

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Leggett (Vice-Chair); Cllr. J. Henson; Cllr. Z. Mair; Cllr. M. Porter; Cllr. A. Thomas and Cllr. J. Winter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); District Cllr. J. Ewart (Arrived 7-37pm) and two observers (Left 7-38pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. R. Chase (Chair), Cllr. L. Andrews and Cllr. J. Lewis gave their apologies which were accepted by the Councillors.

County Cllr. S. Burroughes gave his apologies.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

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

Cllr. J. Henson declared an interest in the Allotments, Neave Close and the Pear Tree Centre.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

Agenda Item 11 was considered at this point of the meeting.

Proposal: *New driveway/crossover and hard standing for parking*

Address: *5 Peasenhall Road, Walpole, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 9BG*

Ref: *DC/25/2319/FUL*

Councillors discussed the planning application and the observers answered their questions.

The Parish Council approved this planning application.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. J. Winter:

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

District Cllr. J. Ewart said that Parish Councils should note that a planning application refused a few years ago and opposed by the Parish Council could now be permitted owing to planning changes. She also noted some other issues in planning.

District Cllr. J. Ewart urged councillors to reply to the questionnaire about the future unitary councils. She explained that Suffolk County Council were proposing one council for the whole of Suffolk whilst the District Councils were supporting three unitary councils for the county. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she believed that if one unitary council was adopted, each councillor would represent areas that were too large. Councillors discussed the future of planning in the new unitary council(s).

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that she had replied to the Sea Link Questionnaire. She also said that there needed to be more ambition in providing more roads and amenities including the crossroads in Saxmundham.

5) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 17th 2025:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 17th 2025 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Leggett:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Thomas:

7) Highways:

Cllr. M. Porter reported that white lines had been painted on the Peasenhall Road and there was some discussion regarding the appearance of blue paint on the road and potholes.

District Cllr. J. Ewart reported that the 20's Plenty Proposal had not been adopted by East Suffolk Council.

8) Cemetery Gatepost:

The Clerk said that he had been made aware that a Cemetery Gate Post was rotten and the gate was difficult to open. Cllr. C. Leggett said that he had bought a spur to attach to the post that had stabilised it and the cost of the materials was £29-49.

9) Training:

Cllr. Z. Mair reported that she was organising the First Aid Course for September or October and was awaiting dates from the trainers. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that she could provide some money for event.

10) Buildings at Risk:

It was reported that East Suffolk Council had confirmed that they would not be taking any action unless there is good reason to do so.

11) Planning Matters:

Proposal: *New driveway/crossover and hard standing for parking*

Address: *5 Peasenhall Road, Walpole, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 9BG*

Ref: *DC/25/2319/FUL*

This Agenda Item was considered after Agenda Item 3.

12) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk reported that he had been received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter' and a letter from St. Elizabeth Hospice. He said that UK Power Networks Contractors had contacted the Parish Council regarding cutting back the trees away from the power lines on the Village Green and the Playing Field. The Clerk said that the Walpole and Cookley Playing Field Trust had been consulted regarding the Playing Field and the UK Power Networks Contractors had agreed to take away the debris.

The Clerk said that East Suffolk Council Planning Department was holding a Planning Forum on July 16th and 23rd with a special focus on Trees and Hedgerows. Cllr. Mair confirmed that she would be attending the event.

The Clerk reported that the organisers of the Emergency Planning Workshops had asked for a follow up and the Parish Council had been asked if there were any Emergency Bleed Control Kits in Walpole and Cookley. He said that SALC was holding an Employment Corner for Clerks and Councillors and East Suffolk Council were asking Councillors to take part in a Planning Questionnaire on the future of the area.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council Website had moved to a gov.uk website and the old website address now directed you there. He said that he would now be working on transferring the email address. The Clerk noted that there had been a clarification of the law so it was agreed to discuss a donation to the Walpole Chapel at the Parish Council Meeting in September. District Cllr. J. Ewart said that there was a grant available for Village Halls.

13) Financial Report:

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

Business Community Account	£8 491-41
Business Savings Account	£11 418-55

b) Payments and Receipts:

SO	Maintenance Contract – July 2025	£220-00
SO	Maintenance Contract – August 2025	£220-00
SO	Maintenance Contract – September 2025	£220-00
Internet Banking	Clerk's Salary for April until June 2025	£1176-24
Internet Banking	Cllr. C. Leggett Reimbursement – Cemetery Post	£29-49

The Financial Report was accepted.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:

Secunder: Cllr. J. Henson:

14) To receive reports and to agree matters regarding:

Footpaths;

There was no report.

Trees;

There was no report.

Cemetery;

There was no report.

Allotments;

There was no report.

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

It was agreed for a Donation to the Walpole Chapel to be on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 16th 2025.

It was noted that there would be a litter picking event between 10am and Noon on Sunday, November 2nd 2025.

The Meeting ended at 8-44pm.