in the Village Magazine.

The Planning Application for 110 Corton Long Lane had been refused.

10. Update on the complaints about the smells from the Sewage Works

Clerk had received several complaints about the smells which had been reported to Anglian Water, with copies sent to the Planning Department and Environmental Protection. An email from Anglian Water in July stated that there was an ongoing engineering scheme taking place on site to overhaul the odour control system. Once that work is completed, Anglian Water are confident it will greatly improve the odour issue. However, complaints are still being received.

11. Update on the hedge on the southern side of The Pit.

Volunteers had cut back the brambles and overgrown hedge and the fence had fallen down. Now all

cuttings need to be removed. The matter was discussed and SG proposed that a quote be obtained to clear the debris, seconded by GA, five agreed, one abstained.

12.To receive an update on improvements on The Pit

The second phase of developing the play area should start this month and then Phase 3 will be planned.

13.To receive an update on setting up a Men's Shed in Corton

BG has been working with Warren Low and Robert Soanes on deciding where to site the Men's Shed. GA had a leaflet about a Mobile Men's Shed which may be of interest.

14.To receive an update on repairs needed to Corton Methodist Church roof

The Church will be closing on 21st September. There is a Pet Service being held this week, followed by the Harvest Festival. If the church is still closed for the Remembrance Day Service, the Parish Council will ask to use the School Hall. A concert to raise money for the new roof will be taking place shortly. The last coffee morning raised just over £200. A loan from the Methodist Circuit has been agreed, enabling work on the roof to go ahead.

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

Garden Village
Update on the Playing Field Car Park
Review of Policies

16.To agree the proposed date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in September

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 7th October 2026 at 7.00pm in Corton Community Room.
The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed Chair Date