

REPORT OF COCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24th 2015

The meeting which started at 7.00pm was chaired by Councillor Southgate and attended by 7 councillors and the Parish Clerk.

District Councillor Arthey attended part of the meeting. There were no members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Antill and Councillor Portwood who had received an operation that afternoon. It was agreed that the Chairman would send the Council's sympathies and best wishes for his recovery.

Following the approval of the minutes relating to the previous adjourned meeting the following items were discussed;

Devolution of powers from central to local government and its possible implications for Parish, District and County Councils. Cllr Antill would be asked for an update at the next meeting.

Ongoing non-presence of police representation at Parish Council meetings, feedback on incidents and rural coverage. Possible use of Safer Neighbourhood Schemes in lieu.

The Clerk's report was noted particularly on items relating to the internal and external audits, glebe land, the County Councillor's locality budget and completion of new bank signatories. A letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Rose thanking the council for the donation towards plants with the village's thanks for the excellent way in which they keep the War Memorial.

There were no new planning applications but it was reported that the erection of a 2-storey house at the front of Great Green Farmhouse had been granted after two appeals and a further application and that other more minor applications had been approved. The Council had responded on two applications which were awaiting a decision.

The Council approved the financial statement, compared it with the budget, authorised the payments as laid out and approved the 2014-2015 Annual Return.

The Council noted the points which arose from a review of its insurance commitments particularly that a formal Asset Register should be created with costs both for audit purposes and for insurance purposes.

A preferred list of local contractors was agreed to whom payments could be made between meetings if necessary.

A proposal that the number of Parish Council meetings, for a period of a year in the first instance, should be increased from six to ten was passed by a small majority. Meetings would not be held in the months of August and December .

Correspondence received by the Clerk was noted and his action agreed.

Cllr Morley reported further slow progress with the local needs housing project. A meeting of all parties has been arranged for October 27th and hopefully a more positive report will be available at the Parish Council meeting that week.

The Chairman reported on progress towards the completion of the Pavilion refurbishment and the associated works. The Pavilion can now be used; whilst some snagging and remedial works are actioned works are in hand. Full completion expected by the end of October weather permitting to allow final exterior finishing's.

The District Councillor in giving his report mentioned devolution, Community Achievement Awards and that aluminium tops could be left on bottles for recycling.

The Council approved unanimously updated Standing Orders (including the Protocol for reporting)

Under their portfolios Councillors reported that there had been 2 recent burials in the cemetery, that there had been no problems with footpaths, nothing in particular to report about the Greens. Councillor Williams had arranged a work party on Earls meadow etc for its autumn clear up. Councillor Cutting would circulate the VOY judges comments for interest.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 29th October at 7.00pm.