



CAVENDISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk - C R Turner

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2022

Attendees:

Parish Councillors Malcolm Halliday, Richard Dawkins, Ted Gittins, Danny Rowe, Mark Freeman and Nicky Welch.

District Councillors Nick Clarke and Karen Richardson, County Councillor Bobby Bennett and two members of the public.

Apologies: Chris Turner (Parish Clerk), Parish Councillor Annette Williamott, and District Councillor Marion Rushbrook.

Chair Cllr Halliday welcomed those present and opened the meeting:

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, Councillor Nicky Welch agreed to take the minutes.

Open Forum

Issues from the public: There was a question about “who is responsible for clearing tree and bush debris caused by the recent storm?” It was commented that it would be helpful if parishioners could safely clear twigs and small branches to help keep the village tidy, however, should there be any obstruction on the roads and verges, then they were advised to report these issues to Suffolk County Council Highways Department.

Another question raised was “is there anything being done with regards to the flooding outside Devonshire House Care Home?” This has been reported to Anglian Water as had the issue relating to the pond overflowing.

District Councillor Nick Clarke informed the meeting that an Open Meeting was held on the 26th February 2022 with regards to the expansion of Highpoint Prison. Issues discussed at this meeting included road access and car parking.

D.C's Clarke and Rushbrook stated that there was not a great deal of money left in their locality budgets – total approximately £1,000. If this money wasn't used by the end of March 2022, it will be lost. There was some discussion as to whether it could be made available to pay towards replacing the old speed sign at the west end of the village. The Chair has already sought a quote for a replacement and, as soon as it is received, will apply.

Council Tax bills have now been received by village parishioners.

A report by the District Councillors can be found attached to these minutes.

The Meeting was closed for the Parish Council meeting:

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.
2. **Update on Current Position:** A new First Aid Box has now been purchased and placed within the Memorial Hall.
There are two persons interested with regards to taking responsibility for the orchard when George Hardy resigns in July. Cllr. Freeman to provide contact details of one of those interested. The Clerk has the other person's details.

3. **Financial:**

The Financial Report for Jan/Feb 2022 was accepted and signed by the Chair.

Additional Items for year-end Audit:

1. The Standing Orders and Financial Regulation policies agreed and review dates to be amended. ALL AGREED
2. The Clerk was appointed as the Responsible Financial Officer. ALL AGREED
3. It was noted that the Memorial Hall insurance was up to date and paid on 1st March 2022. The Hall was recently revalued and the reduction in premium reflected the new valuation.
4. The Clerk does not wish to join a pension scheme and the Council has completed a Declaration of Compliance.
5. The Asset Register was reviewed. Councillor Freeman noted the absence of the Orchard on the Register. The Orchard does not belong to the Parish Council, and we pay an annual nominal rent to Havebury Housing. ALL AGREED that the Register could be signed off.
6. The proposal is that SALC should continue as our Internal Auditor. ALL AGREED
7. The Internal Control Statement for year ending March 2022 was approved and signed off. ALL AGREED
8. The Financial Risk Assessment for 2021/22 was approved and signed off. ALL AGREED

As the Clerk has taken on extra responsibility (Memorial Hall bookings) he requested that his hours be increased by 1 hour per week as from April, and, as a result he would only need to claim the statutory tax-free expense allowance of £26.00/month. ALL AGREED. The Clerk's contract of employment will need to be changed accordingly.

The meeting was then opened for County Councillor Bobby Bennett's report.

She announced that she is now 'Cabinet Member for Equalities and Communities' and the Chair congratulated her on her appointment.

She said that the flooding at the top of Peacocks Road had now been cleared.

Flooding to Colts Hall Road appears to be as a result of blocked gulleys. However, it seems that this matter is considered 'low priority'.

Flooding outside of Devonshire House and the pond continues to be ongoing. The advice was to keep on reporting these problems on-line.

She informed the meeting that Cavendish Church has received a grant from the CC to go towards the hosting of the Coffee Caravan.

The Chair informed Cllr Bennett that the last time we installed a speed sign we were provided with funding from the County Councillor's Locality Budget. He said we are again requesting financial contribution towards a new one.

The meeting was then closed.

- 4. Memorial Hall:** The meeting was informed that a builder has now investigated the rotten flooring in the kitchen. He informed us that there was insufficient air circulating under the floor and that the devices to prevent gravel entering the air bricks should be removed. Also, we should remove all gravel in the French drains to one course below the damp proof. This was duly carried out by Barry Welch with the assistance of Cllr Halliday. It will be reviewed over the next month to see whether things improve.

It was noted the Memorial Hall has a full programme of bookings. Cllr Welch requested that a window cleaner be employed to clean the inside and outside of the windows – AGREED.

Cllr Freeman suggested that when a booking was taken for the Hall on a Saturday, the user be informed that parking would be at a premium due to the Sports Field possibly being used by Football or Cricket Clubs. A recent event had been chaotic because of parking issues. The Chair agreed to investigate this.

- 5. Platinum Jubilee:** A proposal to light a Beacon in the village to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was discussed. A gas beacon on the church tower was dismissed due to insurance and H&S issues. A steel basket on a pole was discounted as they are expensive, and it was considered that there was not a safe place for it to be installed. A bonfire beacon on the green was also discounted. Cllr Freeman said that the church had provisionally agreed to electric lights on the tower. Cavendish Illuminators to be approached before the next meeting.

Cllr Dawkins to explore the cost of commemorative coins (50p or £2.00) or medals being presented to the children from the village two schools.

Commemorative trees planted on the village green was also suggested. Councillors Halliday to investigate.

All proposals to be costed and presented at the next meeting.

- 6. Planning:** One new application, a TPO. Discussion around a recent application where the Parish Council had made a comment, but no objection, had gone to 'delegation'. Responses to Planning Applications attached to these minutes

7. **Reports by Councillors:** Cllr Freeman suggested we earn revenue from advertising local businesses on the website and linking the Village Magazine's advertising. This may require further thought and investigation around financial gain. Cllr Gittins enquired where we were with regards to the West Suffolk Local Plan. District Councillor Clarke said it remains in consultation.
8. **Report by the Chair:** A large branch from a tree in the Memorial Hall fell on a power line during the recent storm. This brought down a pole which then fell onto a neighbouring property. However, given the pole was rotten there should be no financial implications to the Council. We are currently awaiting a tree surgeon to visit and remove the debris. Barry Welch has agreed to redecorate the Memorial Hall kitchen.
9. **Policies of the Council:** All Parish Council Policy Documents are on our website; all councillors were advised to review and comment. ALL AGREED that they can be retained in their present form with no amendments required and review dates amended if appropriate.
10. **Highways:** There are still ongoing issues between Essex CC and Suffolk CC with regards to implementing the ETRO. We will continue to support Clare Town Council in the initiative to reduce HGVs on the A1092.

All Councillors present supported replacing the western speed sign and we will pursue funding from County and District Councils once a quote has been received.

It was agreed to form a Highways Sub-Committee, chaired by Cllr Freeman, to deal with traffic and parking issues within the village. Cllrs Dawkins and Halliday also agreed to be on the new committee.

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:

Annual Meeting – 11th May 2022

Annual Parish Meeting – 25th May 2022 (Subject to availability)

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Payments made for the period to 28th Feb 2022.

11/01/22	J Murcott Dec 21 Hall Clean	3018	97.70
ditto	D Kirkman Inv9/10	3019	189.00
16/01/22	SARs donation	3020	50.00
ditto	Waste collection Village	d/d	50.13
ditto	ditto Allotments	d/d	30.82
19/01/22	ditto Cemetery	d/d	25.02
22/01/22	Paint etc re Hall	3021	27.98
ditto	C Turner-Wages Jan 22	3022	469.40
26/01/22	D Kirkman Inv 11/12	3023	197.82
ditto	PPL/PRS re Hall	3024	360.30
31/01/22	Chubb re Hall	d/d	19.74
03/02/22	Stamps/Stationery	3025	85.00
05/02/22	D Kirkman Inv 13/14	3026	254.00
18/02/22	J Murcott Jan22 Hall cleaning	3027	99.59
ditto	Hall Kitchen/Alarm/toilet bits	3028	30.83
21/02/22	D Kirkman Inv 15/16	3029	189.00
28/02/22	B. Gas-Mem Hall	d/d	479.83
ditto	Microsoft office sub	3030	79.99
ditto	C Turner-Wages Feb 22	3031	469.60
28/02/22	Chubb re Hall	d/d	19.74
	Total		3225.49

**Response by Cavendish Parish Council
to West Suffolk Council Planning Applications – March 2022**

DC/22/0259/TPO – Tree preservation order – Nine Beech reduce crown height and spread – Land rear of Manor Cottages, The Green, Cavendish

No Objection.

DC/21/2237/HH – Householder planning application – pergola to front of property - Church Farm Barn, Peacocks Road, Cavendish

No objection, but we commented: ‘The pergola will be seen through the entrance gate to the property and further reduces the visual and former functional connection between these two heritage sites. We suggest that the pergola be set back to be in line with the neighbouring Church Farm outbuilding to retain the openness of the former farmyard.

Application has now been Delegated

Report by District Councillors

Joint report from Nick Clarke, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook, West Suffolk Councillors for Clare, Hundon and Kedington Ward.

The council's year end is 31 March 2022 so not too much to report. A lot of work has gone into getting the budget set for 2022/23.

Locality budgets

Our annual locality budget is due to finish 31 March 2022, but we need to have the details submitted to our locality officer by 15 March. We can take some funds over but if we do not spend a certain amount, we will lose it. Please contact us as soon as you can if you have any requests, many of the local parish/town councils are using the funds for their Jubilee celebrations.

Council Tax

The annual budget was passed at a Council meeting on 22 February to help West Suffolk be greener, healthier and more prosperous area to live.

Residents in West [Suffolk](#) will see their council tax rise by £11.52. Homes in band D, (which represents the national average cost of homes) will pay £1.71 (for former St Edmundsbury Borough Council residents). Most homes will pay less however as the majority in the district are in bands A-C

[More than £450,000 to be invested into community projects](#)

A Community Chest investment of more than £450,000 into the work of charities and voluntary groups across West Suffolk has been agreed by the Council's Cabinet.

The Council's Grant Working Party recommended 30 projects and organisations receive funding, offering residents in West Suffolk help with their health and wellbeing, family support as well as counselling and specialist services. Advice and advocacy services, projects designed to help build confidence and skills in young people, community activities, and support groups and support services have also been put forward for funding.

West Suffolk Council's Cabinet agreed the recommendations of the Grant Working Party when it met on 8 February.

An example of how the funding is used - Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre is working with Haverhill Town Council and other partners to deliver The Freedom Programme, they received £16,225 in funding from WSC. The project should be running by May and will provide a weekly coffee morning and creche. Recorded domestic abuse offences has nearly doubled in Suffolk in the last 5 years figures up from 5,122 to 9,700.

Levelling up

Suffolk, with eight other county areas has been offered the opportunity for a County Deal as part of the levelling up, more detail on www.gov.uk.

This follows on from last year when Suffolk County, district, and borough councils, in partnership expressed an interest to Government to take this forward.

Suffolk is recognised as a forward-thinking area in this respect, the 'Suffolk System' of working is already collaborative and indeed was one of the main reasons our COVID-19 response has been so good.

Funding

West Suffolk Council has opened applications to the Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) We have been allocated a little over £4m for the scheme which is for businesses who have been affected by COVID-19 but have not so far been eligible for any of the other business rates relief given to retail, hospitality, leisure and childcare nurseries. Applications close 15 March 2022. For further details visit www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/c19business

Applications for Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) for hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses in the business rates systems and [Additional Restrictions Grant \(ARG\) to help some types of businesses, including those outside of the business rates system, who do not qualify for OHLG](#) are now closed.