

Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 21th May 2015

This was the first Parish Council meeting following the uncontested election held on 7th May. The Chairman welcomed Alan Morgan as a member of the Council following his election, noting that his long experience as Clerk to the Council will make him an ideal councilor. The Parish Council is now at full strength

The Chairman welcomed Doug Reed to his first meeting as Clerk to the Council

Derek Southgate was elected unopposed to serve as Chairman for the coming year. Robin Morley took the opportunity, on behalf of the Parish Council, to thank him for his efforts over the last year

The Officers of the Council were re-elected with the addition of Alan Morgan to the Planning Consultation Group, Cemetery Management and the Local Needs Housing and Section 106 Funding Committee. Alan Morgan and Barbara Ruffell were appointed as additional Trustees to the Village Charity

Under matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting it was reported that the Glebe Land is not on the diocese disposal register. The Letting agent has been requested to investigate the situation regarding this land and any limitations of use. Following this the Council will consider options and if taking on the plot can unlock it to provide greater benefit to the village.

PC Gary Austin send his apologies for absence and there was no Police report presented. It was noted that the likelihood of receiving individual village reports in future is extremely low

The Clerk and Robin Morley had attended a further meeting with the various project stakeholders. It was reported that the plans for Local Needs Housing have support from the majority of agencies involved and that they are moving forward to resolve some technical issues. Regrettably this is taking some time to conclude although all parties remain confident of a solution.

The purchase of the second meadow at Earl's Meadow will hopefully be concluded in the near future

Both our County Councillor, Jenny Antill, and our newly re-elected District Councillor, Clive Arthey, apologised for their absences, but in neither case had anything to report over the elections period

Greens Committee. It was requested that the provision of dog bins on Great Green be reinstated on the agenda following the success of the trial bin in Old Hall Lane. There was discussion regarding a permanent site for the beacon following its successful use as the centerpiece for the VE day commemoration hosted by the Community Council – it was agreed to add this as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was also noted that the village sign on Parsonage green requires cleaning and painting – Rodney Williams agreed to investigate

Earls Meadow. Both Meadows have been harrowed and all the benches have been cleaned. Signs and display boards are being considered and plans are to be drawn up for steps to the river from the nursery bed. A visit to Rodbridge, to share experiences with Melford Parish Council, for our volunteers is being planned and, as always, thanks are due to everyone who has helped in the maintenance of our project

Abbey footpath. The undergrowth along the path is growing rapidly and requires attention. Ralph Turner noted that recent cutting was undertaken by SCC so further work may require a working party.

Pavilion. The pavilion has now been stripped out and work will start on 8th June, to be completed within 4 weeks. It was agreed that the enlargement of the serving hatch should be included in the works. The contractor has requested that the internal decoration, to be carried out by the Community Council, be finished before the new flooring is installed

Joe Brinkley, representing the Football Club, was thanked for attending various meetings to move this project forward and for arranging for the pavilion to be cleared. He added that the Club's awards event will take place on 30th May and invited the Council members along

Highways. The water leak in Felsham Road has been confirmed as a faulty water main and has been repaired by Anglian Water. Concerns were expressed re the quality of the pothole patching in Howe Lane and Chapel Road – these will be discussed with County Highways

The Village of the Year submission is now complete and we move on to the first stage of judging

An additional Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th June at 8 pm to review last year's accounts, with the next scheduled meeting on Thursday 30th July at 7.30 pm

The Parish Council may be contacted through the Clerk, Doug Reed, on 01359 241009 or by e-mail at parish.council@cockfield.org.uk

RJP