

**Minutes of PARISH OF CORTON  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm  
in the Community Hall, Corton Playing Field**

Present: Stephen Pavey (Chair), Maureen Boughton (Vice Chair),  
Gill Armstrong Peter Armstrong  
David Fermor Sue Groome

Cllr Paul Ashdown Cllr James Reeder

Lynne Pavey (Clerk)

Members of the Public - 4

1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies  
Bob Groome

3. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

It appears that the pandemic of Covid is behind us now and it has been nice to have a full year of normal face to face meetings.

It was suggested that we fit CCTV to the pavilion following some criminal damage and this work has been completed. There are at present 6 cameras fitted to the pavilion, and these are being recorded onto a hard-drive with a record time of about 2 months. The recordings have been used a few times to identify people causing low level damage to the field. These people have been spoken to where possible, to let them know they are being recorded, and in some cases, does have the effect of stopping the problem. Ultimately, the idea is to be able to view the cameras remotely, and this may soon be achieved.

It was decided to have the plaque on the war memorial renovated, but this task has been harder than first anticipated. The plaques were covered in a lacquer which had discoloured and was proving very difficult to remove. Peter Armstrong and I attempted to clean and restore them, but with very little success. The plaques were originally installed by Don Ayers. His son stepped forward and offered to have the plaques restored. He has done a wonderful job carrying out the work and the plaques are now back in place and should last for many years to come. We would like to thank him for his efforts.

A celebration for Queen Elizabeth II's jubilee was held on the field. This was a very well attended event with many local residents attending and taking part in the celebrations, including children from Corton School. The evenings events were completed by the lighting of a beacon on the field, signalled by Her Majesty lighting a beacon in London. Many were involved in the organising of the event, including Councillor Gill Armstrong, and we thank all those for their hard work.

Throughout the year, discussions about the proposed Garden Village have taken place. A talk about the proposed development was given at the playing field pavilion which was attended by

not

approximately 60 parishioners. Overwhelmingly, they all voiced their concerns about the development and wanted the Parish Council to oppose the development on their behalf. A meeting was held with MP Peter Aldous, Councillor Bob Groome and myself about the development, and the concerns of the Parish were passed on to him. Peter forwarded to us a letter from Anglian Water, who own the wastewater treatment works. They also have concerns about the proposed development and do want to see houses built so close to their facility. Corton Parish Councillors will continue to represent the views of the parishioners regarding the proposed Garden Village.

The possibility of placing CCTV cameras around the village was discussed, but the idea has had to be shelved for the moment. The main reason was the cost of supplying electricity to the cameras. which runs into many thousands of pounds. If anything changes, this item will be revisited.

The cost-of-living crisis was discussed at length during the year and the idea of setting up warm rooms within the village was considered. Adverts were placed locally asking if this was something parishioners felt they would require. However, The Parish Council never received a single reply for help. The Parish Council also considered if the number was small, we would consider helping parishioners with transport to other warm room schemes operated locally, but again, no one from the village asked for our help.

It was decided to have Internet fitted to the playing-field pavilion. This would enable those using the hall to gain access to the web via hot spots. This has now been installed by BT, and this will also enable the newly fitted CCTV cameras to be viewed remotely. Along with the internet is the fitting of a landline. The telephone number for the pavilion 01502 819439.

The state of The Cut, which runs from Station Road towards the allotments was discussed. Concern was raised about the undergrowth which was overgrowing the path. The problem in this is that the undergrowth is the responsibility of every property owner whose property has a boundary with The Cut. This means that every owner will be responsible for cutting back their own bit of the growth, and bringing all these people together to achieve this is proving difficult. East Suffolk Council has written to every property owner asking them to bring the hedges and trees under control.

During the last year, Corton has experienced problems with its bus service being suspended at short, or even little notice. This has left the parishioners waiting at bus stops for buses that just do not turn up. On one particular day, about 50 nurses staying at Waterside camp were unable to get to the James Paget Hospital and ended up having to walk to Tesco to catch a bus to the hospital. A conversation with First Bus on this subject was held and they said that they had decided not to run a bus service through the village if the buses had to drive through The Street. They found at certain times parking in The Street could hinder their buses causing delays for the whole. A solution to this was to ensure buses could pass along the street unhindered. Councillor James Reeder offered to purchase no waiting cones for the village from his locality fund. By placing these at the pinch points in The Street ensured a bus service could continue. Another problem was road works being put in place just over the border in Norfolk, and not being communicated to us because we are in Suffolk. A result of this is we did not have time to put out the cones immediately to ensure a continuation of the service. This issue was solved when The Parish Council informed Norfolk Council we would not allow road closures unless they had pre warned us. Corton Parish Council can now confirm that the latest round of road closures was disclosed to us with a week's notice, so hopefully this problem should not reoccur.

Finally, I would like to thank a few people for their help during the last year. **Joy Clutton** served as a Parish Councillor during the last year and served on committees during her time, including the neighbourhood plan committee. Joy brought some good business knowledge to the council and was very good in having input to the council policies. Joy stood down at the latest election, but I would like to put on record my thanks to her for her support during her time as a Parish Councillor.

Parish Councillor **Gill Armstrong** is a very active Parish Councillor. Gill works with the Corton Woods Project, Helps in the kitchen during car boot sales, served on the neighbourhood plan committee as well as Corton Alms-house Charity, to name just a few. It is people like Gill who keep Parish Councils running and she has been a great support during the last year.

Parish Councillor **Maureen Boughton** is another member who helps throughout the village. Maureen also helps in the kitchen during the car boot sales, serves on the playing field committee, and takes the bookings for the village hall, to name just a few of her tasks.

Parish Councillor **Bob Groome** is responsible for the upkeep of the defibrillators ~~around the village~~. He has delivered training on their use. Bob has also carried out fund raising events for play equipment on the Pit area.

Parish Councillor **Sue Groome** organises the Remembrance Day for the village. These mornings are very well received amongst the local parishioners, but also attended by visitors to the village.

Parish Councillor **David Fermor** is a constant presence in the village. Dave serves on the playing field committee, repairs anything in the village that gets broken, puts up waste bins, digs trenches, unlocks the pavilion, in fact, just about everything. I would like to thank David for everything he does around the village.

Councillor **Peter Armstrong** is another busy councillor, serving on the Alms-house Charity, serving at the car boot sale and generally carrying out repairs around the village and I would also like to thank him for his service to the village throughout the year

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Playing field committee who give their time to ensure the playing field is maintained to a very high standard, but for also raising the funds that enables this. The task they undertake is not small, and their contribution and service to the village must not go unmentioned. Also, thanks to Jessica Harvey and family for running the car boot sales which is a valuable income stream for the playing field, allowing them the funds to keep the playing field operating.

Many thanks to our District and County Councillors Paul Ashdown, James Reeder, and Ryan Harvey. All have supported the council during the last year, not only with some of their locality funding when required, but with knowledge of how to deal with issues that may arise and knowing who to contact at East Suffolk council to deal with our concerns.

I would like to thank the landlord and landlady at the White Horse Public House for allowing parents to use their car park during the day when dropping off and collecting their children from school. Parking around schools is always a problem, and in Corton, without this generous facility from The White Horse, it could be so much worse.

There are many others in the village that serve on committees, run small groups, and help run the two churches within the village. The Parish Council would like you all to know that you are all appreciated for the service you give.

Many thanks to Lynne Pavey for serving as clerk. This at can at times be a very stressful job for little reward and cannot be easy ensuring I stick to the rules and time schedules.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to serve you as Chairman of Corton Parish Council for the last year. We have had some problems, but mostly it has been enjoyable, made so by the Parish Councillors I serve with.

Stephen Pavey  
Chairman

4. Statement of Parish Accounts by the Clerk  
Clerk went through the report explaining the receipts and payments for the year 2022/23. Report was on display at the meeting and will be available on the Parish Council Website. ([www.corton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.corton.onesuffolk.net))

5. Annual reports received from Community Oorganisations

Coastline	Corton Bowls Club
Corton Brownies	Corton Playing Field
Corton Poores Land Trust	Corton Almshouse Charity
Corton School	Corton Wives
Corton Woods Project	Gentleman's Club
Methodist Church	St Bartholomew's Church
Textile's Group	

The reports were on display and attendees were given time to read.

The Chairman thanked everyone who submitted a report. These will be published on the Parish Council website after the meeting.

6. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Corton Playing Field

Meeting closed at 7.52pm.