



# LITTLE CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Kevin B. Money 7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN

Tel: 07810781509 email: [little.cornard.pc@gmail.com](mailto:little.cornard.pc@gmail.com)

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/littlecornardpc/>

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup>. March 2024 at 7pm at Little Cornard Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Karen Gilbert (Chair), Cheryl Crane, Clive Johnson, Nigel Monk, Scott Savage, Mark Smith and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were 5 members of the public present.

**024/2024 Chairman welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**025/2024 Apologies for absence** were received from SCC James Finch, BDC Cllr L. Parker and Cllr J. Thomas

**026/2024 Declaration of Interest**

Receive declarations of interests and request for dispensation from Councillors.

Cllr N. Monk declared an interest in planning application DC/24/00556

**027/2024 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the minutes of LCPC meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup>. January 2024. **All Agreed**

**028/2024 Public participation session - Total of 5 minutes is allowed**

It is good to see that the barbed wire has been removed but the verge has not been re-instated to its previous state.

The fence which is protecting the pond has been reported to Highways and is in a terrible state.

The Parish Council should raise this issue again with Highways.

**029/2024 County Councillors report - Total of 5 minutes is allowed**

**£4.4 million to be spent for 60 additional staff to strengthen SEND reform.**

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has confirmed that 60 new members of staff will be recruited to drive forward important reform to the way special educational needs and disability (SEND) services are delivered in Suffolk. This includes an increase in permanent SEND staff of nearly 15%. These new posts will support the improvement of the quality and timeliness of assessments, plans, reviews, and communications with families. To support this improvement programme, an additional £4.4million was signed off during the budget discussions at Full Council on February 15. Of this, £3.4million will provide 46 new full-time posts – a increase of 15% in current staffing levels. An additional £1million will be spent in 2024/25 to fund 14 temporary posts.

**Public consultation on Suffolk County Council's proposed devolution deal starts on 18th March**

**2024.** A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will start on 18th March and run through until 26th May. The consultation will be in two main parts – an open survey, hosted by Suffolk County Council, that any residents can complete and a sample survey of 1000 Suffolk residents conducted independently by Ipsos Mori. The consultation will be available through our website [www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution) and social media. There will also be media coverage highlighting the consultation.

**Dragon Patcher lands in Suffolk to bolster response to rural potholes.** Suffolk Highways has welcomed the new pothole-repairing machine to help fix the growing number of potholes experienced nationally during the winter season, with a trial set to initially target defects in rural Suffolk. The Dragon Patcher is a machine that releases compressed air which cleans the surface of the road, before heating the surface to a temperature that enables repair material to bond effectively with the road surface, allowing the pothole to be repaired with an aggregate and hot bitumen material. Compared with the traditional approach of repairing potholes, the Dragon Patcher can work five times faster. This trial is in addition to the potholes being repaired around the clock as part of our routine repair programme, during the past two months Suffolk Highways has repaired 2,851 potholes across Suffolk. Fuelled by the biodiesel, HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil), the patcher reduces raw material use and creates zero waste and has shown to provide significant carbon savings when compared to traditional patching techniques. Once the trial ends in Suffolk, a decision will be taken on whether to roll out the technology across the county.

**Have your say on Suffolk's local transport plan.** Residents are invited to share their views on how they travel to help inform Suffolk's Local Transport Plan. The plan sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk and covers key themes such as decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices. Suffolk County Council is asking for feedback on the key themes proposed for

Signed

*K Gilbert*

**K. Gilbert  
Chairman**

21<sup>st</sup>. May 2024



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the fourth version of the plan, which will cover the period until 2040 and respond to long-term transport opportunities and challenges facing Suffolk and the UK as a whole. A link to the survey can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4>. The consultation will run for eight weeks until 8 April 2024. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and inform the production of the draft local transport plan. The full draft document will then be subject to further consultation later in the year.

**Suffolk County Council to review weed control for roads and pavements.** In February 2022, the council agreed to stop using glyphosate in its routine weed treatment programmes, to find more natural alternatives to help protect the local environment. However, the alternative products proved unable to meet requirements, which was further exacerbated by exceptional growing conditions. Multiple applications were sometimes needed which could introduce other negative environmental impacts. Teams will continue to monitor and research the different approaches being used to remove weeds on our roads and pavements. However where needed, glyphosate would be used responsibly as it is one of the most cost-effective and long-lasting solutions.

**Final Position Statement - Bramford to Twinstead (EN020002) - Deadline 9.** Notwithstanding that Suffolk County Council (SCC) have always accepted the principle of the project, and has been able to support important aspects of it, including undergrounding in the Stour Valley and the removal of redundant 132kV transmission lines. SCC is so concerned about the shortcomings in the Applicant's proposals for the implementation and control of the construction of the project, that it must advise the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State that it formally OBJECTS to the making of a Development Consent Order (DCO) in the terms put forward by the Applicant in the draft DCO and supported by the current suite of control documents. The Council considers that the following management plans require substantial revision, due to insufficient detail, these issues are exacerbated by the lack of a commitment to a two-stage, (outline and final) process, in accordance with the comments submitted to the examination For more information refer to this link; -

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wpcontent/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-001641-Suffolk%20County%20Council%20-%20Comments%20on%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%208.pdf>

**98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on National Offer Day.**

This year parents and carers of 98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school. Suffolk County Council received 7,867 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2024. Families who applied online can log in to the online service from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer, unless they have indicated that they do not wish to. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post today (1 March 2024).

**Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley.** A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in your home. To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk).

a) Update on finger post on Workhouse Green. No update on this item

**030/2024 District Councillors report - Total of 5 minutes is allowed**

- I have discussed funding with Karen in respect of SID's. Unfortunately we can't bid in to CIL for that so I've asked our communities team to look at their sources of funding. Will report back.
- I met with the VH committee last month. I have briefed our CIL team that there may be a bid coming forward for VH improvements. I'm just awaiting the committee putting together their costings and proposals and then I can assist with an application.

**031/2024 Community Wardens – update on litter picking and SID information**

Cllr K. Gilbert has spoken to Bradley at SCC who looks after the SID but the battery is working slow. The battery needs replacing. Can CIL money be allocated to replace all the SID batteries or to buy new SID's? Cllr L. Parker will be approached to see if funding is available.

No litter picking has been requested from the wardens and local residents

Signed

*K Gilbert*  
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## 032/2024 Highways

- 1) Following Councillors logging details about highway issues to BDC then to send highways report/number to the Clerk to keep up to date. The Clerk has been kept up-to-date with Highway issues being reported.  
LCPC should contact SCC Cllr J. Finch to raise the standard of Highway repairs including pot-holes.
- 2) Flooding in the village – Spout Lane and Chapel Lane – Drains in Wyatts Lane need addressing – Blocked drains causing dangerous road conditions. Already reported to Highways
- 3) Fly tipping in Dorking Tye - A sofa in ditch on the road from Dorking Tye to Workhouse Green before Stantons Farm – Already reported to Highways - Report number FT592322134
- 4) Proposed Speed limits for Little Cornard – update from Cllr M. Smith has chased SCC Cllr J. Finch

## 033/2024 Planning Applications

**DC/24/00504** - Sawyers Farm, Slough Lane, Bures St Mary CO10 0NY

Full Planning Application - Construction of 32 No ground mounted solar energy array panel (retention of) On 21<sup>st</sup>. February 2024, before the deadline submission date, Little Cornard Parish Council submitted the following response. **Little Cornard Parish Council has no comment to make on this application**

**DC/24/00556** - Kingsbury House, Upper Road, Little Cornard, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 0NZ

Householder Application - Erection of rear extension and front and rear dormer extensions including insertion of rooflight.

**RESOLVED:** Little Cornard Parish Council Supports this planning application

## 034/2024 Planning Decision/s made by Babergh District Council affecting Little Cornard

**DC/24/00384** - April Cottage, Spout Lane, Little Cornard, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 0NX

Application for works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order BT346/T1 - Lift Canopy of 1 No Oak Tree removing branches from service wires, removing 4 smaller branches from one side will not unbalance the rest of the tree. **CONSENT HAS BEEN GRANTED**

**035/2024 Agree any action required on the emails** circulated by the Clerk to Councillors since the last scheduled meeting of the Council.

## 036/2024 Clerk's report

- a) Clerk to produce an updated ongoing projects / action list for Councillors

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Government is imposing all Councils must have a .gov.uk domain name linked to the website. The Clerk has obtained a quotation for 10 email mailboxes and to convert all information across to the new emails etc. The quote is £401.00p +VAT but up to 31.03.24 the Government will reimburse the Council £100.00p. Bringing the cost down to £301.00p +VAT.

Cllr C. Johnson proposed to proceed with this conversion. Cllr M. Smith seconded. **All Agreed**

## 037/2024 Footpath update

- a) Update on confirmation that SCC will undertake 2 cuts in 2024 (May & September).

Quotation for other cuts throughout 2024/2025 – Cllr K. Gilbert. No further update. Quotation awaiting a response from SCC

## 038/2024 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Update from Cllr M. Smith

The Little Cornard NHW Group now has 55 members signed up since its reinstatement in July 2023. We now have members that live on all the roads in Little Cornard.

We will continue to publish a crime prevention articles in each of the parish magazines. The latest magazine had an article on how to prevent fraud and an introduction to PC Coughlan and the role of the Community Police Officers.

The Little Cornard NHW What's app page is working well alongside that of The Little Cornard Residents App set up for other village matters.

Signed

*K Gilbert*  
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Chairman

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Thankfully there has been little to no reported crime in Little Cornard other than the Blackhouse Lane criminal damage. Where children were seen to damage traffic bollards. The police have been to local schools with a hope to try and ID the children involved and both schools' staff have been spoken to and there are no ID's. This suggests that they either go to another school out of area, or are not local, the feeling is that, it's unlikely. The Police will continue to ask with a hope to ID the children so that they can bring about a resolution - This crime has been filed pending an ID. The police told me that there had been a few thefts from vehicles locally and a couple of burglaries in Sudbury and the Essex borders.

One of the main priorities for the police in the rural community is developing links to help tackle criminality - such as having a key network of individuals they can go to, to disseminate quick time crime information. I now have good relationship with our local officers and they will respond to incidents. We are getting regular patrols around the village and the police will attend the next Parish Council meeting in May. (Subject to operational calls)

I am still awaiting to hear from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch and Suffolk highways. about the sites for our new signs. We will have to apply direct to BT instead of Suffolk highways to use their telegraph poles and only on the ones that have no wires running down them.

The NHW is set up to bring the community together and enable individuals and the community to be connected, active, minimise crime and make everyone feel safer.

If you see a crime being committed, please call 999 immediately.

You can use the on-line reporting tools or 101 in a non-emergency to report minor crimes. This frees up the 999-emergency system.

PC Coughlan and the Community Policing Team will see the reports that are in the area they are responsible for.

## **039/2024 Village Hall – Update from Cllr N. Monk**

Funds are stable £14500.00p in bank: Upgrading toilet facilities for disabled access:

Flat parking outside Hall with tarmacing: Upgrading septic tank: Cart lodge to be installed:

Playground equipment: Rendering requires repairing: Heating to be upgraded:

Regular bookings going well: Quiz night 13<sup>th</sup>. April 2024: Casino night arranged later in the year:

## **040/2024 Finance**

a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 29<sup>th</sup>. February 2024

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 29<sup>th</sup>. February 2024

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2023/2024

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2023/2024

c) To approve the payment of Accounts for February and March 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial arrangements. **All Agreed**

d) PCC contribution £275.00p Cllr N. Monk proposed Cllr C. Johnson seconded. **All Agreed**

## **041/2024 Update on National Grid – Cllr K. Gilbert**

Coming to the end of consultation period. Trying to put objections to an access road by putting trees around the area. Visible on the valley side. It is contrary to the Neighbourhood plan. No decisions have been made on the outcome and when works will start.

## **042/2024 Councillors to discuss any further training for 2024/2025**

Councillors have been given all the SALC training dates

## **043/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

**044/2024 Next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. May 2024 will be the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm followed by LCPC AGM followed by a brief LCPC Full Council meeting**

**Councillors to note 2024 meeting dates - 16.07.24: 17.09.24: 19.11.24**

## **045/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.25pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*K Gilbert*

**K. Gilbert  
Chairman**

21<sup>st</sup>. May 2024