

# Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 7.30pm,  
Church Room, Washbrook

**Present:** Chairman Keith Armes, Vice Chairman Mike Watling, County Cllr Dave Busby, District Cllr Nick Ridley, District Cllr Barry Gasper, Cllr Tina Sutters, Cllr Terry Corner, Cllr Laura Butters, 2x residents, Clerk.

**1306/1617 Welcome and Apologies:** Chairman Keith Armes opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Apologies: Cllr Chris Coupland, Cllr Peter Jones

**1307/1617 Declaration of Interest:** None

**1308/1617 Minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on 10 January 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

**1309/1617 Clerks Report inc. Matters Arising** – as below.

**Environmental management** - the work at Mill Lane play area is complete with the metal gate now fitted; Fen View play area - the new matting has been laid under the slide, contractor awaiting new bolts to be delivered so they can be fitted, then work at this site also complete.

**Motorcycle barriers** - await CC Dave Busbys report.

**Planning appeal** - the PC has received notification of an appeal for planning application no. B/16/01104 Coachmans, Elm Lane, C&W IP8 3ET.

**Councillor vacancy** - The Council has been approached by an interested party. They can be co-opted later on in this meeting.

**WW1 Beacons of Light** - the PC has received an email from SALC regarding the lighting of beacons on 11th November 2018 to pay tribute to the ending of WW1. The information has been passed onto the VC Celebration working group. I have received emails from various clerks regarding this and have information from Bullfinch Gas Equipment that they can supply a gas beacon £360+VAT, plus gas bottles.

**Register of Interest forms** - Babergh DC have apparently no R of I forms for C&W Councillors on record, despite having been sent twice. So, they need to be completed again by everyone. This can be carried out online, once I have registered everyone. All Parish Councillors will be sent a link from the Babergh, please click on this, complete the form and submit to Babergh. You should receive the link within the next 2-3 weeks.

**Police** - Mike Watling attends the Police Forum monthly meetings, and was wondering if any Neighbourhood Watch volunteers would also like to attend.

**Village Directory** - no progress.

**1310/1617 Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 19.36pm

**CC Dave Busby:** No increase in general pre-cept, use reserves. Sizewell consultation report complete. Motorcycle barriers on footpath entrances near Whights Corner, met with John Simpson, SCC who felt this was not the right solution, 2 mopeds, who are vulnerable road users, passed through the area whilst there, also frequently used by pedestrians and wheelchair users. Thought the best solution would be to make the clearway a single carriageway road.

**DC Nick Ridley:** Endeavour House move to be August/September this year. Babergh DC setting up a property investment company, NR & DB will be directors. Government will stop the drawing down of cheap money, therefore revenue will be slashed.

**DC Barry Gasper:** Budget to be scrutinised, income from investment company welcome. Need to make savings in public realm.

Reconvened 19.53hrs.

### **1311/1617 Planning:**

None.

### **1312/1617 Financial Matters & RFO Report:**

- a) Payments for approval. KA & TS recommended approval for payments.
- b) Pledge for C&W Cricket club - extension work - TS & LB proposed and seconded approval, agreed by full Council.

### **RFO Report**

The Parish Council's budget position is in order, with all spending within the current financial year budget except for Environmental Management which currently has an overspend of £1,150; also play equipment maintenance which is £1,860 overspent due to the maintenance required after the equipment inspection.

**Appointed auditors** - new Sector Led Body was set up and all smaller authorities have been appointed a new auditor wef financial year 2017-18 until 2021-22 who, for our area, will be PKF Littlejohn LLP.

**Village Hall lease** - FWG have reviewed this. The rent has not been increased for the last 8 years, possibly longer, as records have been archived. It was felt this should be bought up to date, current rent is £600, it is recommended an increase of £400 to £1,000 per annum. This will be reviewed annually thereafter. The FWG point out that the car park has been increased by 100%, which was funded by the Parish Council.

**Pension Scheme** - arrangements have been set in motion for setting the scheme up with Accounting Gem accountants in line with new regulations.

**106 monies** - the response from Babergh DC was to ask for more evidence! This is very frustrating as Mike Watling and I had spent a good deal of time getting the application together, including Mike speaking to Babergh. I rang Nick Elliot who has advised the slide at Fen View application will go through once he has established ownership of the land, which I advised was Suffolk County Council. However, the allotments will not be accepted as there is no additional need on the site, it will only benefit the allotment holders (31 people), and not the larger community as a whole. 106 money is given by developers to offset the additional need in the community created by the additional housing/residents. It would, apparently, support purchase of land to be used for community use.

**Bank transfer** - letter has been taken to Nat West and the transfer from current account to business reserve account complete.

**C&W Bowls Club** - the Finance Working Group reviewed the electricity bills the Bowls Club send to the Parish Council. It had been agreed, some time ago, that the PC would meet half the cost of the invoices due to the meter being shared, for the Bowls Club pavilion and the football changing hut and toilet cabin. There are, however, 2 sub meters, which have been read regularly by the PC for the past year. It appears the PC share is nowhere near half the electricity used and the FWG propose a more equitable billing system.

Payments were recommended for approval.

### **1313/1617 Correspondence:** none.

### **1314/1617 Street Naming & Numbering:**

No suggestions were put forward.

### **1315/1617 Motorcycle Barriers:**

Report given in CC Dave Busby's report.

### **1316/1617 Community-Led Housing Development Plan:**

One request for a 'hard' copy of plan, piece in In Touch parish magazine detailing dates for public meeting.

**1317/1617 Play Equipment Working Group:**

See Clerk's report. It was suggested Clerk contacts Gillian Hilder, BDC for advice on community funding.

**1318/1617 VC Commemorative Ceremony:**

Cllr Terry Corner reported project now 6 months away and all plans going well, with schedule for the day in place. It was proposed the Burnard sign was replaced on the Brook bus shelter, funded from the money put aside by PC for VC ceremony. The plaque to be used on the day was presented to the meeting by TC. WI have been notified about the moving of the village sign.

**1319/1617 Casual Vacancy:** Andy Mexome was co-opted on the Parish Council, KA proposed and MW seconded, forms signed and he was welcomed by Chairman Keith Armes.

**1320/1617 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:**

TC - attending meeting at BDC Needham Market offices re development plan

MW - No Neighbourhood Watch representatives at Police meetings. KA to enquire at coffee mornings.

Meeting closed at 20.42hrs.