

Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 26th March 2015

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Alan Morgan announced his intention to step down from his position following this year's Parish Council election. He indicated an interest in continuing to serve the community as a Councillor. The Chairman proposed the appointment of Douglas Reed as Clerk to the Council which was agreed unanimously

Parish Council elections will take place on May 7th. When nominations closed, nine candidates had been nominated (which is our full complement) so there will be no need for an election to our Council. Electors are reminded, however, that May 7th is the day of both the General Election and the election of District Councillors

Under matters arising from the minutes it was agreed that discussions regarding the implementation of the Pavilion refurbishment should be delegated to a working group comprising representatives of the Parish Council, Community Council and Football Club, with the first meeting scheduled for Wednesday 1st April. The result of this working group has been to agree a start date during May with completion scheduled by the end of July

The Parish Council agreed to enter this year's Village of the Year competition, with our efforts being led again by Janne Cutting- Keyton

A report from our local Police Officer was read out. During March we experienced 2 crimes – 1 class B drug offence and 1 minor public order offence

Efforts are continuing to bring additional affordable housing to the village and, with the support of Orwell Housing Association and Babergh District Council, we are working to obtain County Council approval for our preferred site

Our County Councillor, Jenny Antill, advised us that the County portion of Council tax will be frozen again for 2015/6. This is now the fifth successive year of frozen Council Tax which it is estimated is saving each Band D taxpaying household £143 per year. The Council do not envisage making cuts to front line services but will need to continue to make savings and increase income to find an additional £80 million over the next two financial years

The County has launched a new online reporting tool for non-emergency highway issues which is accessible through the County website under 'environmental-and-transport' and 'highways'

Mrs Antill finished by thanking the outgoing Council and Clerk for their help and support over the last two years since her election to the County Council

Under financial matters it was agreed to make a donation of £50 to MAGPAS and that the surplus funds made available for our First World War projects should be returned. It was further agreed that our updated risk assessment, standing orders and insurance review will be passed to the new Clerk

The Greens Committee reported that the Football Club has agreed to spike the Green at the end of the season. It was also noted that it appears that some dog owners are not clearing up after their pets on Gt Green. This was an issue around two years ago, and following our campaigning the situation

had improved. However it seems some of us are slipping back into our old ways so please CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG. The last thing the village needs is issues over dog fouling so please respect the Green and your fellow villagers

The winter work in Earl's Meadow is now complete and Rodney Williams expressed his thanks to the volunteers who have helped through the season. The meadows will now be harrowed and it is planned to put up a series of signs along the walkway. Mr Williams is also working on arranging a visit to the Melford Picnic area at Rodbridge Corner so that the volunteers can see how another village has developed their natural recreational area

On the Highways front, we have been pursuing Anglian Water/County Highways for the resolution of the long term water leak outside Moat Cottage in Felsham Road and we still await their conclusions

Thanks were expressed to everyone who took part in the litter pick on 21st and 22nd March

It was agreed that Derek Southgate will represent the Parish Council on the joint committee, with the Community Council, to look into updating the play equipment on Gt Green

With regard to the future of the Glebe Land, the Parish Council is awaiting information from the land agent

The meeting finished by thanking Alan Morgan for his 18 years of service as Clerk to the Council

The annual Village Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 30th April at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

The first meeting of the new Parish Council will take place on Thursday 21st May at 7.30 pm.

RJP