

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7-30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on Tuesday, April 15th 2025.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. R. Chase (Chair), Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chair) (Left the Meeting between 8-07pm and 8-26pm), Cllr. L. Andrews, Cllr. J. Lewis, Cllr. Z. Mair, Cllr. M. Porter, Cllr. A. Thomas and Cllr. J. Winter.

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and District Cllr. J. Ewart (Arrived at 7-53pm and Left 8-10pm).

Two observers were also at the meeting (Left 7-37pm).

1) Apologies:

Cllr. J. Henson gave her apologies which was accepted by the Councillors.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes gave his apologies.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. J. Lewis declared an interest in Suffolk County Council.

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter declared an interest in the Walpole and Cookley Playing Fields Trust.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:

There were written reports from County Cllr. S. Burroughes and District Cllr. J. Ewart. County Cllr. S. Burroughes was not at the meeting.

This Item was further discussed after Item 9.

Item No. 11 was considered at this point of the meeting.

Proposal: Conversion of an existing threshing barn with associated buildings to form one new residential dwelling.

Address: Rockstone Manor Farm, Rockstone Lane, Cookley, Suffolk.

Ref: DC/25/1163/FUL

The observers gave their reasons for making the planning application and answered Councillors' questions.

Cllr. J. Ewart reported that the East Suffolk Council Northern Planning Committee were making a visit as part of a planning application near to Cookley and Walpole Parishes at the end of April and the Committee would be further discussing it at their next meeting in May. She said that she believed that East Suffolk Council should differentiate planning applications into minor and major cases.

10) Walpole Old Chapel:

Cllr. A. Thomas presented a written report from the Secretary of the Friends of Walpole Old Chapel. Item 2 invited councillors to participate in two planned 'hard hat' tours on dates still to be confirmed. Item 7 asked the Parish Council for specific and practical support and Cllr. R. Chase said that he would work with the Friends of the Walpole Old Chapel to look at how the Parish Council could give specific and practical support to the Walpole Old Chapel.

11) Planning Matters:

Proposal: Conversion of an existing threshing barn with associated buildings to form one new residential dwelling.

Address: Rockstone Manor Farm, Rockstone Lane, Cookley, Suffolk.

Ref: DC/25/1163/FUL

This Item was discussed after Item 4.

12) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk reported that East Suffolk Council had asked Town and Parish Councils if they wanted to look at changing the number of councillors on their councils. After some discussion, councillors concluded that no changes were necessary. The Clerk said that East Suffolk Council had also asked if there was land was available for any small affordable housing developments within the parishes. After some discussion, councillors asked the Clerk to notify East Suffolk Council that perhaps up to three dwellings could be provided in Walpole.

The Clerk reported that Essex and Suffolk Water had contacted the council regarding their Suffolk Water Supply Project and that Sizewell C and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils had also sent information.

13) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on April 7th 2025:

Business Community Account	£5870-64
Business Savings Account	£11 380-74

b) Payments and Receipts:

SO	Will Austin Contract – March 2025	£220-00
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Internet Banking	Clerk's Salary for January until June 2025	£1176-24
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for October until Dec. 2024	£43-75
Internet Banking	Clerk's Expenses for January until March 2025	£43-75
Internet Banking	Community Heartbeat 2025-2026	£162-00

At the end of March 2025 the Community Account had £5870-64 in it and the Premium Account £11380-74 totalling £17251-38. Therefore, reconciled amount in the Bank Accounts is £17251-38.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Thomas:

e) **To agree to a 'Limited Assurance Review' or to complete a 'Certificate of Exemption':**

It was agreed to complete a 'Certificate of Exemption' Form.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Thomas:

15) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:

Footpaths:

It was reported that a tree had fallen on to a footpath and had been removed. It was also noted that footpaths were well-used and there was wire-netting on all the bridges.

Trees:

There was no report.

Cemetery:

The Clerk reported that there were two burials planned over the next few weeks.

Allotments:

There was no report.

16) To receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting:

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting would take place on Tuesday, May 20th 2025.

The Meeting ended at 9pm.