

Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 29th March 2012

The vacancy on the Parish Council remains open. It was agreed to raise the issue at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 26th April

An excellent turn out was reported for the Village Litter Pick on 24th/25th March. On police advice, the verges on the A134 were not included, but requests will be made at District/County level to have these areas cleared. Thanks were extended to Mrs Cutting-Keaton for organizing the pick and Mr Hodge for permitting the rubbish to be collected at the Hall

With regard to the cancellation of our Wednesday and Saturday bus services, users of the services have taken part in a survey by Passenger Focus investigating the impact of bus cancellations on rural communities. As yet the results are unknown

The invitations to the Jubilee celebrations will be delivered to every house in the village during the first week of April. Replies are requested by 30th April (boxes are in place in the Post office and Wyard-Scott's garage)

The visit of Suffolk County Council Highways to investigate the issue of speeding in Windsor Green has been postponed until the completion of the A1141 roadworks

A member of the public attending the meeting raised the issue of road safety in Church Lane, particularly during school start and finish times – it was agreed to hold this issue over to the Safer Neighbourhood Public Meeting which will be held in the Village Hall on 15th May. In the meantime, everyone driving in Church Lane is strongly urged to proceed with maximum caution

Our new PCSO, Jamie Fudge, was unable to attend the meeting, but he reported one crime in the village in the period 26th January – 25th March – this was the theft of a catalytic converter from a vehicle parked in Green Lane

He also reported that the Police have carried out speed checks in the village and issued cautions and fines to offenders

It was noted that the level of accurate information provided by road closure signs on and around the A1141 has been abysmal. A member of the council will be expressing this view to the County Council

The Council agreed to progress work on the installation of a footpath by the bus shelter on Great Green and also the installation of a bench by the pond. The purchase of the new meadow and length of rail track adjoining Earl's Meadow is continuing

The Council agreed to support the Village Hall Committee in it's efforts to ensure that Suffolk County Council meets it's obligations regarding future maintenance and improvements to the Hall

Our District Councillor, Mr Arthey, led a discussion into the implementation of the new National Planning Policy Framework which the government has recently introduced. Generally, the government plan appears to support the Babergh Core Strategy, but further consideration is required

He advised that the efforts of the Suffolk Waste Partnership in achieving 54% recycling have been rewarded by a Ministerial visit to the county

The Greens Committee reported that following a survey, there is work needed on a number of trees. It was agreed that this work should be carried out in the autumn

The Council thanked the village for its response to appeals to 'clear up after your dog' – however, this had led to an issue with the bin on the Green overflowing. The Council will investigate installing additional bins and increasing the frequency of emptying, but in the meantime dog owners are requested to take their mess home for disposal

It was agreed to review the condition of the benches on the Green to determine any required remedial work

Earl's Meadow has an impressive display of daffodils, and work has been completed to fence off the culvert over the river. Thanks were expressed again to everyone who has helped in the working parties

Quotations are being obtained for the maintenance of the path in the Cemetery and the Committee was requested to look at the condition of the bench

The Pavilion Committee reported that quotes will be obtained for the installation of a permanent outdoor electrical output for the Jubilee celebrations and other outdoor events. Prices will also be obtained for lino for the kitchen

It was agreed that Cockfield should enter the Suffolk Village of the Year competition this year and a sub committee will be formed

And, finally, following training, the village now has five first aid First Responders – thanks and congratulations to the volunteers who put themselves forward for this

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

RJP