



# LITTLE CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tel: 07810781509 email: [clerk@littlecornard-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlecornard-pc.gov.uk)

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

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. September 2024 at 7pm at Little Cornard Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Karen Gilbert (Chair), Cheryl Crane, Jill Thomas, SCC Cllr J. Finch, BDC L. Parker and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were 13 members of the public present.

**092/2024 Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr N. Monk and Cllr C. Johnson

**093/2024 Declaration of Interest**

Receive declarations of interests and request for dispensation from Councillors. **None Declared**

**094/2024 Minutes** - To confirm and sign the minutes of LCPC meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup>. July 2024  
**All Agreed**

**095/2024 Co-Option**

**Councillors are requested to receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt candidates to fill the vacancies**

The Candidates having completed a short application form and confirmed their eligibility for the position of Councillor within the statutory rules (Local Government Act 1972 section 79). Forms have been returned to the Parish Clerk by the prescribed deadline

Cllr K. Gilbert proposed Karen Winter and Graham Deere to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr C. Crane seconded. **All Agreed**. Karen Winter and Graham Deere then signed their declaration of Acceptance of Office, E-Consent forms and were handed the Register of Interest form to be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days. Cllr K. Winter and G. Deere then took their seats as Parish Councillors

**096/2024 Public participation session - Total of 5 minutes is allowed**

Highways issues in Little Cornard village still persist.

Speed limit in village must be reduced and due to no street lighting in the village the lanes are dangerous. There are no 30mph signs painted on the road. The volume of traffic movement has increased dramatically. Speedwatch in the village is re-starting we hope.

Footpath issues are a continuing problem

Potholes are an ever-increasing problem

Hedge trimming in the area is spasmodically cut and not all areas have been cut back

Wyatts Lane "national" speed limit sign should be removed as motorist speeding up after the sign

Verges undertaken by County Council but no works have been done to the banks - wyatts

Local farmers have cut their verges to keep the village clear and clean.

**097/2024 County Councillors report - Total of 5 minutes is allowed**

• Suffolk residents will be able to access electric vehicles on a short-term basis, from next summer. A trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk, with the tender process beginning

this autumn. Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing sixteen electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk

which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Planned locations include Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds,

Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge.

Members of the public interested in this project are urged to sign up to the mailing list to receive updates as the

project progresses – search: Plug in Suffolk Car Clubs - Mailing List.

Car Clubs have already offered people in other parts of the UK access to local, low-emission vehicles without the

expense of owning one. Local communities in these areas have already experienced many benefits including

improved air quality, reduced congestion and increased mobility for those without access to their own car.

Current providers remain reluctant to fully fund electric community vehicles in rural and semi-rural areas like

Suffolk as they do not yet have the real-world data to support the usage.

The project is funded by Suffolk's public sector organisations, helping deliver on two of the Suffolk Climate



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Emergency Plan's goals; a reduced number of cars on the road and an increased proportion of vehicles on the road that are low or zero emission. Additional charge point funding is being provided by the Department for Transport's On Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS).

Councillor Neil MacDonald, Chair, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, says:

"Suffolk residents have been asking about the possibility of bringing Car Clubs to Suffolk following the recent

success of the Car Club trial in Oxfordshire, therefore I am looking forward to the launch of our trial.

I am hoping that many individuals and families will benefit from the scheme and help to bring electric community vehicles permanently to our county."

Collaborative Mobility UK (CoMoUK) reported:

'We estimate that, in 2022, each car club vehicle in the UK replaced around 22 private cars.' (CoMoUK Annual Car Club report 2022)

- Small improvements still needed as children's services' Ofsted report published

Ofsted has published its report into Suffolk County Council's children's services. The report rated the service as 'requires improvement to be good'.

The ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) report conveys a mixed picture across Suffolk.

Importantly, inspectors concluded that children's safeguarding is strong and that the experiences and progress of children in care were good. They also reported that 'children in care thrive'.

However, they highlighted weakness in some of the processes and systems in place. These included inconsistencies

with the way first contact with children and young people is processed, and the quality and support to children aged 16 and 17 who present as homeless. It also found inconsistencies in the level of understanding that care leavers have about the range of support available to them.

The report outlined seven points for improvement, which have either been implemented already through small amends to systems or processes, or are in progress.

- Major scrapyards fire most likely sparked by discarded battery, fire investigators conclude

The fire at Sackers in Gipping Road, Great Blakenham, on Thursday, August 8, resulted in a major response by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. The fire at Sackers saw 14 appliances and more than 80 firefighters deployed to deal with it. It was brought under control late on Thursday and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service subsequently launched an investigation into the cause.

This has established that the most likely cause was a battery which had made its way into a pile of scrap metal. If batteries, or electricals containing batteries, are not properly separated they can end up being crushed in the waste and recycling process.

When punctured they can self-combust, setting fire to any surrounding dry and flammable waste and recycling.

The conclusion is that waste batteries and electrical items should never be thrown into household waste. Instead, they can be recycled at any of Suffolk's 11 Recycling Centres, as well as other local recycling banks. Many supermarkets also accept them.

Electricals containing batteries that tend to be discarded the most are smaller, frequently used and often cheaper electricals like toothbrushes, shavers, chargers, and toys.

- Solar Together launches in Suffolk

Residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers.

Suffolk residents can join the group-buying scheme, which offers solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate. The scheme allows homeowners to increase their independence from the national grid.

It's free to register, and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation. Suffolk's councils are working in partnership with iChoosr, experts in sustainable energy transition, to make the transition to clean energy as cost-effective and hassle-free as possible.

To date, Solar Together has installed 13,750 solar panels in Suffolk, reducing carbon emissions by 27,100 tonnes over 25 years – equivalent to 15,000 cars off the road in that time! iChoosr's schemes have been



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delivered in partnership with local authorities in five countries. More than 180 schemes have led to 178,000 residents installing solar PV systems.

Councillor Gerald Kelly, chairman of Suffolk's Environment Portfolio Holders Group, said:

"Solar Together Suffolk has been successfully running for six years now, seeing hundreds of solar and battery installations across the county.

"A recent survey of Suffolk customers showed that the main reason for their installation was to do good for the climate and environment, followed by saving money on bills and reducing their reliance on the grid.

"Homes account for nearly a quarter of all Suffolk's CO2 emissions. Through the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, we are helping homeowners and landlords make their homes and lifestyles as sustainable and energy efficient as possible. This can be through improving insulation, how homes are heated, electric vehicle infrastructure, or solar panels and batteries."

Richard from Bures, near Sudbury, recently shared his experience with Solar Together Suffolk and said:

"Excellent! Solar Together Suffolk took all the hassle of finding a provider, and the group-buying secured me a better discount than trying to do this on my own. It was a no-brainer."

How does it work?

Householders can register online to become part of the group for free and without obligation at [solartogether.co.uk/suffolk](http://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk)

- Two Suffolk flood investigation reports published in latest response to Storm Babet

The investigations into the flooding which occurred in Needham Market and Wickham Market during October 2023 have analysed what caused these events and recommend what could be done to alleviate flooding there in the future. In Needham Market, over 45 residential and commercial properties were internally flooded. In Wickham Market, it was 40 properties. In both communities, infrastructure and services were disrupted.

The investigations found that the areas were severely impacted by flooding due to the intensity of rainfall that overwhelmed the natural flow routes and the capacity of watercourses and drainage infrastructure. This situation was compounded when overland flow paths converged with the water from rivers that had burst their banks.

Key recommendations for both areas, which include short, medium and long-term proposals aimed at individual homeowners, community groups, landowners and Risk Management Authorities, include:

- Implementing community flood plans
- Maximising use of grants available to make properties more resilient to flooding
- Removing blockages in watercourses and drains (private and publicly owned)
- Investigating potential improvements to drainage infrastructure (private and publicly owned)
- Creating new natural flood management features (e.g.: storage ponds and planting that 'slows the flow' of flood water)
- Further modelling to better understand flooding within the location (Wickham Market only).

These actions should help mitigate local flood risk going forward.

- Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children. Suffolk will continue with Foster Carer Recruitment Event on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in the home of the applicant. To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk).

My Priorities

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and fair council tax.

## **098/2024 District Councillors report - Total of 5 minutes is allowed**

Cllr L. Parker start by saying he was pleased to see a packed village hall with residents engaging with the Parish Council

Bins – Cabinet approved new bin system with an emphasis on recycling with all 3 coloured bins starting in the new year.

Black bins are being considered to move to a 3 week collection rather than a 2 week collection.

BDC are still playing catch up from the elections. BDC CIL money has distributed over £800,000.

The pool is closed for about 12 weeks due to restoration. BDC Council meeting is next week.



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## 099/2024 Community Wardens – update on litter picking and SID information

Can Bradley at SCC organise a litter pick, after the grass has been cut, probably in October?

We will ask Community wardens to do a litter pick in October after weeds have died down from village border with bures to airstrip (dangerous areas) as Wardens are NRSWA trained (street works) and can work safely. Funded by footpath under spend. Agreed by Cllr Crane and Thomas

## 100/2024 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

Spout pond water is overflowing and coming down Spout Lane. This will be progressed before the winter arrives. Cllr Johnson to meet George Wright to seek a resolution.

Upper Road layby. Are highways reinstating the layby. A formal response from the letter sent to CEO of BDC. Cllr Gilbert Requested can all residents please send into the SCC Highways website to register problems?

Cllr K. Gilbert went through the updated ongoing projects / action list line by line and read it out so residents were able to note the actions by the Parish council reporting issues.

- 2) Update SCC on the Grass / Footpath cutting schedule for 2024

2 cuts have been undertaken by SCC and The Parish council will pay for an additional cut as and when needed.

- 3) Footpath update notes from Cllr Gilberts meeting with PROW James Pickerin:

- Can SCC tell us the dates they intend to cut so we can intersperse with our own contract - they will indicate cut periods – but who and when is down to Contractor
- They offered their contractor to do the work at their prices we may have one this year – budgeted for 1 additional cut hopefully this relationship will help with the above.
- We noted FP17 – damaged stile – James will seek to get landowner to fix or fix and recharge / make safe as required.
- FP17 – due to complaints – we looked at the over growth and he recommended the land owner cuts it back (or we do) – and we work better next year to widen the cut early to prevent such overhang – and get extra cuts from the contractor. We benefitted before as Mr Gotts cut above and the ground – he was far too good!
- Steps FP13 (lower farm) – he agreed safe for now but not in wet – if we can get someone to fix (Scott) and agree materials cost he will fund them including new wood for steps and type 1 to fill the treads of all steps – we fund the work (labour) – for agreement under footpaths budget as you see fit.
- We will not need certain places cut as they are now tracks (such as FP13 Chapel Lane to Lower Farm) – he noted and will collect up the credited meterage. We will decide where we want this “spent” – as a Council after asking interested villagers. Cllr K. Gilbert showed him uncut bits (steps Chapel Lane, Headland lower farm (FP13))
- We inspected FP1 – over hung branches etc need addressing by landowner or us / a work party – we will arrange off line amongst village.
- He informed me if we did do work on foot paths as a routine, we could use our liability or theirs, but needed tickets (risk assessments etc) to do any mowing strimming etc.
- If we want to move a path (Peacock to Chapel) it will cost about £5K to advertise notices etc – not an option
- Missing waymarkers – list them and he will supply posts and signs for us to install.
- FP10 – width under question – I can measure but his team will strim if it's too narrow.
- FP8 (sewage works to Mere) – we can access a fund to help restore this using type 1, levelling works, new kissing gates (our aren't sufficient) etc to help Sam the new farmer there achieve his work on the meadow and enhance the path – fits the bill on the fund LCWIP criteria – used by tourists and locals to get from somewhere to somewhere else (Henny / pub church)
- FP8 talked about cutting over hanging stuff from Vic Nash's – I can get John to do that from F/p budget? – Sue Nash did sterling work on footpath – a top job – so we saved a massive amount there - she didn't need to but did – amazing woman. John Doe is a local hedge cutter – does great work for not very much.



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**101/2024 Village Hall** – Update on the repairs to village hall from Gerald bird:  
Planning has been placed back in. Withdraw works to outside walls. BDC rejected the application as they did not think it was a Grade 1 building. Replacing concrete render may cause more clay lump damage than thought, so it won't be replaced. Works on internal plans (bathrooms and accessibility) will continue. Cart lodge or storage building outside. Residents donating archive material and a heritage storage facility is required. A reference to a play area was discussed.  
Cllr J. Finch left the meeting

**102/2024 Planning Applications.** No planning applications have been received

## a) Planning Appeal

Councillors noted the planning appeal below

**Appeal Reference:** APP/D3505/W/24/3347272

**Location:** Sawyers Farm, Slough Lane, Bures St Mary, Colchester Suffolk CO10 0NY

**Proposal:** Full Planning Application - Construction of 32No ground mounted solar energy array panel (retention of). **Appeal Start Date:** 12/08/2024

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Babergh District Council to refuse permission.

**103/2024 Planning Decision/s made by Babergh District Council affecting Little Cornard**

No planning decisions have been made by BDC affecting Little Cornard

**104/2024 Agree any action required on the emails** circulated by the Clerk to Councillors since the last scheduled meeting of the Council

**105/2024 Clerk's report**

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

Councillors noted the updated ongoing projects / action list

b) Update on Clerk vacancy. Any application/s received. If no applications received the Clerk will stay on as a locum until such time as a successor has been found. No applications have been received by the Clerk for the Clerk vacancy position. Therefore, the Clerk will remain in position as a Locum Clerk until such time as a permanent Clerk has been found.

**106/2024 Finance**

a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2024

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2024

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/2025

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/2025

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

**107/2024 Budget / Precept 2025/2026.** Councillors to discuss preliminary budget for 2025/2026

Councillors discussed the draft 2025/2026 budget

**108/2024 Councillors to discuss any further training for 2024/2025**

The Clerk to keep circulating training calendar to Councillors

**109/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

Speedwatch update: Neighbourhood watch: Speeding in the village: National Grid:

**110/2024 Next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>. November 2024 at 7pm**

a) **Councillors to note the meeting dates for 2025:**

**21.01.25: 18.03.25: 20.05.25: 15.07.25: 16.09.25: 18.11.25**

**111/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.35pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*K Gilbert*

**K. Gilbert - Chair**

19<sup>th</sup>. November 2024