

Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 27th March 2014

To date the Council has been unable to identify a replacement for Councillor Kelly and the vacancy remains

After discussion of the cost of the purchase and ongoing emptying of dog bins, the Parish Council agreed to proceed with the installation of one bin in Old Hall Lane – usage of this bin will be monitored and the provision of bins in other locations will be considered in view of the success of this

The Police Report noted that between 18th January and 22nd March there has been one reported crime in the village. This was a breach of a restraining order by a known suspect on Bury Road which is being investigated

The Police Report also reminded us of the importance of guarding against thefts from gardens and sheds. Securely fitted padlocks, security marking of property, installation of security lights and possibly shed/garage alarms are all actions which can deter thieves and reduce the risks to our property

The latest priority from the Babergh Safer Neighbourhood meeting was school parking in Great Waldingfield. The next meeting will be at Lawshall Village Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 20th May

Whilst the purchase of the new meadow at Earl's Hall has yet to be completed, we have received written permission to plant trees and work has commenced to plant some of the 100 silver birch trees which have been donated to the Council

Our County Councillor, Jenny Antill, was unable to attend the meeting, and her report was presented by the Chairman

The County Council budget for 2014/5 has been agreed and, as previously suggested, council tax has been frozen for a further year

Suffolk has been given an extra £5million to help make high-speed broadband available to the hardest to reach communities. This means that the target to make superfast speeds available to 85% of the county can be raised to 95%, although what this means to Cockfield is not yet clear, as BT will only publish plans 3 months in advance

Ofsted's latest inspection report does not make good reading, although the comments contained in the report are already known to the Council and corrective actions are being taken. There are some small signs of improvement and the Council is convinced that these measures will make a difference

The report finished by saying that the County will provide £4000 from Mrs SAntill's locality budget to go towards pavilion improvements and that she has also applied for funds for the purchase of three flip cameras for FOCSA, which will be used in the school

Our District Councillor, Clive Arthey reported that there will be no increase in Babergh's share of council tax in 2014/5. He also advised that the Core Strategy has been adopted and provided advice to the Parish Council as to how they should become involved in the future development of the village

With regard to the willow trees in Dukes Meadow, he reported that it has now been agreed to remove the large tree outside No 22 and replace it with something more appropriate. The other two willows will be tidied up, although we do not yet have an indication of when this work will be carried out

The 'energy from waste' plant at Gt Blakenham will be 'hot tested' mid year

It is probable that in the near future we will be able to place additional products in our blue recycling bins –

please look out for information on this as it becomes available

The Greens Committee reported that Gt Green requires rolling and the grass on Cross Green needs feeding – it was agreed to provide feed and an applicator

The cemetery has had its first cut of the season and is in good condition

There has been work carried out on the Abbey footpath around the area of the bridge over the river

An application for Building Regs for the work on the pavilion will be made in the near future, with the plan being for work to be carried out in June and July. In addition to funding raised in Mrs Antill's report, it was reported that the District Council will make a further £7640 available for phase two of the works

It was reported that various issues have been followed up with the Highways Department at Suffolk County Council, particularly the drainage work at the junction of Bury Road and Windsor Green and the water rising through the road surface in Howe Lane. In her report, Mrs Antill had indicated that the County Council had asked to be kept aware of ongoing issues with road repairs and the Parish Council agreed to do this. It appears that the budget for highway repairs has increased and we are looking forward to progress in this area

The improvements to the northbound bus stop at Mill Corner are currently at the design stage and funding has been identified to carry out this work

We are waiting for further information from Suffolk County Council regarding the purchase of mobile speed indicator signs, which we believe will be the most effective way of reducing speeding in the village. These units will cost between £2000 and £3000 each and it has been suggested that we make a sharing arrangement with neighbouring parishes

The Parish Council agreed to assist the School by contributing 50% of the cost of tree work that is necessary around the Village Hall car park

The Parish Council thanked everyone who took part in the litter pick on March 22nd and 23rd

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 29th May at 7.30 pm

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

RJP