

Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 8th October 2024, 7.00pm
at the Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock

Present: Cllr A Ward (Chair), Cllr L Butters (Vice-chair), Cllr D Tyrrell

In Attendance: Mrs S Frankis, Parish Clerk & RFO
District Cllr, Dave Busby
District Cllr, John Whyman
4 Members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Cllr A Ward.

2702/2425 APOLOGIES: to RECEIVE and APPROVE Apologies for Absence

The Council resolved to accept the apologies received from Cllr S Downey, for his absence due to work commitments, and from Cllr M Green, for his absence due to a personal commitment.

2703/2425 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: to RECEIVE any Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

2704/2425 DISPENSATIONS: to APPROVE any Requests for Dispensations

No requests for dispensations were received.

The meeting was adjourned.

2705/2425

(i) To RECEIVE Comments from Residents of the Parish on Current Agenda Items

Members of the public advised that Whights Corner is becoming a lorry park area, with HGV's parking up and some leaving their trailers. Cllr Ward agreed to take advice on the matter.

ACTION: Cllr Ward agreed for the Council to make some enquiries on what, if anything, can be done on the matter.

District Cllr D Busby arrived at the meeting.

(ii) To RECEIVE Reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Ward advised that the Brockley Wood planning application is out for re-consultation. The Parish Council is totally dissatisfied with the submission deadline of 19th October 2024; a submission extension was requested two weeks ago but to date no response has been received from Suffolk County Council. A further request was made today. The Parish Council is extremely unhappy with the apparent aggressive timescale being driven by the County Council to determine the application.

Cllr Ward asked Cllr Busby what Babergh District Council, as statutory consultees, are doing with regards to their submission; Cllr Busby is of the understanding that Babergh District Council is currently working to the deadline of 19th October 2024.

ACTION: Cllr Busby is to ascertain the position of Babergh District Council and will update the Parish Council accordingly.

District Cllr J Whyman arrived at the meeting.

A report had been received from Cllr Whyman prior to the meeting and circulated to the Council.

Cllr Ward referred to the confirmation from Babergh District Council's Planning Department that the Government's revised target for new homes in the district is 763 dwellings per year (from 416) – an increase of 83% on current targets, and asked if this is accurate and what this will mean for the JLP Part 2 process and the current housing requirement for 2018-37 (which had been nil for Mid Suffolk and 1100 for Babergh in total).

Cllr Busby advised that permissions will be target driven rather than those being built; the planning authority can't enforce a permission coming to development but rather can meet the target by granting permissions.

Cllr Ward highlighted that in proposed changes to the NPPF, the Government has retained a planning policy that gives increased importance to recent Neighbourhood Plans even when there is a problem delivering sufficient housing in an area. If Copdock & Washbrook's Neighbourhood Plan – which does not allocate any sites for development – is adopted at referendum, the Parish Council will expect BMSDC to respect this through the JLP Part 2 process and look to elected members to support it in this position.

ACTION: Cllr Whyman is seeking to obtain the definition on how the NPPF sits with the JLP Part 2, from Babergh officers and will update the Parish Council accordingly.

No report from Cllr Hudson had been received.

The meeting was reconvened.

2706/2425 COPDOCK & WASHBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: to AGREE any Actions

The Neighbourhood Plan, which does not allocate any sites for proposed development, is currently with the External Examiner. The Parish Council is aware that one of the associated documents submitted – Design Guidelines for any new housing – does make reference to sites previously allocated in the previous plan rejected at referendum. Despite the document making it clear that such references should be ignored, it has caused some confusion amongst a few residents. The Council has taken advise on identifying a way in which the Design Guidelines might be amended and have been advised that AECOM (authors of the report) are seeking funding from Locality (the Government organisation that provides parishes with funding to develop NPs) in order to make the changes. However, the Government is taking forever to agree funding decisions of this nature. Councillors expressed a desire to have the necessary changes made so as to clear up any confusion but also not to allow the Examination of the Plan to be delayed indefinitely.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the changes themselves, if costing up to £1k, in order to speed-up the process, rather than continuing to wait for Government funding which would mean asking for the External Examination to be suspended. The Parish Council agreed that if any

suspension is ultimately required, it should not exceed one month as it is paramount the Copdock and Washbrook Neighbourhood Plan moves forward for referendum and adoption before such time that the Babergh JLP Part 2 is finalised.

ACTION: Cllr Ward is to enquire as to how quickly a funding decision from Locality can be made what the likely cost would be to make the changes if funded by the PC.

2707/2425 MINUTES: to RECEIVE and CONFIRM the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2024, having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting; the minutes were duly signed by Cllr Ward.

2708/2425 MATTERS ARISING: to CONSIDER Matters Arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2024

Minute no. 2690(iii)/2425 – Cllrs Ward, Butters, Downey and the Clerk are due to meet on 15th October 2024, to consider the 2025/26 budget and precept.

Minute no. 2691/2425 – the Clerk is waiting for a response from Babergh District Council that the inspection of the swing and seesaw at the Playing Field can be included with one of the other areas.

ACTION: The Clerk is to chase Babergh DC for a response.

2709/2425 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

(i) SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS: to Approve the Schedule of Payments for October 2024

Payments were approved as listed below.

No.	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
P59	Tesco Mobile	Clerk's phone	7.50	1.50	9.00
P60	Suffolk County Council	Allotment rent	25.00	0.00	25.00
P61	Mrs S Frankis	Home Broadband	15.00	0.00	15.00
P62	Moser Groundcare	Grass cutting	795.00	159.00	954.00
P63	Suffolk County Council	Allotment rent	141.00	0.00	141.00
P64	SALC	Training	102.00	20.40	122.40
P65	Mrs S Frankis	Salary	802.23	0.00	802.23
P66	HMRC	PAYE	6.10	0.00	6.10
P67	Lloyds Bank	Corporate card	28.36	5.08	33.44
P68	Lloyds Bank	Corporate card	139.90	27.39	167.29

(ii) BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT: to AGREE the September 2024 Budget and Finance Report, including the Bank Balance

The September 2024 Budget and Finance Report and the Cash Book had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting and were agreed. Cllr Butters verified the bank balances totalling £133,815.26.

(iii) VAT RECLAIM

The Council unanimously agreed the VAT reclaim of £915.97.

(iv) BUDGET HEADING VIREMENTS

The Council unanimously agreed to vire £33.95 from 2024/25 precept budget heading

'Insurance' to budget heading 'Professional Fees' and to vire £45.35 from budget heading 'Insurance' to budget heading 'Subscriptions'.

2710/2425 CLERK'S REPORT: to RECEIVE the Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

2711/2425 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

The Planning Schedule for September 2024 had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

(i) DC/24/04049

Planning Application – erection of a floodlit padel court.

Copdock and Washbrook Tennis Club, Old London Road, Copdock

The Parish Council agreed to submit a comment of support for the proposal.

DC/24/04111

Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for W/9680 dated 31/05/1972 for the variation or removal of Condition 7 (Agricultural worker's occupational condition) following approved CLEUD.

Meadow End, Chattisham Road, Copdock and Washbrook, IP8 3HB

The Council agreed to submit a comment of no objection; the Council recorded its decision was relevant to this property only and that it wouldn't set a precedent going forward.

SCC/0105/22B

Extraction, processing and sale of sand and gravel, processing of inert waste materials with associated plant and related sales, access works, phased restoration using inert recovered materials and aftercare plan.

Brockley Wood, Land Off A12, Belstead, IP8 3JS

The Parish Council is charged with submitting a response by 19th October 2024 however an extension to the submission deadline has been requested.

Cllr Ward advised he will draft a response in line with the previous submission and his presentation to the SCC Planning Committee and circulate this to the Council for comments, with a mind that it be ready for submission for 19th October 2024.

ACTION: Cllr Ward is to draft a response to planning application SCC/0105/22B and circulate it to the Council for comment.

DC/24/04191

Erection of single storey rear extension (following demolition of conservatory)

Coachmans, Elm Lane, Copdock, IP8 3ET

The Council agreed to submit a comment of no objection.

DC/24/03446

External works to landscape, construction of paved seating area and walkway. Erection of gazebo. Hall Farm, Church Lane, Copdock, IP8 3JZ

The Council noted the comments of the SCC PRoW team and the Ipswich Ramblers Group and agreed to support those comments, agreeing that the PRoW should remain accessible at all times.

(ii) DECISION NOTICES: to RECEIVE any Decision Notices published by Babergh District Council since the last meeting

Planning applications DC/24/03593 and DC/24/03573 had been granted since the last meeting.

2712/2425 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: to AGREE Actions as Required

There were no updates.

ACTION: Cllrs Green and Downey are to look at (i) moving the parish council email addresses away from Stackmail and (ii) registering the domain name.

2713/2425 COMMUNITY SPEED MANAGEMENT

(i) COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME: to AGREE Actions as Required

Cllr Tyrrell advised that the eighth member is about to be signed up and that a WhatsApp group has been established.

It was agreed there was no longer a need to keep this as a regular agenda item going forward.

(ii) 20'S PLENTY : to AGREE Actions as Required

Cllr Tyrrell advised she had asked County Cllr Hudson to complete and submit the application form but was concerned there may have been some confusion as to what he was being asked to do.

ACTION: Cllr Tyrrell is to telephone Cllr Hudson. Cllr Busby is to contact Cllr Hudson.

(iii) SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (S.I.D.): to AGREE Actions as Required

Cllr Tyrrell advised she has sought two quotes for two no. S.I.D units and associated equipment.

The Council unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Elan City for 2 no. S.I.D. units at a total cost of £4, 679.98. £3k of the total cost will be funded by the grant received from County Cllr Hudson; the remainder will be met from the Council's general reserve funds.

The Council agreed a budget of up to £100 for jubilee clips and padlocks.

ACTION: The Clerk is to place an order for 2 no. S.I.D.s

ACTION: Cllr Tyrrell is to arrange for 2 no. S.I.D.s to be installed.

District Cllr Busby left the meeting.

2714/2425 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS & DRAINAGE UPDATES

Cllr Ward has been liaising with Paul West, Suffolk County Council (SCC) Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding on a number of problems.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW): following the poor performance of the SCC contractor, Great Oak, over the last two years, SCC will be appointing a new contractor for 2025.

Old London Road Verge Cutting: Mr West has advised that the central reservation of the Old London Road and the roadside verge on the northbound carriageway will be cut twice a year as a 'special circumstance'; anywhere else within the parish will continue to be cut once a year as standard. Mr West is hoping to secure funding for the Old London Road footpath to be reclaimed.

Blocked Gully, Old London Road: the Highways Assessment Team has found a blockage in the pipe, about 10m downstream from the gully; a client' jetter' brief has been sent through to the SCC Drainage team to undertake the investigation works.

Flood Water, The Street: SCC has established that the water is coming from a blocked ditch which they have asked the property owner to clear. SCC will undertake a reinspection on 18th October 2024. If the work remains outstanding, then enforcement proceedings will be instigated.

The Brook, Jubilee Meadow: This section of the Brook is partially blocked by fallen trees etc. SCC confirm that this part of the Brook is owned corporately by SCC through the County Farms Estate and have provided a contact name for the matter to be addressed.

ACTION : Councillor Ward to progress.

2715/2425 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME UPDATE

Suffolk County Council has advised they will be bringing their consultation process back to where they had originally indicated, to autumn 2024. The Parish Council unanimously expressed a wish for the consultation process to be as wide and as thorough as possible and to ask the SCC team responsible to confirm that this will include a mail drop to every household and a drop-in session at the Village Hall.

The Parish Council also re-iterated its position that, whilst it is supportive in principle of attempts to make the Old London Road safer, this is a Suffolk County Council led initiative in which the Parish Council is a consultee only.

2716/2425 WHIGHTS CORNER

Cllr Ward advised that Suffolk County Council has approved the installation of CCTV camera(s) on their streetlight column(s). Babergh District Council has offered to fund the deployment of a CCTV camera on Whights Corner for three months; the camera is due to be installed within the next two weeks. The funding has been secured via the Governments 'Safer Streets' initiative.

The guidance to residents will be to continue to call '999' if there are any incidents, and to continue to submit reports to Babergh District Council.

The Council expressed its thanks to Peter Watson, of Babergh District Council and Luke Porter, of Suffolk County Council for their help with the project.

ACTION: The Clerk is to write to the Whight's Corner residents with guidance for going forward.

2717/2425 DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

A parishioner had approached the Parish Council to suggest that updated training be offered for the use of the defibrillators. The Council agreed this would be good practice and to engage with the sports clubs and village hall.

ACTION: The Clerk is to research training options and to contact the sports clubs and village hall to establish their likely interest in the opportunity.

2718/2425 PLAYING FIELD USE DISCLAIMER

The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the disclaimer for the use of the playing field by hirers of the village hall, as circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the adopted Playing Field Use Disclaimer to the Village Hall, and to ask them to issue it alongside their own hiring agreement forms to hirers.

2719/2425 NEXT MEETING: to CONFIRM the Date and Time of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is to be held on 5th November 2024 at the Village Hall, Copdock at 7pm.

2720/2425 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr Butters advised of a parishioner who had reported the damaged gaps of the central reservation of the Old London Road to Suffolk County Council, via their online reporting tool. The SCC response was to establish the views of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is trying to enable parishioners to take responsibility for their village by reporting these types of problems themselves, via the County Council platform, yet the County Council are 'passing the buck' by telling people to take up highways matters with their parish council. A parish

council has no powers to deal with highways matters; the Parish Council felt that the County Council response is not being helpful.

2721/2425 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no items.

The meeting closed at 20:48.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

2705/2425

(i) To RECEIVE Comments from Residents of the Parish on Current Agenda Items

ACTION: Cllr Ward agreed for the Council to make some enquiries on what, if anything, can be done on the matter.

(ii) To RECEIVE Reports from the County and District Councillors

ACTION: Cllr Busby is to ascertain the position of Babergh District Council and will update the Parish Council accordingly.

ACTION: Cllr Whyman is seeking to obtain the definition on how the NPPF sits with the JLP Part 2, from Babergh officers and will update the Parish Council accordingly.

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The Brook, Jubilee Meadow

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Mrs S Frankis, Parish Clerk & RFO to Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council

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