

# Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 25th July 2013

Following adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May and the supplementary meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, matters arising addressed the issue of obtaining quotations for reframing the numerous Village of the Year certificates which are displayed in the Village Hall. It was agreed that the certificates are in need of reframing and that efforts to establish costs should continue

There was a discussion on supporting the school going forward. Following The Police speed check carried out with the School, and featured in the August edition of Green Links. A display board was available for the Police with photographs of event. This was welcomed as an effective educational experience for both pupils and drivers

There was no Police Report available for the meeting. It was, however, noted that there has been a break in at one of the Peppers Hall units – this appears to be similar to crimes that have been reported in neighbouring villages and north Essex. Mrs Antill (our County Councillor and Chairman of the Babergh Safer Neighbourhood Team) was able to assure us that the Police cooperate and share intelligence across boundaries in tackling this kind of activity

The Safer Neighbourhood meeting held in Little Waldingfield reported that in response to the prioritization of speeding in Cockfield, 8 speed checks have taken place resulting in the issue of 8 cautions, 3 fixed penalty notices and 1 summons. Speeding issues are high on the agenda of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and following the Little Waldingfield meeting the Police met with County Highways to discuss the issue

The priorities from the Safer Neighbourhood meeting were agreed to be car crime in Long Melford and speeding in Little Waldingfield. The next meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> September in Brettenham Village Hall

Mrs Antill reported that, as anticipated, Suffolk County Council will be subjected to further budget cuts in 2014/5 – the required savings over a 4 year period are £150 million. Money will be made available to integrate health and social care, but there is a possibility that frontline services could be affected with a merger of Police and Fire services being one of the changes under consideration.

Mr Arthey (our Babergh District Councillor) advised that the integration of Mid Suffolk and Babergh Council services is continuing and a number of groups are considering ways that things have been done in the past and the best ways to proceed in the future

The Local Development (Babergh) Framework – Core Strategy process continues. Babergh are now looking to engage further with the Villages such as Cockfield that expressed a support for controlled growth. Mr Arthey confirmed that communities will still be able to influence the level and type of growth in both housing and employment opportunities appropriate to their situation.

The Greens Committee reported that there has been a request to install flower beds on Cross Green – after consideration, it was felt that given the limited size of the Green this change would not be appropriate

It was agreed to survey dog walkers on Great Green to gather opinion on the best place to site the proposed dog bin. It was agreed that a bin should be placed in Old Hall Lane, and a request was made to site one outside the Village Hall

It was agreed to permit a Vintage Car meet on the Green in September subject to the requirements of other users and suitability of the surface

New arrangements have been made for cutting the periphery of Great Green and a quotation per cut was

accepted by the Council

In Earls Meadow, the two fields have now been linked for maintenance and rides have been cut, thanks to Mr Tarling. We have been successful in applying for a grant for planting bluebells on the site

The public footpath between Howe Lane and the Church continues to be a source of concern. Suffolk County Council have been approached regarding the root damage to the surface but, due to funding concerns, there is no promise of immediate action. The Clerk was requested to write to SCC to try to improve the situation

Abbey footpath requires some attention, with rubbish accumulating under the bridge – a work party will be arranged

Applications have been made for funding to improve the Sports Pavilion and the response will be made public on 12<sup>th</sup> August

It is anticipated that the Cockfield Emergency Plan will be put before the Parish Council for adoption at the September meeting

The Parish Council has received a full report from Suffolk County Council Highways Department regarding speeding in the village. Since 2008 vehicle speed data has been collected at various points in the village. Most recently, at the request of the Parish Council, speed data has been collected in Cross Green, Windsor Green, Howe Lane/Chapel Road and the North side of Great Green. In a 30mph limit, the Association of Chief Police Officers guidance considers speed to be an issue where mean speeds exceed 35 mph – using this criteria there are two areas where speeding is an issue – the A1141 through Cross Green and the northern end of Chapel Road

The report emphasised that, despite these concerns, the roads of Cockfield are considered to be safe, with relatively few collisions. It also reminded us that the speed of the vehicle is controlled by the driver and that education to encourage them to drive within the legal limits will always be more effective than forcing them to do so using costly intrusive engineering

To move the issue forward, and consider what traffic engineering, if any, could be appropriate in our case, the Parish Council will meet with SCC Highways in September and consider the options

SCC Highways are also drafting plans to improve pedestrian safety at the Mill Corner bus stop, particularly in the case of Sudbury bound passengers. This issue will also be discussed further in September

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013

The Council may be contacted through the Clerk, Alan Morgan on 01284 828072

RJP