

Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 28th May 2014

The meeting commenced with the re-election of Derek Southgate as Chairman and Carl Brinkley as Vice Chairman. It was agreed that all other councillor responsibilities will remain as the previous year

There has still been no progress in co-opting a councillor to bring the council up to strength

The Clerk was requested to proceed with the procurement and installation of a dog bin in Old Hall Lane

The Police Report noted that between since the last meeting there has been no reported crime in the village (compared with four for the same period last year). PC Ruth Horton reminded us, again, of the need to ensure that sheds and garages are kept secure and advised that the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting will be in Shimpling Village Hall on Tuesday 15th July between 6 and 7 pm

Whilst progress is slow, discussions continue with the authorities involved regarding local needs housing in the village and the finalization of the purchase of the new meadow at Earl's Hall

Our County Councillor, Jenny Antill, was unable to attend the meeting, but, subsequent to the meeting we received a communication from her advising that BT have informed her that Great Green will be included in the next phase of Better Broadband. This means that an improved service should be available in that part of the village by the end of September at the latest

Our District Councillor, Clive Arthey, explained the forthcoming changes in development levies from the existing Section 106 fund to the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and also the consultation regarding the District's supplementary planning document

The village survey, which has been developed by the Parish Council's Planning Consultation Group, is now ready for distribution and will be delivered to every house in the Parish. The objective is to measure opinion as to how the village should develop over the next 15-20 years. As a footnote to this report, anyone reader resident in Cockfield, who has not received a questionnaire and wishes to make their opinions known, should contact the Clerk

With regard to the willow trees in Dukes Meadow, it was reported that two trees have now been tidied up but that the large tree outside No 22 has yet to be removed

The Greens Committee reported that Great Green requires spraying and the weeds around the play area need treatment. It was agreed that, in the interests of safety, this work should be carried out only by an authorized and approved contractor. It was also agreed to accept a quotation for tidying the willow trees around the pond

Earl's Meadow has been harrowed and more trees planted. Thanks were expressed to David Hodge for spraying the Meadow

The steps leading to Earl's Meadow have been repaired and some further work has been carried out on the Abbey footpath

The works on the pavilion are currently out to tender

The highways report was made subsequent to the meeting. The major issues that have been discussed with the County Council are the length of time it has taken to complete the drain repairs at the junction of the A1141 and Windsor Green, and the plan for improving the southbound bus stop at Mill Corner. Both of these issues are yet to be concluded

It was also reported that the carriageway on the north side of Great Green is badly potholed and the County has agreed to inspect this area. As far as other areas of concern, we have been advised that Howe Lane/Chapel Road is scheduled for pothole 'patching' this year and top dressing in 2015

The purchase of mobile Vehicle Activated Speed signs is still under review and the County has agreed to repair the A134 milepost (opposite the Lawshall turning) which has been knocked down

A final item on highways – Anglian Water has apologized to the village for the disruption caused by the unannounced closure of Howe Lane on the 22nd and 23rd April. The water leak which required repair had been identified to them well before then and should not have required an emergency road closure order!

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 31st July at 7.30 pm

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

RJP