

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** of Great Cornard,

held virtually using MS Teams, on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Councillor S M Sheridan

Council Manager: Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator: Miss E Skuce

**The following members of the public were present**

Mrs M Bark, Mr T Keane, Mr M Newman, Mr B Smith, Mrs T E A Welsh, Mr T Welsh,

Mrs P White and Mr C Wright.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs C J Baker, Mr A C Bavington, Mr M Evans,

Mr T Harman, Inspector M Paisley and Reverend C Ramsey.

Mr N Shimwell of Sudbury Common Lands Charity was unable to join the meeting due to technical issues.

1. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE GREAT CORNARD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2019**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 8th April 2019 are confirmed as a correct record. Members **NOTED** that the 2020 Annual Parish meeting did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**
2. **Police Force**

**Apologies received from Inspector Matt Paisley. The Council Manager read out Inspector Paisley’s correspondence**

Please accept my apologies – as is the current policing stance, we are unable to provide a representative to attend the meeting. I had considered how I could best introduce myself to all Parish and Town Councils across my new policing command, and resolved that there simply is not enough time in the diary to attend all Parish annual meetings (similarly there is not the spread of resources for me to allocate individual officers to the many invites).

That said, I am more than happy to meet digitally, and in person when safe to do so, during my office working hours, and am happy to take any questions either in advance or after the meeting.

The Sudbury area is one that I hold great affinity for both personally and professionally, and am looking forward to working with you moving forward to support our communities.

Inspector Paisley

1. **Great Cornard Town Land Charity**

**Report given by Mr T Welsh – Treasurer and Secretary**

The COVID pandemic has resulted in even more organisations and families in Great Cornard requiring any financial support that the Charity can provide, and the five trustees – The Rev’d Chris Ramsey, Frank Ervine, Pam White, Ron Morris and Stewart Sheridan, have continued to meet the challenge of considering ever increasing grant applications during the last two years, whilst dealing with a finite pot of funds. Enormous credit needs to be given to them for the objective way that they consider each grant application on their very different individual merits. We have continued to formally meet four times a year but in reality we are involved much more frequently, via telephone calls and emails, as the Charity regularly responds to difficulties encountered by Great Cornard residents and organisations.

During the course of the two years to 31st Dec 2020, the Charity received rental income of £16K, from the property it purchased in November 2017. Whilst our cash position remained healthy, we continued to reinvest any proceeds from our investments. However, the decision has been taken this year to receive a monthly income from our portfolio as we will inevitably have to deal with the long-term economic fallout of the COVID pandemic

During the two years to 31 Dec 2020, approximately 80 grants totalling £35,767 were made. These included students responding to our advert in the Cornard News receiving a grant towards books for their first year university courses. We have also helped a number of Thomas Gainsborough School students who required financial assistance to continue their Sixth Form studies. We have helped many Great Cornard families furnish and carpet houses that they have been moved into, particularly during the pandemic. Grants have been given to Wells Hall School, Pot Kiln School, Storehouse Foodbank, The Dell, Mellish House, Hillside and other organisations for the benefit of Great Cornard Residents.

1. **Cornard News**

**Reports provided by Cornard News and read out by the Council Manager**

**Chairman’s Report**

2020 was a very unusual year for all of us and that includes the Editorial Board of Cornard News. We have not been able to meet since early 2020 and all issues since the spring of 2020 have been online.

Michael, our Editor, has put together e-editions which we hope you have found interesting. Hopefully, we will be back in print soon.

Our advertisers are not of course being charged for their advertisements until we can return to normal.

Andrew has prepared a Statement of Account to be presented to the Parish Council.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful, happy and hopefully more normal 2021.

Doris Rowland

**Editor’s Report**

Dear Readers,

This year we will hold a virtual AGM on Monday 15th March (details to be agreed).

It has not been practical to produce our usual printed copy of Cornard News because of the unusual restrictions relating to Covid-19 lockdowns and safety precautions. Instead, we have produced online versions of the Newsletter which can be found at [www.cornardnews.wordpress.com](http://www.cornardnews.wordpress.com)

Our special family issue (82) was in the late spring of 2020 as the first lockdown was announced. As schools were closed down and families restricted to the home, we decided to produce an online issue to occupy, entertain and amuse all the family. We included more jokes and conundrums, quizzes, cartoons, crosswords and optical illusions. Issues 83, 84, 85 and this issue have continued in the same vein.

I hope that we may be able to revert to publishing Cornard News in its usual form in the near future and if anyone is interested in helping with distribution or joining our small group please contact us through the Parish Council office.

Michael Evans

1. **Community Wardens**

**Report given by Mr B Smith, Community Warden Manager**

There are 38 volunteer litter pickers in Great Cornard and in the last year, those volunteers have cleared a total of 850 bags of litter from the village. Thank you to the Parish Council for once again supporting the litter pickers in Great Cornard and for purchasing new equipment for them to use.

100 bags of dog waste were removed from the long hedge neighbouring the assault course at the Country Park. The team continue to install new litter and dog fouling bins when asked to do so by the Parish Council.

Shawlands Wood LNR has kept the team busy with regular checks, following recent incidents of vandalism and fires within the Woods. The team have filled holes that have been dug, put out fires and helped with putting up deterrent signage.

Fly-tipping has been an issue, especially during the lockdown periods, with items being fly-tipped along Blackhouse Lane hedges and within the car park. Some drain pipes and guttering that had been fly-tipped were recycled with a local nursery where they could use them for things such as water play.

Dens were created by members of the public behind the gas station and next to the Allotments and evidence of fires being lit was present, so the team have cleared the dens each time they were created.

Also along Blackhouse Lane, the team have cleared the Black Brook from debris, allowing for a better flow of water and helping to avoid flooding.

We have regularly cleared drains at The Stevenson Centre and along Stevenson Approach. Pot holes have been repaired along the approach road and the pot holes at the Allotments car park will be done again this year.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, the Parish Council asked the team to steam clean each play area on a weekly basis. We did this and whilst doing so applied a 14 day anti-bacterial disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces such as the gates.

Despite the Remembrance Sunday Parade being very different in 2020, the team still provided a traffic management service.

While the Parish Council was in the process of appointing new grounds maintenance contractors, the Wardens strimmed and cut the grass at both the Cemetery and the Churchyard at St Andrews.

Allotments have been cleared of rubbish, road signs have been cleaned, social distancing painting carried out for all primary schools and nurseries in the village, bark supplied to the Cemetery for the Memorial Rose Garden and litter and dog bins emptied regularly.

And lastly, the team provided great support to the local community during the Covid-19 lockdowns, in delivering food parcels and prescriptions to those most vulnerable resident and managing traffic at the very busy testing centre in Head Lane in order to keep traffic moving smoothly.

The team is looking forward to working with the Parish Council and the pending speed indicator device, once that has been installed in the village.

Bradley Smith

Community Warden Manager, Sudbury Town Council

The Chairman and Councillor Newman thanked Mr Smith and his team for all their efforts during the last year and especially in relation to their support with the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. **Sudbury Common Lands Charity**

**Mr N Shimwell, Ranger, attempted to join the meeting but encountered technical difficulties and was unable to attend. Mr Shimwell’s report was read out by the Council Manager**

**The Country Park**

As this report is submitted alongside Adrian Walter’s Annual Report from June 2020, I refer you to the summary at the beginning of that document of the excellent wildlife health of the Country Park. Over the years the careful management of the diverse habitats has promoted a great variety of species to take residence in the Park.

Species highlights in the last 12-months include the vocal male cuckoos calling in spring, little owl and barn owl hunting in the park throughout the year. On the 4th June 2020 the Rangers assisted Debbie Ping, local bird ringer, in inspecting the two barn owl boxes at the park. One large chick was ringed from one nest box, a healthy individual. Observing the wild species in the Park, in particular the owls, has certainly been enjoyed by a larger number of the Park’s users while out enjoying their local greenspace.

Over the last year the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly had an impact on all our lives and the Sudbury Common Lands Charity Ranger Team have had to constantly adapt their working approach in order to carry out our tasks. For the majority of the year we were unable to run our usual volunteer work parties due to the repeated English Lockdowns. However, a brief period in September of ‘Rule of 6’ work parties allowed us to complete the removal of the cut arisings from Third Field and the Wildflower Meadow in the usual manner.

The winter of 2020/2021 was extremely wet and combined with the increased footfall in the Park, the entrance at the allotments end of the park acted as a bottle-neck and a large muddy area was formed. In response the Ranger Team laid a 2mx5m limestone path that dog-legged from the entrance along the metal railings to solid ground. The costs of materials were absorbed as part of the SCLC’s contract. The muddy area has since dried out.

**Site Specific Management Actions:**

* General site inspections.
* Site inspections for tree damage after high winds.
* Removal of hung-up and fallen trees and branches over and close to paths.
* Litter picks on site visits.
* Clearing of accumulated mud, leaf litter and debris on the hardcore paths at site entrances in winter.
* Removal of one large encampment including: fence panels, incinerator, bottles, plastic chairs, tyres etc.
* Amenity mow of Prospect Hill, formal paths and picnic areas.
* Strimming of Park infrastructure: exercise equipment, benches, bins and formal site entrances.
* Ragwort control at Danes Hole.
* Control of nettle growth in bluebell woods.
* Late summer/Autumn cutting and removing of arisings on Third Field and the Wildflower Meadow.
* Winter push back of encroaching blackthorn at the paths above Danes Hole.
* Created dead hedge of coppiced blackthorn material to protect barn owl boxes from unwanted attention by some Park users.
* Continuation of coppicing cycle including trees of concern on path edges.
* Laid 2mx5m path at allotments entrance to park to divert around winter muddy area, and applied road planning’s from car park to pedestrian entrance. Cost of materials absorbed by the Sudbury Common Lands Charity.

**Shawlands Wood LNR**

Shawlands has also seen an increase in footfall by local residents. Other observed activities include one resident erecting their own bird boxes and an increase in the digging and building of bike ramps in the usual location. There has also been some antisocial behaviour of ‘tree chopping’ of young trees and riding motorbikes. At present the ‘tree chopping’ is at a tolerable low-level but we are monitoring the situation as well as use of the site by motorbikes. We extended the perimeter fence opposite Maldon Court to discourage access to the site by motorbikes. Cost of materials was absorbed by the Sudbury Common Lands Charity.

**Site Specific Management Actions:**

* General site inspections.
* Site inspections for tree damage after high winds.
* Removal of hung-up and fallen trees and branches over and close to paths.
* Litter picks on site visits.
* Strimming of pedestrian access from Poplar Rd.
* Cut back encroaching hedges to keep footpaths open.
* Strimmed and raked butterfly glades, and removed encroachment of woody vegetation.
* Installed extension to perimeter fence opposite Maldon Court, costs of materials absorbed by the Sudbury Common Lands Charity.

**Stevenson Centre/ Great Cornard Village Green/ Stacey Ardley:**

 **Overview**

In September 2020 the Sudbury Common Lands Charity took on the amenity grass management of the Stevenson Centre, Great Cornard Village Green and Stacey Ardley. We finished the 2020 grass mowing season after the previous contractor dropped out. Over the winter of 2020/2021 we carried out tree maintenance of crown lifting of all trees across all sites in order to facilitate a full seasons grass mowing in 2021. We completed this work, including removing all cut material from site.

In winter 2020/2021 we cut the hedge at the Village Green that borders the site on the pavement side. Several local residents expressed approval at the job. All hedge cuttings were removed from site.

During our first site visit to Stacey Ardley we cut back the hedge/scrub plants at both entrances in order to access the site. Recently we have replaced the wooden post at the northern entrance with a gate to further facilitate site access to carry out amenity mowing. Cost of materials were absorbed by the Sudbury Common Lands Charity. The public footpath was not impacted by our works.

**Site Specific Management Actions:**

* Amenity mow of:
	+ Stevenson Centre:
		- Recreation Field and strim of trees, benches bins, paths.
		- Cut/collect/remove and strim of play area.
		- Adult exercise area.
		- Side and rear of Stevenson Centre.
		- Car Park.
		- Stevenson Approach road verge.
	+ Great Cornard Village Green:
		- The Village green.
		- Cut/collect/remove and strim of play area.
	+ Stacey Ardley:
		- Mow of North and South side.
* Installation of gate at North side of Stacey Ardley, cost of materials absorbed by the Sudbury Common Lands Charity.
* Coppicing of saplings in corner of recreation field and removed from site.
* Removal of hedge cuttings etc from neighbouring residents of the Recreation Field dumped field side.
* Cut and removed hedge cuttings from pavement side hedge at the Village Green.
1. **St. Andrews Church**

**Report received from Reverend Ramsey and an extract from that was read out by the Council Manager. The full report will be attached to these Minutes (Appendix A)**

I want to express my thanks for all the support of the churchwardens, ministry team and PCC of St Andrews for all their support over this last difficult year.

We’ve seen the suspension of in person worship, faltering resumptions, implementation of Covid controls, provision of internet and camera’s, the daily opening of the church to the public and much, much more. The team at church sought to maintain regular contact with as many as possible in the early dark days when none of us knew what we were doing or how long restrictions would last and you’ve all “done your part”.

Everybody has to some extent, adapted their worshipping patterns – whether it was joining in with worship on the phone, over the internet or with using the prayers materials sent to everyone combined with the provision on BBC and radio channels. I have been seriously impressed at how you’ve adapted and made things work – it’s not been perfect and we’ve had hiccups along the way (audio at the carol service anyone), but you have responded with grace, and the odd cry of “We can’t hear you!”

1. **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Parish Council has, in spite of the pandemic, continued to function, doing its work and carrying out its duties to the Parishioners and maintaining the fabric of the Village.

This has only been possible thanks to the dedication of the staff, under the guidance of the Parish Manager. Our thanks go out to our wonderful team!

Within the Village, we have ongoing projects such as refurbishing the Cornard Dynamos Pavilion, resurfacing the Stevenson Centre approach road, ditch clearing in Blackhouse Lane etc.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we have lost popular events such as the Remembrance Day Parade, the Village Fete, the fireworks display etc.

With light at the end of the tunnel, we know these events will be back as popular as ever.

I would ask all our Villagers to support the Parish Council in maintaining the great Village we all live in.

Stewart Sheridan

Council Chairman

1. **PARISH COUNCIL TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Report provided by Mrs Tamlyn, Council Manager**

In January 2020, the Council increased the Council Tax on a Band D Property by 2% and agreed a Precept of £235,262 for FY20/21 which included earmarked funds for projects such as the refurbishment of the Blackhouse Lane Pavilion, a contribution towards Cornard United’s plans to replace the lamps on the floodlights and improvements to The Stevenson Centre car park and approach road, all of which are now being progressed by the Council.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the announcement of the first lockdown, the Council held an Extraordinary Meeting and agreed to delegate to the Council Manager the authority to act in respect of any functions of the Council on a matter in which, in their opinion, should be addressed urgently. The delegated authority was exercised in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Chair of the relevant Committee, and Members were sent a monthly update on the Council’s actions during this time.

In order to ensure appropriate measures were put in place to continue paying salaries and suppliers, it was also agreed that the Chairman, Chairman of Policy and Resources and the Internal Control Member would receive a fortnightly schedule of payments for approval. These arrangements came to an end when the Council held its first virtual Full Council Meeting via MS Teams in December 2020.

Since resuming its normal programme of meetings (virtually) the Council has agreed to move to one Full Council meeting per month in order for the Council’s business to be kept simple, and to protect the Council’s staff from any undue risk to COVID-19.

Figures for FY20/21 are available **(see Appendix B)**, although I would stress that these are very much draft figures, produced for this meeting. The full accounts will be presented to the Council in due course.

The Parish Council and The Stevenson Centre Charity have both benefited from Government COVID-19 grants which have assisted the Council’s financial position, but the impact of the pandemic and the uncertainty of The Stevenson Centre’s ongoing and long-term financial position means the Council’s financial position is extremely uncertain and the Council will need to meet the challenge by maintaining a prudent approach to its future finances.

With this in mind, the Council agreed to increase the Council Tax on a Band D Property by 3% and agreed a Precept of £234,592 for FY21/22 and will receive a one-off Local Tax Support Grant, which will allow the Council to maintain a prudent approach to its finances and maintain its current level of income for this financial year.

1. **TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

No County Council report was received prior to this meeting taking place.

1. **TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

**Report provided by District Councillor Newman**

Since the start of the pandemic, we have distributed a large amount of Government support to businesses in the form of an ever increasing array of financial packages. We have distributed our own community grants and worked with local government health, probation and police partners to ensure all homeless people had somewhere to go and also worked with our partners in the county through the Suffolk Resilience Forum to support the vulnerable. At the same time, we have kept all our normal services running with only a temporary pause to things like garden waste collection.

The Home But Not Alone free phone line has helped thousands of people and families across Suffolk who often didn’t have a network of family or friends to call upon to access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries. I want to thank all the volunteers in the district for everything they have done to support their neighbours during the pandemic and also the Babergh and Mid Suffolk staff, many of whom have put in a huge amount of extra time to support the Covid response as well as doing their day jobs.

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan was approved at a Council meeting in November last year and following the final consultation, we submitted it for examination on the 31st of March this year. Both Councils also recently published their Five Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement, evidencing that the Government’s housing requirements can be met by the district until 2025 and beyond.

We provided a response to the Planning White Paper and also to the Consultation document on changes to the current planning system at the February Council meeting.

The Babergh Budget for FY21/22 was approved and included an increase in Council Tax of £5 (2.96%) a year for a Band D property. There will also be a small increase of 1.5% in Council housing rents. We reviewed our parking provision across the district and whilst we recognise the need and desire to retain an element of subsidised parking, we have made changes to ensure the Council’s finances are secure and also to encourage more sustainable transport options for the future. We have also introduced the My Permit App in our car parks so that users do not need to get a paper ticket.

There are finally plans for Bellevue Park in place, to put in new access area, a café and new toilets. This will be self-funding providing the District Council can sell Bellevue House.

District Councillor Mark Newman

1. **TO RECEIVE PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**
2. **Policy and Resources**

A report for Policy and Resources was not required as the relevant information was already contained in the Council Chairman and the Parish Council Treasurer’s reports.

1. **Development and Planning**

Report provided by Councillor White, Chair of Development and Planning Committee

**April 2019 to March 2021**

**63 x Householder Applications**

(Extensions, conservatories, new/converted garages)

**18 x New Buildings**

(8 of which were for Land south of Brook Farm House)

**8 x Applications for Tree Works covered by TPOs**

**1 x Change of Use**

(Change of use from amenity space to residential gardens)

**Others**

1 x New vehicular access

3 x Dropped kerbs

6 new and 6 replacement antennas at Great Cornard Water Tower

1 x Outbuilding for swimming pool in residential property

Maldon Grey – erection of wooden structure & pergola and removal of 2 trees

Blackhouse Lane – Floodlights

Special Needs Activity Centre

2 holiday lodges and golf simulator building

The Parish Council was pleased to support applications, as an adjoining parish, for Perrywood Garden Centre - Erection of a new garden centre building (Use Class A1) including restaurant etc. and for Chilton Garage use of site for car rentals and repairs although the Parish Council raised concerns over the opening hours.

**Crab Lane**

Crab Lane is the ancient track which runs from the rear of Davidson Close and up the hill towards Prospect Hill and Joe’s Road. The Parish Council submitted an application to modify the definitive map, together with statements in support from local residents. Suffolk County Council have confirmed that they have started their investigation into the Parish Council’s formal application for Crab Lane to become a Claimed Public Footpath.

**SID (Speed Indicator Device)**

Poplar Road, Canhams Road and Bures Road are the three locations approved by both the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council, for a new Speed Indicator Device. The works have been ordered by SCC and the device should be up and operational within the next couple of months.

**Double Yellow Lines**

The Parish Council has submitted an application to SCC to extend the double yellow lines at Stannard Way (junction with Kings Hill), to install new double yellow lines on both sides of Canhams Road (junction with Shawlands Avenue) and new double yellows along Pot Kiln Road. This is due to the dangers that parking in the areas is causing pedestrians and other road users.

**Village Gateway Sign**

The Parish Council agreed to install a new Village Gateway sign at Bures Road to replace a sign that had been knocked down in a car accident. Little Cornard had agreed to contribute towards the cost of the sign as it would include both village names.

**Quiet Lanes**

Quiet Lanes are a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural roads which are shared by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. They encourage drivers to ‘Expect and Respect’ more vulnerable road users and so allow non-motorised users to enjoy rural lanes in greater safety. These types of lanes do not impose traffic restrictions and are not enforced. Advisory signs are placed along the routes to show motorised users clearly that the road is a shared space. The Parish Council has identified, in conjunction with Little Cornard Parish Council and Suffolk County Council, Blackhouse Lane and Prospect Hill (to the junction with Joe’s Road) as being suitable for designation and the first stage of the public consultation will begin in the near future.

1. **Art, Sports & Leisure**

**Report provided by Councillor Newman, Chair of Art, Sports & Leisure Committee**

**2019-2020**

* Three new benches were installed on the BHL sports fields.
* The Allotment fence along the car park boundary was replaced and three new gates installed. A new noticeboard was also installed on site.
* All the benches in the Country Park were refurbished by the Council.

**2020-2021**

* The Country Park and Shawlands Wood have remained open throughout the pandemic highlighting the importance of public open space in supporting peoples mental health and wellbeing.
* Although both areas have been well-used, they have suffered from vandalism with trees cut down to build fires and dens and large holes dug to create bike ramps. The Police have added the areas to their regular patrols and both the Council and the Police have put signs up to discourage these activities and help protect the local habitat and wildlife.
* The Council has carried out works to improve the entrance to the Country Park as the area had become extremely muddy and was difficult to access.
* The Allotments have remained open to allotment holders only with notices posted to advise on the latest government guidelines.

Allotment Status:

1. There are currently 101 allotment plots;
2. 10 allotment holders gave up their plots;
3. 9 new tenants have signed Tenancy Agreements and have started working their plots;
4. The current waiting list stands at 23 people;
5. Japanese Knotweed has been identified on 1 plot and the area has been cordoned off and the Council has instructed specialist contractors to deal with the knotweed over the next two growing seasons;
6. The Council has agreed to join The National Allotment Society to enable the Parish Council to access advice and templates;
7. An Allotment Policy and Code of Conduct have been adopted and will be added to the Parish Council’s website.
* In line with government guidelines, the Council’s play areas and the Adult Exercise Area were closed and following a COVID-19 Risk Assessment were reopened in July when all the equipment was inspected and steam cleaned by the Community Wardens. Notices were placed around all the areas to ensure social distancing and hygiene standards were maintained.
* The Council has formed a Recreation Provision Working Party and organised a number of contractors to quote on upgrading the play equipment on the Recreation Ground using S106 monies. The Working Party will meet to review the quotes once restrictions are lifted and it is hoped this project can be progressed ASAP.
* The Council has changed its main grounds contractor and we were fortunate that the Sudbury Common Lands Charity agreed to maintain the Recreation Ground, and play areas, the Village Green and Stacey Ardley at short notice. A new contractor has been appointed for a period of 18 months to maintain the Cemetery and Churchyard and has just started cutting the grass in both areas.

The Unity Trust (Thomas Gainsborough School) informed the Council that they were no longer able to provide grounds services at Blackhouse Lane Sports fields. The Council has entered into a one year agreement with Countrywide Grounds Services to continue to maintain the area as they were already the contractor used by TGS. It is the Council’s intention to review all its grounds maintenance provision later this year.

* The Council has supported both Cornard United and Cornard Dynamos by waiving their rent during the lockdown period and will continue to do so for as long as necessary.
* Unfortunately, the Great Cornard Cricket Club folded last year and the Parish Council agreed to purchase their mower and roller in order to continue to maintain the cricket square. It has been agreed that TGS will use the area but unfortunately the square needs some further maintenance work to ensure it is safe to play and will not be available to use this season.
* The Council has agreed to carryout refurbishment works to the Blackhouse Lane Pavilion and it is hoped that work will start in July 2021. The external toilets will also be upgraded and will include the installation of a timed automatic door system to allow public access.
* The Gainsborough Trail project has taken longer than hoped due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Councillor Wright has been working with the photographer to produce a calendar which will hopefully be done by next year. The new gate will be going behind the Woodland Rise development.

Councillor Sheridan suggested that in light of the large number of residents on the waiting list for an allotment, perhaps the matter of extending the Allotments could be put on the next Art, Sports and Leisure Agenda.

1. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BURIAL AUTHORITY**

**Report received from Councillor Sheridan, Chair of the Burial Authority**

On behalf of the Burial Authority, the Parish Council continues to maintain the Cemetery with such things as tree maintenance, making best use of available space, removing overgrown laurel hedging, grass cutting and general maintenance.

The Parish Council has estimated that we have approximately ten years space left for graves. We are actively looking for land to purchase to expand the Cemetery.

We are trying to stop residents in Oxford Close using parking spaces that are designated for Cemetery visitors. We would prefer to do this by co-operation, but if the co-operation is not forthcoming we are prepared to use enforcement as a last resort.

1. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL AS TRUSTEES OF THE STEVENSON CENTRE CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Report provided by Councillor Sheridan, Chairman of the Parish Council, trustees of The Stevenson Centre Charitable Trust**

The Trust has suffered financially due to the pandemic, as most of our lettings have had to stop for the time being.

We are fortunate that we have received some grants from the local authority and we still have some bookings that are able to go ahead within the regulations covering Covid.

The Stevenson Centre staff have rallied round and are keeping people using the Centre safe, by extra cleaning and sterilising and we applaud their efforts.

* The total income from bookings for **2020/21** was £17,585.25 compared to 2019/20 (pre COVID) when the figure was £42,157.63 - a drop of approximately 58% due to COVID restrictions, although the Centre has received some Government grants which has improved its financial position.
* The Centre closed completely on 23rd March 2020 in line with Government Guidelines and reopened on 3rd August 2020 to a limited number of users.
* New bookings during this period include U3A (Table Tennis, Woodworking, Music, Writing, French and Dutch classes), Clubbercise and Supporting an Independent Life (SAIL).
* The Centre closed again on 4th January 2021 to everyone except those providing support and education to adults and children with special needs i.e. The Ryes College, Lapwing Education and SAIL and NHS services such as Blood Donors and COVID testing centres.
* The Council were extremely pleased to be able to accommodate Suffolk County Council’s Lateral Flow test centre which opened in the extension on 18th February providing testing 7 days a week from 7am to 6pm.
* From 19th April the opening hours for the test centre have been reduced to 5 days per week – Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7am til 2pm and Tuesday 12 til 7pm.
* During this period there have been many enquiries for new bookings including adult dance clubs, martial arts clubs, performing arts, boot camp fitness, children’s drop in centre and Spanish language club. New and old bookings will be reviewed once restrictions are lifted again on May 17th.

We look forward to welcoming our old clients back in safer times.

1. **TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER PARISH AFFAIRS**

**NONE**

**Meeting closed at 8:11pm**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Councillor Stewart Sheridan**

**Council Chairman**

**APPENDIX A**





**APPENDIX B**

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Treasurers Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

26th April 2021

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Income** | **2020/2021** |  | **Current Assets** | **2020/2021** |
| Precept | 235,262 |  |  |  |
| Interest  | 175 |  | Debtors | 1,100 |
| Allotments | 2,827 |  | Cash in Hand | 210,514 |
| Cemetery | 3,210 |  | VAT | 5,058 |
| Blackhouse Lane | 3,200 |  | **Total Assets** | 216,672 |
| Wayleaves | 125 |  |  |  |
| Recycling | 835 |  | **Current Liabilities** |  |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | 0 |  | Creditors  | 1055 |
| Grants received | 18,000 |  |  |  |
| **Total Income** | 263,634 |  | **Net Assets** | 215,617 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |  | **Represented By** |  |
| Administration | 8,109 |  |  |  |
| COVID-19 Grant | 1,969 |  | Capital Account | 211,286 |
| Agency Services  | 9,874 |  | CIL Funds | 3,468 |
| Community Warden |  5,536 |  | Twinning Group | 863 |
| Litter/Dog Bins | 1,812 |  |  |  |
| Section 137 payments | 6,650 |  |  |  |
| Capital Spending | 11,193 |  |  | 215,617 |
| Loan Repayments & Interest | 17,882 |  |  |  |
| Stevenson Centre Grant | 271 |  |  |  |
| Allotments | 2,048 |  |  |  |
| Cemetery | 4,000 |  |  |  |
| Blackhouse Lane | 1,292 |  |  |  |
| Recreation Grounds | 9,604 |  |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | 77,444 |  |  |  |
| Street Lights | 19,370 |  |  |  |
| Insurance | 4,380 |  |  |  |
| Village Hall Expenses  | 106 |  |  |  |
| Shawlands Wood LNR | 2,040 |  |  |  |
| Professional Fees | 1,995 |  |  |  |
| Election Fund  | 800 |  |  |  |
| **Total Expenses** | 186,375 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Net Income** | 77,259 |  |  |  |