

Cockfield Parish Council Meeting Report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 27th September 2012

The meeting commenced early at 7 pm in order for Patrick Taylor, of Babergh District Council, to present his appraisal of the Cross Green Conservation Area. The Conservation Area was originally established in 1973 and this latest appraisal was carried out to comply with the District Council's statutory duty to keep these records up to date. The appraisal contains no proposals for changes to the Conservation Area, but notes that there is scope for visual improvement in burying power cables crossing the Green, controlling Leylandii hedging and screening various industrial/agricultural buildings. A number of members of the public attended this presentation and were invited to put questions to Mr Taylor

The appraisal may be downloaded from the Babergh District Council website by entering 'conservation area appraisals' in the search box and following the links

Following the presentation a number of members of the public left and the meeting resumed normal business

It was agreed that Norman Kelly will be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the earlier resignation of one of our members

Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped on the day, or the days leading up to, the final round of judging in the Suffolk Village of the Year competition. The village was immaculate and the turn out in the village hall demonstrated to the judges the thriving community spirit in the village. There were particular thanks to our district councillor, Clive Arthey, and the Police for their support, and also to the ladies of the netball and ladies football clubs. The results will be announced on Radio Suffolk on Saturday 6th October at 7.40 am

The Chairman, on behalf of the whole village, thanked Janne Cutting-Keyton for her efforts in leading and pulling together the VoY entry

Following the review of road safety issues in the village, new speed limit repeater signs have been ordered as has a new sign at the end of Windsor Green, which will no longer refer to this road as a cut through to Sudbury and the A134. A flashing speed indicator sign has been installed in Howe Lane – this will remain in situ for 4-5 weeks, and PC Horton advised that, now the children are back at school, she will be carrying out speed checks in Church Lane

Other road safety issues are still being considered by Suffolk County Council, and it was agreed to add a request for them to consider ways of improving the safety of pedestrians waiting for Lavenham-bound buses at Mill Corner

The inadequacies of the new Wednesday bus service have been noted and will be passed to our County Councillor for his consideration

The new acting Headteacher of Cockfield School, Emma Nicholson, introduced herself to the Council. She expressed her intention to work with the Council and other bodies in the village for the benefit of both the school and the community. The Chairman welcomed her to the village and committed our future support for her and the school

PC Horton reported four crimes in the village since the last meeting. Two occurred at the school – the theft of batteries from contractors vehicles and the theft of heating oil for the school storage tank. The other crimes involved theft from a motor vehicle and a domestic burglary (for which an arrest has been made). In both the later cases the vehicle and the house were not secure – **PC Horton stressed the need for everyone to be aware of the dangers of casual crime arising from leaving cars and houses unlocked and to take the necessary action to protect themselves**

The purchase of additional land and railway track continues to proceed slowly through legal channels

The new pathway at the bus-stop on Great Green is now complete – it was noted that the VoY judges expressed their admiration of the shelter and were generally impressed by the way in which the village uses its section 106 grants

Clive Arthey added his congratulations to our VoY entry. He then went on to say that the county wide blue bin textile collection is proving successful with collections up to 30 tonnes per week. He also added that this initiative had increased awareness of the value of recycling textiles and that charities are reporting increased donations

With regard to our village, it was noted that the school has raised £450 so far this year through recycling textiles and everyone is encouraged to support the 'Phil the Bag' campaign

The Greens Committee thanked Rod Williams for clearing the children's play area of weeds and tidying up the area – it was noted that the edging boards are deteriorating and will be reviewed in the spring, together with the need for renewing the bark

It was agreed that a dog bin be installed on Great Green as, although the issue of fouling is greatly improved, it is felt that means of disposal need improvement

The drains in the pavilion are giving cause for concern and various plans for improvement are being considered

A specialist review of the trees on Great Green has been undertaken and it is apparent that a number of actions are required to maintain the health of the trees and the safety of the public. The Council agreed to go ahead with these actions, details of which will be announced separately

The VoY judges enjoyed their visit to Earl's Meadow – thanks were expressed to Dave Tarling, Anthony Creasey, Nigel Copping and all the other helpers for their efforts in preparing for the visit. Now it is autumn again, more clearing will soon be necessary and working parties will be arranged as necessary

It was noted that the footpath from Howe Lane to the Church requires cutting back at the Howe Lane end – this will be cleared in the near future

The cemetery is looking tidy and well maintained, thanks again to those who have contributed to its maintenance

Finally – **DOG FOULING** – there are still individuals in the village who do not think it necessary, or even their responsibility, to clear up after their dogs – the main areas concerned being Windsor Green and Old Hall Lane. These people know who they are, so please, if it is you, and you are reading this, please, for the health of your fellow villagers and their children, **CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 29th November

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

RJP