

# Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 April 2018 at Pavilion, Old London Rd, Copdock, 7.30pm

**Present:** Chairman Keith Armes, County Cllr Chris Hudson, District Cllr Nick Ridley, Cllr Mike Watling, Cllr Terry Corner, Cllr Peter Jones, Cllr Andy Mexome, Cllr Laura Butters, Cllr Tina Sutters, 5x residents, Clerk - Angela Chapman.

**1482/1819 Welcome and Apologies:** Chairman Keith Armes opened the meeting. Apologies: District Cllr Barry Gasper. Chairman Keith Armes received resignation from Christian Coupland creating a Casual Vacancy.

**1484/1819 Declaration of Interest:** None.

**1485/1819 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2018 were approved and signed as a true record.

**1486/1819 Clerks Report inc. Matters Arising** – as below.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England have started a consultation on the draft recommendations for the future electoral arrangements for Babergh District Council. The consultation closes on 30 April 2018. The paperwork is available here for anyone interested.

Due to a resignation a Casual Vacancy has occurred on the Parish Council. In line with procedure a Notice of Vacancy has been posted up on the village notice boards. This has been re-posted up today as the original one had the old Babergh address on, therefore, the deadline for interested parties is 23 April 2018. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.

The response from SCC regarding the missing handrail on the grass bank opposite The Brook is:

*This has been raised as a Category 7 (potential work). In this case it was determined that no immediate action is required. It has been included in a list of issues across Suffolk to be assessed and prioritised for potential work.*

I met with the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association representative for the local area, who advised there are 3 schemes currently running in Copdock & Washbrook but due to the Data Protection Act could not give me the names of who runs them. The PC will have to wait for them to contact the Clerk, if they choose to do so. However, there is nothing to stop other schemes being set up, there are leaflets and details here this evening and there will be a piece in the May issue of In Touch magazine giving all details of how to register.

Copdock Primary school have enquired if the Parish Council is arranging an event for the WW1 100 year Remembrance in November.

I'm attending a workshop next week on the new Data Protection laws that come into effect on 25 May 2018. Unfortunately there is still no definite decision on who can take the role of Data Protection Officer, although it is thought that neither the Clerk or a Parish Councillor will be able to fulfil the job. This could mean that Parish Councils will have to employ the services of a company, the cost of which will not have been budgeted for in the pre-cept. I will report back next meeting.

I emailed CC Christopher Hudson, as requested, on the matter of the misuse of the central reservation on the Old London Rd which was then forwarded to the Service Delivery Team. I'm not quite sure where this leads.

The village hall have requested use of part of the playing field next to the hall for a children fair, raising money for EACH. The PC need to decide if any charge will be made.

The fencing on the playing field behind the bus shelter has been completed. The area where the changing cabin stood is now to be grassed which will be carried out in the next week.

Three trees went over into the brook on the Jubilee Meadow stretch, during the snow and

storms, causing a dam effect, these were removed as far as was safely possible at the time, the water was at a very high level and moving extremely fast. Further works will be carried out when safe to do so.

**1487/1819 Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 19.37pm

**CC Chris Hudson:** advised he will get back to the PC regarding the central reservation situation.

Unitary council back on the agenda, which will save money, lessons to be learned from Northampton who almost went bankrupt. Several district and county councils are near this situation now due to, amongst other things, costly complex care for the elderly. District councils not happy about unitary, currently reserves are OK but will be gone in 3-4 years. It cost £9,000 a week for the complex care of a young person, no long term funding. Some district councils have joined together already because of financial need.

**DC Nick Ridley:** District council leader signed a letter as there was no consultation on the unitary decision, district will not co-operate. 1 council for the east and one for the west would work. Ipswich Borough Council came very close to unitary in its own right. BMSDC have asked Colin Noble to think again. Currently over 300 councillors, would be no more than 100 in a unitary council.

Still trying to put a merger together, some mergers now waiting in Parliament.

Social care - unfair on county and the people who need it. Positive result on referendum, therefore will go ahead. BDC will go bust in 18 months if no merger. All working well together, although services are run separately and cost an enormous amount.

Old Hadleigh headquarters out for redevelopment. Consultation on 11 and 18 April at Hadleigh Cricket club and Guildhall, Hadleigh respectively.

**Resident:** cars speeding around corner of Back Lane nr Stebbings, someone came very close to being knocked over. Bus is going up the wall and destroying it. When the A12 is blocked HGVs are coming down the lane, the quarry is a worry. David Warne, SCC Highways arranged for a speed count box to be put in place but someone cut the cable. David Warne was very surprised there was not already a ban on HGVs down Back Lane.

There are also speeding vehicles in The Street.

Reconvened 20.00hrs.

#### **1488/1819 Planning Applications:**

**DC/18/009962 Scotsfield House, The Avenue, Copdock & Washbrook IP8 3JS.** Erection of single storey extension.

*Comments: Recommend approval.*

**DC/18/00952 8 Dales View, Copdock & Washbrook IP8 3EX.** Erection of first floor side extension.

*Comments: Recommend approval.*

#### **1489/1819 Financial Matters & RFO Report:**

- a) payments recommended - TS & LB approved.
- b) request from C&W PCC for churchyard maintenance grant approved, to be drawn at next meeting.

#### **RFO Report**

The Parish Council's budget position is in order, with all spending within the current financial years budget.

The new external auditor Littlejohn have sent their paperwork for the audit, its different from the previous auditor and as such will require more time to handle. It appears they require everything online apart from one form.

Payments for approval are as follows:

2146	Martin Gilbert Ltd	Light for defib - v hall	£96.00
2147	Printing for Pleasure Ltd	VC event	£142.00

2148	SCC	Street lighting	£413.45
2149	Glasdon UK Ltd	Dog waste bin	£222.79
2150	Copdock & OI Cricket Club	Room hire	£85.00
2151	Carman 4Seasons Ltd	Fence playing field	£1,270.00
2152	Local Council Public Advisory Service	Training course - GDPR	£40.00
2153	A J Chapman	Clerks expenses	£68.60
dd	Wave (Anglian Water)	Allotment water	£40.17

Income as per attached spreadsheet.

Bank statement balances as at 03/4/18 drawn from online account:

Current account - £2,577.17

Business reserve account at - £39,334.83

Total - £41,912.00

Spreadsheets updated to 03/04/18. Copies distributed at meeting. Bank statements available for Cllrs to view at meeting.

It was recommended the VAT is split out from payments and shown separately on RFO report.

#### **1490/1819 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

Both documents approved. Standing Orders will have to be updated once GDPR are confirmed.

#### **1491/1819 Preparation for AGM & Councillors Responsibilities:**

Casual Vacancy arisen due to resignation. Notice of Vacancy has been posted up, see Clerk's report.

Cllr Terry Corner updated a proposed Cllr responsibility/working group list and sent to all Cllrs in preparation for May meeting.

#### **1492/1819 Neighbourhood Plan:**

Working Group set up - Cllrs Mike Watling, Laura Butters, Andy Mexome, Clerk when needed. PC made the decision to ask residents for interest. Funding opened this week, allowing third parties and/or companies to help PCs. Terms of Reference to be put in place, plan completed within 12 months. If PCs have a NP in place they receive more CIL monies from district council.

#### **1493/1819 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:**

LB - confirmed the PC have pledged £5k for the primary school extension

AM - dog waste bin installed very soon. Also locks on noticeboards will be replaced.

PJ - find the cost of WW1 commemorative beacon

TS - litter pick, rescheduled date due to snow - Sat 14 April 10am - 12noon

MW - abandoned car removed by DVLA; defibs operational

- signs up on noticeboards

**Items for next agenda:** reintroduce Mineral & Waste Local Plan

WW1 Battles Over Centenary

Meeting closed at 20.38hrs.