



Cookley and Walpole Parish Council



## **Minutes of the Parish Council held at 7:30pm at the Pavilion, Walpole on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Present:** Cllr R Chase (Chair), Cllr Z Mair, Cllr Henson, Cllr Winter, Cllr Thomas **Also in attendance:** District Councillor Ewart (8.09pm)

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs: Leggett, Porter, Travers, Lewis and Andrews. **Also received:** County Councillor Stephen Burroughes

The Clerk was absent from this meeting

**2. To receive Declarations of Interest: Councillors to declare any Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests. Members may subsequently declare an interest at any point in the meeting:** Cllrs Mair is part of Walpole and Cookley Playing Field Trust.

**3. Requests for dispensations:** No requests for dispensation.

**4. Public Session:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

**5. To receive a report from the District Councillor, Julia Ewart (8.09pm):** A comprehensive overview on the recent decision by Government to choose a three-tier 'Unitary Council' for Suffolk, not a Single Unitary Council. District Councillor Ewart suggested we might be able to engage the services of Richard Green (Yoxford resident) as a conduit to get old Parish Council files transferred from Paul Widdowson's computer to C&W Parish Council's new laptop.

**6. Public Session:** No members of the public were present.

**7. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council** Carried forward

**8. Matters arising from November meeting:**

a) **Training.** Cllr Mair reported that the First Aid Course she had organized had to be cancelled, due to lack of uptake. A future Course is to be organized, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring villages. A date in late July or early September to be proposed. Course to be held at Pavilion. Cllr Chase has kept the out-of-date Defibrillator pads for the occasion!

b) **Data Transfer** from Paul Widdowson (previous Clerk) to Tina Newby (current Clerk) has still to be carried out. This has not happened due to Tina being indisposed. **Richard Green** (of Yoxford) was suggested as possible conduit to transfer all Parish files to new Parish laptop.

**9. Will Austin (Groundsman) Contract.** Confirmed for the next two years.

**10. Anglia Water Sewage Outflow:** Councillor Chase to seek volunteers to monitor the water quality of the River Blythe in Walpole.

**11. Village School Building:** Councillor Leggett confirmed there was no news, other than Clarke & Simpson Estate Agency were possibly in discussion with a possible buyer.

**12. Neave Close:** Discussed contents of letter from Flagship Housing regarding on-going wait for County Planning Office to give go-ahead for development **DC/25/4933/FUL**. Councillor Chase communicated with Flagship that the

original development had always been with the proviso that Neave Close should be offered to those with village connections.

**13. Planning Matters:** Councillors discussed **Planning Application No DC/26/0958/CON** for upgrade of power to farm buildings. No objections were raised.

**14. Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:** As our Clerk was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health, there was nothing to report.

**15. Financial Report:** As our Clerk was unable to attend due to ill health, there was nothing to report.

**16. Footpaths; Trees; Cemetery and Allotments:** There were no matters arising. Councillor Hansen reported that the Allotments were

**The Meeting closed at 8.30pm**