

# Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at Church Room, The Street, Washbrook, 7.30pm

**Present:** Chairman Keith Armes, County Cllr Chris Hudson, District Cllr Nick Ridley, District Cllr Barry Gasper, Cllr Terry Corner, Cllr Tina Sutters, Cllr Andy Mexome, Cllr Laura Butters, Cllr Peter Jones, Cllr Chris Coupland, Cllr Terry Corner, 18x residents, Clerk.

**1405/1718 Welcome and Apologies:** Chairman Keith Armes opened the meeting.  
Apologies: none.

**1406/1718 Declaration of Interest:** None.

**1407/1718 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

**1408/1718 Clerks Report inc. Matters Arising** – as below.

**Playing field** - this is on the agenda to be discussed later. Keith, Mike, Terry and myself attended the Public Consultation meeting, gathering information and suggestions from the few residents that came.

**Copdock Primary School** - Email received from Dennis Kell, Chair of Governors at the school, which Chairman Armes read out. Copy below. Copy of Ofsted report not yet received. *'I am sorry that I cannot attend the Parish Council meeting in person, but I am hoping to visit the children and staff from Copdock and Bentley schools who are away from home for the week on their residential visit.*

*I should be grateful if you could pass on my congratulations on behalf of our community to the staff and children at Copdock Primary School on the result of their Ofsted Inspection at the end of the summer term. The report was finally agreed and released to parents on Friday at the school's Macmillan coffee and cake event. The Parish Council will receive a copy of the report, if it has not already done so.*

*As Chair of Governors, it is a real privilege to be part of the Partnership of these two federated schools. The governing body know that the teaching and learning at Copdock is outstanding and the report confirms this. The schools' vision is for all children to be confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens who are well equipped for future life, whatever that may hold. This is quoted as one of the outstanding features of our school alongside the excellent quality of teaching, learning and assessment. The report also recognises how leaders work effectively as a team across the federation. The inspector wrote that pupils' behaviour is exemplary.*

*I am sure the Parish Council would like to join me in congratulating Mrs. Austin and everybody involved at Copdock Primary School on continuing to be an outstanding primary school and wish them every success in the future. The school is a tremendous asset to our community.*

*Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for its continuing support for our school. In these times of austerity, small rural schools like ours face enormous challenges and your support in meeting and overcoming these challenges is very much appreciated.'*

**Locality Budget:** form for funding for the Church Room bench has been completed, so hopefully funds will be received shortly.

**Training courses** - Local Council Public Advisory Services presented part 1 of the Planning Course on 5 July, the second part has been arranged for Wed 15 November, 7.00pm Church Room. As per my email to you all it would be beneficial to all Councillors but particularly those on the Planning Working Group.

Lastly, the notice boards are showing signs of wear and tear with some not opening because of seized locks and doors not shutting properly. Also they are in need of a coat of preservative/varnish.

**1409/1718 Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 19.36pm

**CC Chris Hudson:** reported what a splendid event the VC Commemorative ceremony was, a very fitting occasion. Wrote to Ms Austin, Head of primary school congratulating her on the involvement of the school. Budget - not sufficient money. County Highways to report to CH.

**DC Nick Ridley:** the VC event was a superb day, well planned and went off very well. The village 'punched well above its weight'. Lord Lieutenant was very impressed.

The move to Endeavour House is gradually happening, some staff not happy and mediation is taking place.

Joint Local Plan - not good news for C&W, put out for full consultation, not all sites will be used. Put forward a draft plan; collation of comments made.

Boundary Commission results out - if adopted C&W new ward would have 1 member and be called Copdock & Washbrook ward. Please respond.

Further discussions going on re merging Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils, will come to a head in January; likely there will be 32 members as opposed to current 43.

**DC Barry Gasper:** Merger of District Councils - 6 years on from initial discussions, need to know what the public opinion is.

**Residents:** much discussion on the possible sites for development within the village. The PC's Local Development Plan was completed, the PC is against any other development other than that in the Plan. A questionnaire was hand delivered through every door within the village, at the time, although not many attended the meeting.

The BDC flyer informing residents about the possible sites for the Local Plan was not received by many households. The potential development is huge. Land shaded on map is land put forward for possible development, it does not mean it will be developed.

DC Nick Ridley - BDC Local Plan is an 18 month process, to produce a 20 year plan to build 7,500 houses over that period in the district. It will be developed and adopted to regulate the planning process. The PC need to put forward reasoned arguments with valid objections, including the PC's Local Development Plan. Ipswich has run out of land. Very likely land will be reduced.

AM - surely infrastructure should be put in first.

LB - local schools are full and local GP surgeries struggling to cope.

It was agreed Cllr Andy Mexome to head up a PC Working Group, a Public Consultation meeting to be held and widely advertised with the help of active residents. A planning officer from BDC to be invited to speak at meeting. LB to book venue. Colin Hinkins to be point of contact for residents.

Reconvened 20.00hrs.

**1410/1718 Planning Applications:** Report from Planning Working Group on

**DC/17/04263** Apple Tree Farm, Folly Lane, Copdock. Site meeting held.

*No objection to building works or tennis courts. Grave concern on the proposed new lake; there is a lack of detail on excavation of lake and disposal of spoil; there are no relating landscaping plans. PC need satisfaction it meets all environmental criteria. Neighbouring land needs to be protected from spoil, flooding, possible draining into existing pond and causing flooding on neighbouring land.*

**DC/17/04721** Land on the north east of Elm Lane IP8 3EX. Erection of 3 bed bungalow (old football ground).

*Recommend approval.*

**DC/17/04665** - 1 Brook Cottages, The Street, C&W IP8 3HS. To remove and replace hedgerow on SE side and replace railings and new brick & fence panel wall.

*Recommend approval.*

**DC/17/04830** - Dakons Cottage, Pigeon lane, C&W IP8 3HQ. Erection of single storey side extension.

No objection.

**DC/17/04482** - Glebe Farm, Old London Rd, C&W IP8 3JD. Erection of agricultural storage barn.

*Strongly object.*

*Due to history of existing agricultural barn and subsequent application for partial conversion (DC/17/03689 - refused) the PC was somewhat surprised to receive an planning application for an agricultural barn of similar construction and smaller footage on what is now a residential site (planning application B/16/01218 - granted).*

#### **1411/1718 Financial Matters & RFO Report:**

- a) Payments for approval. KA & LB recommended approval for payments.
- b) Report from Finance Working Group - recommended insurance renewal with Ecclesiastical and a 3 year LTA. Asset Register to be updated for insurance renewal and playing field T&C's to be amended as proposed.
- c) Appt of Date Protection Officer - proposed Clerk took on this role and attend a training workshop.

#### **RFO Report**

The Parish Council's budget position is in order, with all spending within the current financial years budget apart from training which has an overspend. As said in previous reports some budgets are looking like they will overspend.

The pre-cept due in the current account by 30 September, but which in every previous year for the past 8 years has been transferred and cleared in the first week of the month did not clear into the account until Wed 27 September. I had to hold back some cheques drawn at the September meeting, and a cheque for Terry Corner, expenses for VC event, and the Clerk's part wage and expenses for the month were returned as unpaid. This will, of course, incur charges on the Parish Council's bank account, and may show up as a 'black mark' on the end of year audit. I spoke to Babergh Finance dept, who told me the funds were not due to be paid until the end of October, which I knew to be incorrect, they are due by 30 Sept. Sue Palmer, Head of Finance, did ring me and apologise but I had to concede that the funds were not due until 30 Sept despite the fact they had previously been paid much earlier. She could not give an explanation as to why they were later this year.

This reiterates the need for online banking, even if its just for balance checking, therefore, I have requested the forms from Nat West to enable this to be available to the RFO. This needs to be approved and minuted by the council.

The FWG recommended transferring funds of £5,000 from the reserve account into the current account to alleviate difficulties, and this has been carried out. The pre-cept is now in the account.

Payments approved.

Spreadsheets updated to 30/09/17. Copies distributed at meeting.

Minuted and approved.

#### **1412/1718 Local Planning Consultation:**

As previously in meeting PC agreed to set up Working Group lead by Cllr Andy Mexome with Cllr Laura Butters, Cllr Terry Corner and Cllr Chris Coupland to assist. Date to be set and venue booked. DC Nick Ridley asked to be advised of date and he will arrange for a planning officer to attend.

#### **1413/1718 Playing field hire T&Cs**

New proposed wording approved. Clerk to speak with village hall bar manger to arrange for signs to be possibly put up in bar area.

#### **1414/1718 VC Commemorative Ceremony:**

PJ reported a good piece in the In Touch magazine, he thanked everyone for their help on the day and the preceding week, all dependent on accuracy and initiative. Special thanks to

Cllrs Tina Sutters and Terry Corner. There was a good representation from South Africa which was excellent publicity.

TS - Village recorder to send Clerk an article.

KA - gave congratulations to all involved.

TC - gave budget figures - all in order.

**1415/1718 Playing field improvements:**

Six residents attended the Public Consultation meeting held at the village hall lounge and completed comment forms. The general consensus was to use the area as multi-use for health and well-being, for adults as well as children. Proposed ideas were; a running track around the edge of the field, pergolas for sitting under, a central area for a 5-a-side football pitch, area for adult gym equipment, extend children's play area with further piece of equipment, replace fencing.

While funding is sought, the current goal posts to remain, the running track around the edge to be mown in, weed kill the 5-a-side pitch.

AM to look for funding.

**1416/16718 Defibrillators:**

MW - funding agreed, need to await money then defribs can be ordered. Community Heartbeat will arrange training for all residents who wish to attend.

**1417/1718 Replacement bench near village sign:**

Bench to be ordered. Installation to be arranged.

**1418/1718 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:**

TS - Mineral & Local Waste Plan - put on agenda for November meeting.

MW - attended Police & Parish Forum meeting - Inspector Horton, Babergh East area in attendance. Emergency calls increased by 33%. Next meeting 26 Oct - give MW any issues you wish him to take to meeting.

AM - subway update - all OK.

CC - mopeds and motorbikes still using subway. Poor parking on bends.

**Items for next agenda:** Mineral & Local Waste Plan. Approval of online Nat West balance checking.

Meeting closed at 21.26hrs.