

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held at The Stevenson Centre on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Councillor S M Sheridan

Council Manager: Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator: Miss S Kent

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

Mrs C J Baker, Mrs M Bark, Mr A C Bavington, Mr T J Keane, Mr M D Newman,

Mr N Shimwell, Mr T M Welsh, Mrs P White, Mrs J Wilson, Mr C G Wright and

Mr D Young.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr S Barrett, Mr M Evans, Mr T Harman, Mr K Graham, Mrs T E A Welsh, Mr B Smith and Reverend C Ramsey.

1. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE GREAT CORNARD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26th APRIL 2021**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 26th April 2021 are confirmed as a correct record.

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

No Police Report was received prior to this meeting taking place.

1. **Great Cornard Town Land Charity**

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

**Great Cornard Town Land Charity – Report for the year to 31.12.2021**

The COVID pandemic and the cost of living crisis has resulted in even more organisations and families in Great Cornard requiring any help that the Charity can provide, and the five trustees – The Reverend Chris Ramsey, Frank Ervine, Pamela White, Ron Morris and Stewart Sheridan, have continued to meet the challenge of considering a large number of grant applications during the last year, whilst dealing with a finite pot of funds. Once again tremendous 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, we are involved much more frequently, via telephone calls and emails, as the Charity quickly responds to difficulties encountered by Great Cornard residents and organisations.

During the year to 31st Dec 2021, the Charity received a net rental income of £6K, from the property it purchased in November 2017. The trustees believed that in order to meet the ever-increasing demand, the Charity needed to increase its income, so we are now disinvesting, on a monthly basis, a small percentage of our investment portfolio.

In the year to 31st Dec 2021, 30 grants totaling £15,754 were made. These included purchasing and supplying second-hand goods and supplying and fitting carpets for several local families, the charity has given book grants to Great Cornard students and funded professional counselling services for several Great Cornard residents. Grants have also been given to Great Cornard Schools and other organisations for the benefit of Great Cornard Residents.

Terry Welsh

Treasurer and Secretary of the Great Cornard Town Land Charity.

1. **Cornard News**

**Report provided by Cornard News**

**Chairman’s Report**

**CORNARD NEWS - CHAIRMAN’S REPORT APRIL 2022**

My Chairman’s Report contains very little of interest I am afraid. We have not had any face to face meetings this year but we have kept in touch via computer and phone calls. We managed to start actually delivering the Newsletter again in Summer 2021 and will continue to do so from now on.

The advertisers, who were obviously not charged for the period when we had to put Cornard News on-line, are now once more paying for their advertisements.

We hope as restrictions relax a little and we feel it is safe to do so, we will have our meetings once again to discuss the contents going into the Newsletter. We still really need some new younger blood to join us as we feel we are all getting older, and if Cornard News is to continue, younger residents must step up to play their part.

Our thanks as usual to the Parish Council for their financial support.

Doris Rowland

1. **Community Wardens**

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

The Community Warden scheme has been active in your village for over 15 years and gathering feedback from your residents, I believe this has been, and continues to be very successful. We have continued to change-over the speed indication devices every 2 weeks between the 3 locations within the village. The information gathered from the devices is sent to the council admin team at the Stevenson Centre and is also held for 5 years on our system then it is archived. From my team’s continued observations, I would strongly suggest that Gt. Cornard Parish Council investigate getting a location approved on Shawlands Avenue, which I believe would also get some interesting data.

Some of the jobs that the team have carried out within the village are as follows:

* Volunteer Litter Pickers - we have now recruited 51 volunteer Litter Pickers in Great Cornard
* Bags of Rubbish – volunteers have collected 725 bags of rubbish in great Cornard
* Shawlands Woods – this is checked on a regular basis
* Time sheets and weekly checking sheets – these are all now being done electronically
* Drains – these are still being cleared on regular basis at Stevenson centre, and we are now starting to clear Blackhouse Lane drains
* SIDS – these are now being rotated around the village on the 3 approved locations, and data sent to the council admin team at the Stevenson centre
* Potholes – these have now been filled in at the allotment car park
* Road Signs – various road signs have been cleaned around the village
* Litter Bins and Dog Bins – We continue to install litter bins and dog bins around the village the most recent being at Phillips Field Road, Abbas Walk and the Country Park
* Country Park – Trim Trail - two pieces of play equipment have now been replaced on the trim trail
* Remembrance Sunday – the traffic management for Remembrance Sunday was on a much smaller scale due to covid
* Gt. Cornard Cemetery – we have supplied bark for the rose beds in the cemetery on a regular basis to keep them topped up
* Litter picks – we carried out a litter pick with Wells Hall Primary School to support great British spring clean month and clean for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
* Fly Tipping – we have cleared several fly tips at Blackhouse Lane car park

Hopefully, you have found this report informative and if you have any questions, I am more than happy to answer them.

Bradley Smith

Community Warden, External Services & IT Manager

Sudbury Town Council

1. **Sudbury Common Lands Charity**

**Report given by Mr Nick Shimwell, Ranger**

Annual Report to Great Cornard Parish Council from the Sudbury Common Lands Charity 2022

**Overview:**

Great Cornard Country Park:

The Country Park continues to be very well used by local residents, although we have fortunately avoided a repeat of some of the Covid related impacts that I reported on a year ago. For example the entrance from the allotment car park did not degrade to the state it was in the wet Autumn of 2020, and litter has not been as shocking.

The mental health benefits of having accessible green space for all is very well established and a recent study established a link that the more biodiverse the greenspace is, the greater the benefits for mental health.

On 26th May 2021 I inspected the Park with Nadine. We viewed the top path above Danes Hole that runs along the east boundary. We discussed the enquiries the council had received regarding the condition of the paths surface in winter. The base substrate of the path, like much of the Park, is clay meaning it has a high water retention rate during wet periods even on high ground. Over the course of two volunteer work parties in January the Sudbury Common Lands Charity (SCLC) ‘pushed back’ the shrub growth by 1m+ on both sides of the path along the 30m ‘problem area’. We also coppiced a 2.5m stand of blackthorn, creating an approx: 12m² scallop along the path edge. This has reduced the shading on the south facing path, meaning it should remain dryer for longer during the winter.

Reducing the shading from the scrub should also encourage the nationally scarce Sulphur Clover to colonise the path edges and allow it to persist on site. In time the scallop will also colonise with other wildflowers. The cut material, largely consisting of blackthorn, was used to reinforce the protective dead hedge we established last year to protect the barn owl boxes. The hedge dissuades members of the public from establishing footpaths close to the box entrances. Barn owls are very vulnerable to human disturbance. Unfortunately during the 2021 season no barn owl chicks were reared, despite encouraging early signs.

In August, alongside the usual ragwort management of Danes Hole, we coordinated with Mr. George Millins to source and create log piles for lizards. We established log piles along the boundary margin between the allotments and the amenity mown Prospect Hill. The local population of lizards rapidly utilised the log piles and pregnant females were sighted, indicating a healthy population.

We were fortunate with the weather in September for our annual management of Third Field and the seeded Wildflower Meadow. In 2020 heavy rain hampered the collecting of arisings from both areas. But with the fine weather of 2021 we were able to remove the maximum amount of arisings that were dry and light from both areas with the assistance of a volunteer work party. The use and creation of bike ramps at the badger sett near the wildflower meadow is an ongoing concern that we are monitoring.

The Country Park weathered the triple storms of Eunice, Dudley and Franklin in February reasonably well compared to other green spaces in Sudbury. A mature white poplar was hung up across the West-Blackhouse Lane entrance, which we brought to the ground and cleared away. There were several other trees that required our attention, after and before the storm.

Shawlands LNR:

At Shawlands Local Nature Reserve there were several trees of concern in the woodland after the February storms. The majority of the conifer trees there appear to be declining now and are transforming from living trees to standing deadwood, which in the context of a nature reserve is a very valuable thing. The individual condition of trees close to paths is monitored. In terms of future tree cover, an understorey of native broadleaf trees appear to be naturally establishing and will replace the conifers in due course. The storms brought approximately 12 Conifer trees down, which we made all safe. Tree work was undertaken with great care due to the declining nature of the conifers and the crowded tree cover.

The glades established in the woodland by Mr. George Millins and The Hub several years ago were re-established by strimming and clearing with a volunteer work party. The same management was carried out in the glades in the southern half of Shawlands. With cuttings we also reinforced the dead hedge that marks the border of the glade next to the pedestrian access ramp.

We have kept the Public rights of way that transect the site open throughout the year.

The Stevenson Centre, Great Cornard Village Green and Stacey Ardley:

The 2021 amenity grass mowing season was completed despite SCLC’s Ranger Team being short-staffed between April and June. The 2022 mowing season has begun with a full and experienced team.

In December we carried out minor branch trimming on the Recreation Field and Stacey Ardley to further facilitate the mowing of the site with a tractor. As requested by Nadine we also took down an elder tree from the boundary fence of a Broom Street resident on the Recreation Field; and removed the material from site. We also faced up the ‘ivy hedge’ along the back path of the Recreation Field.

At Stacey Ardley we carried out an agreed reduction of the two Willow coppices at the south of the site. Over the years the trees have encroached on the mown amenity area.

Before Christmas we completed the winter cut of the pavement hedge at the Great Cornard Village Green. We are making efforts to establish a uniform height along the

hedges length by bringing it up and lowering it in places, whilst maintaining its density. We will be doing this over several seasons.

Councillor Baker asked whether Yellow Rattle was present in the Country Park, Mr Shimwell advised it was and that it was well established in a number of areas. It is therefore unnecessary to use the cuttings elsewhere in the Park.

1. **St. Andrews Church**

**Reverend Ramsey had offered his apologies but provided copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021, which were circulated among the attendees.**

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

The Parish Council has been steadily carrying out its task of running the Village for the benefit of the Parishioners. This is no mean feat considering we have also been dealing with a pandemic, the likes of which most people have not seen in their lifetime.

We have managed to keep The Stevenson Centre in bookings and increased use. We have been investing in important works such as the refurbishment of the Dynamos Clubhouse, finding funding to have the Allotment car park properly resurfaced for the benefit of gardeners, dog walkers, ramblers etc. This also includes the opening of the public toilets at the Dynamos Clubhouse.

We have had Stevenson Approach resurfaced and it is our aim to have The Stevenson Centre car park resurfaced when funds allow.

There are many ongoing projects that when completed will enhance the Village for the benefit of all Residents. Much of this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our loyal staff. Our elected, unpaid Parish Councillors are an integral part of the team that keeps the Village a lovely place to live.

Stewart Sheridan

Council Chairman

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

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

I have circulated the figures for FY21/22 **(Appendix A)** but I would stress these are very much draft figures, produced for this meeting. The full accounts will be presented to the Council in due course.

The figures for FY21/22 are skewed due to the pandemic and still don’t represent a full year’s normal expenditure. Last year Town and Parish Council’s benefitted from a share of the Governments Local Council Tax Support Grant and consequently, the Council was awarded a single one-off grant payment of £4,218, which brought the Council’s total Precept figure for FY21/22 up to £238,810 and compensated for the 3.2% reduction in the Tax Base figure.

This year’s Tax Base figure increased by 2.8% and in order to finance the Council’s ongoing costs and allow for the rise to inflation and increased Employers NI contributions, the Council voted to increase the Council Tax on a Band D Property by 3% and agreed a Precept of £248,480.

The Council is committed to building its Earmarked Funds in order to bring to fruition a number of projects which have been prioritised by the Council in its newly adopted Major Project List. These projects will be covered in the Committee Chairman’s reports to follow although I will just mention two of the smaller projects which are a £1k fund to support the installation of another new defibrillator and a £2,250 fund to install some commemorative benches throughout the village.

I would finally add that following the Covid-19 pandemic, both the Council’s and The Stevenson’s Centre’s finances continue to be uncertain and the Council is committed to maintaining a prudent approach to its finances.

Councillor Baker asked whether the funds put aside for the Twinning Group could be made use of elsewhere. Mrs Tamlyn will look into the matter.

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 Barrett**

**Annual Report**

**Babergh District Council Spring 2022**

**Great Cornard**

**Planning \* Licencing \* Waste \* Environment \* Economic Development \* Housing \* Communities\*Building Control\* Electoral Services\*Communities\*Housing**

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* Council tax will increase this year by 2% which on a typical band D house is 7p per week or £3.48 per year. Q3 (Oct-Dec 21) shows a surplus of 744k so expecting a very positive outcome for year end. The gross expenditure of £33.7m and income was £23.3m to give a net service budget of £10.4, which is primarily funded from council tax, business rates and gov grants.
* The 22/23 budget was approved with a surplus of £527k predicted.
* A new fund was established under this year’s budget of £200k from the GF Reserve which is set aside to cover unexpected costs. As this was not touched during the pandemic it will be released to supplement the communities grant programme leaving a healthy £1m in reserves.
* Under the Housing Revenue Account agreed at February meeting there was an increase 4.1% in Council house rents, equivalent to £3.72pm for social rent and £5.23pw for affordable rent. Sheltered housing service charges stayed the same (for the services of the Site Manager, alarm system and communal area). No increase in utility charges for sheltered housing for second year running even though gas and electricity prices have risen.
* Building repairs budget has been set at a more realistic level considering last years’ increase in cost.
* The contract with Public Realm was bought back in house in November and feedback has been very positive on the standard of street cleansing, grass cutting is yet to start. Also, a new equipment has been purchased.
* The new Joint Local Plan (Town and County Planning) is not complete as the Inspector found serious problems with its compilation. This is very much a concern as the ‘plan ‘has been very much delayed. With little information coming out to inform councillors and Parishes.
* The following information regarding Ukrainians refugees is on Suffolk CC website.

[Supporting Afghan and Ukrainian refugees | Suffolk County Council](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/supporting-afghan-ukrainian-refugees/)

* Central government has written to our council with information on funding arrangements to support Ukrainians refugees however we still don’t have any settled individuals here. If you know of host families, please let me know.
* Parking charges proposed for council owned car parks have been postponed until further notice due to concerns about the effect charges would have on our already struggling high street businesses. This may well change as the independents on Cabinet have wanted to bring in charges. This has resulted in me and two other Conservative councillors being sacked and the Conservative leader moving to the independents.
* Net income in 21/22 is £300k from CIFCO Capital. This is the council’s investment arm; it has held up well. There will be no more of this type of activity as the Government has ruled that borrowing from the PWLB has been stopped.
* Land at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury has been sold in a deal to develop the area of the old swimming pool and the house. Access will remain at the entrance from Newton Road. A new entrance will be made to open up the Cornard Roadside and a new café and toilets will be proposed (all the above are subject to planning permission). Churchill, the developer wishes to build private retirement living accommodation and wants to retain the house and include it in future.
* Work is complete on a £350k project to build solar carports at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury. Government has match-funded with the aims of creating jobs, develop skills, provide infrastructure and tackle climate change. The panels will provide energy to the leisure centre and battery storage and EV charging as part of carbon reduction strategy.
* Work is nearing completion of the £9m extension to Gainsborough’s House Museum. Its due to reopen this Autumn 2022.
* The Parking Review has been completed and is due to be presented to parish councils. This work is not about charging but the provision of on and off-street parking and the districts future requirements.
* The results of a review of all Babergh owned garage sites are due to identify sites suitable for redevelopment [ownership allowing]. Discussions are taking place with stakeholders in the next months.
* An £20k interest free loan has been launched to help owners improve and renovate vacant homes and bring them back into use i.e. to repair a roof, install central heating. Please tell the owner to apply if you know of any empty homes near you.

The housing team have worked hard to find temp accommodation for the homeless in the area during Covid. New accommodation has been purchased by Babergh that will offer temp places to homeless people.

* This is the second year that councillors have had an allocated budget of £2k to fund projects, items etc. that will benefit the community, I spent my locality budget with Peter and Mark to fund the resurfacing of Stevenson Centre.
* Councillors voted against retaining some remote meetings in favour of 100% face to face for all formal meetings. Don’t forget you can see how each councillor voted on each motion and check attendance rates on councillor’s details page on Babergh site.
* Cabinet changes were made this month which resulted in very little representation for the Sudbury, Great Cornard area, this is a very worrying as with Hadleigh we have the largest centers of population.
* Suffolk is one of 9 counties where negotiations are taking place on a new devolution deal. This will affect transport and infrastructure and address regional concerns.

We have had a number of anti-social case that are being dealt with in the Ward, both of my fellow councillors have been involved with a little success, we also managed to overturn a proposed development on green open space that all the village really did not support.

Simon Barrett

It was noted that there are at least two Ukrainian families currently with host families in Great Cornard, Councillor Newman will pass this information on to District Councillor Barrett.

Councillor Bavington commented on the improved working relationship between the Parish Council and the District and County Councillors which he attributes to the work of Councillors Newman and Barrett.

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

Report provided by Councillor Bavington, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee

Great Cornard Annual Parish Meeting, 9th May 2022

GCPC Policy and Resources Committee Report

by Tony Bavington, Committee Chair

I believe that this is the first time I have been able to give a report in person for four years, my longest absence from the Annual Parish Meeting since I was first elected to Great Cornard Parish Council in 1983, other than when I lost my seat between 2007-2011. In 2019, I was at my mother’s bedside in her last illness; in 2020, there was no Annual Parish Meeting due to the first long lockdown for the Covid 19 pandemic; in 2021, I was myself ill at this time and needed hospital treatment and the meeting was online. The reports in the minutes of last year’s virtual meeting, many of them authored by Nadine Tamlyn, Council Manager, are so comprehensive that I do not intend to repeat what is in them.

This year for the first time, Great Cornard Parish Council has created a Major Projects List to identify those projects significant to achieving the Council’s objectives. Those objectives can be expressed in the question: will the project contribute to making better the circumstances in which Great Cornard people live their lives, whether individually, in families or in other groups such as clubs and societies, members of church congregations, relatives of the deceased, users of Great Cornard Community Swimming Pool, Blackhouse Lane Sportsfield or the Country Park, or allotment holders? And so on.

In order to get on the list, projects will have to be affordable, both in capital and revenue terms. In other words, can the funds be assembled over a reasonable timescale to complete the project? And, can a funding stream be created which will enable the Council to manage and maintain the asset? These are important practical questions because the Council does not have a big enough budget from its own resources to undertake everything it would like to do at the same time. On the other hand, the Council does need to move as fast as it can to protect, enhance and create facilities and amenities, particularly as the population of the village increases with the development of new housing. Equally, therefore, the Council needs to have the flexibility to respond to opportunities as they arise, particularly funding opportunities. A good example would be the proposed works to the Allotment Car Park which have been prioritised due to the project’s eligibility for CIL Funding, assisted by our newest Babergh District Councillor, Simon Barrett.

One of the Council’s main priorities is to demolish the Village Hall’s old wooden rear extension and rebuild it with new kitchen and toilet facilities and, depending on costs, additional storage and new meeting room, improving ground levels as well as we can to make it more accessible – the original brick-built hall was renovated quite recently. The Council hopes to hire the services of Concertus to draw up plans and get us to the planning approval stage. Concertus were the consultants on the project to extend The Stevenson Centre. At the same time, the Council intends to renew the long-term lease of the Cornard Scouts.

The Council has completed the external and structural renovation of the Blackhouse Lane Sports Pavilion, including a refurbished and modernised public toilet, which will serve not only the Sportsfield users, but also the allotment holders and walkers on the newly opened Gainsborough Trail. The Parish Council is grateful to Babergh District Councillors Mark Newman, Peter Beer and Simon Barrett for contributions from their locality budgets in support of this update and upgrade.

Following this, the Council has resumed its negotiations with Cornard Dynamos to progress a Lease and Management Agreement for the Pavilion and Sportsfield, with the exception of the area leased to Cornard Utd. The Lease and Agreement will be mirror images of those agreed with Cornard Utd and should result in Dynamos managing the Sportsfield for the benefit of all users, actual and possible, present and future, on behalf of the Parish Council. All being well, we hope to have the Lease and Management Agreement in place by the start of the new Football Season in August 2022.

The Council continues to have a good working relationship with Cornard United and was pleased financially to support the Club’s project to replace the old floodlights with a new state of the art LED lights. We are also scheduled to meet the Club in the near future to carry out a 5 year rent review and discuss their ongoing Management Agreement and other matters of mutual interest.

The Council has resurfaced Stevenson Approach, which not only benefits the users of the Centre and the local residents but enhances the facilities for all the users of the Recreation Ground. The Council is grateful to Suffolk County Councillor Peter Beer and Babergh District Councillor Mark Newman for providing financial support from their Locality Budgets to support this project.

Following the pandemic it is hoped that the clubs and groups previously supported through grant assistance will have resumed their activities and be able to apply for grants once again. The Council has set aside funds of £12,500 and has already supported the installation of a new defibrillator at the Village Hall and provided funds to support the ongoing works of the Kernos Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau and Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

The Policy and Resources Committee is also the Council’s Human Resources Committee. In consultation with the Council’s staff and the Babergh Monitoring Officer, the Council has reviewed and adopted a number of Employment Policies which include Grievance, Discipline and Capability Procedures, an Anti-Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Victimisation Policy and a Protocol Governing Councillor-Staff Relations. Together with revised Standing Orders for Business and Financial Regulations, these Procedures and Policies provide an essential updated handbook for staff and Members into the medium term, subject to regular review and update.

1. **Development and Planning**

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

**Development and Planning Annual Parish Report – April 2021 – March 2022**

**37 x Householder Applications**

(Extensions, conservatories, new/converted garages)

**14 x New Buildings**

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

**1 x Change of Use**

(Wheldons Fruit Farm – old farm shop to residential dwelling)

**Others**

Pot Kiln School – SCC application – demolition of existing swimming pool & erection of multi-use games area

Old Joes Driving Range

Extension to golf club building

Change of use of land for siting of shepherd’s hut for holiday use

Construction of crazy golf course and associated kiosk

**Double Yellow Lines**

The Parish Council has submitted further applications to SCC for additional double yellow lines at Kiln Drive, Head Lane and Grace Farrant Road. The application was submitted in conjunction with an application by Sudbury East & Waldingfield County Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton to consolidate costs. This was in response to complaints received about the dangers that parking in these areas had caused pedestrians and other road users.

**Streetlights**

The Parish Council has started the process of upgrading its 202 streetlights within the Village. The works have been prioritised and split into two phases. The first stage of Phase 1 is due to be instructed shortly.

Councillor Newman asked whether the replacement of street lights has started, the Council Manager explained that the Council is waiting for the County Council to confirm the traffic management costs before work commences.

1. **Art, Sports & Leisure**

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

Arts, Sports & Leisure Annual Report 2021-22

Allotments

All the Allotments have now been allocated and there is currently a small waiting list.

Allotment Car Park

In September 2021, the Council carried out temporary repairs to the Allotment Car Park and subsequently agreed to submit an application for CIL Funding to Babergh District Council to tarmac and install a French Drain along the length of the car park with designated parking bays and a pedestrian walkway, as well as a new hoggin path at the far end of the car park leading to the entrance of the Country Park. If the application for funding is successful, we hope to have the work done by the Autumn.

Country Park

The Council has purchased two new benches for the Country Park picnic area, one of which is wheelchair accessible and these will be installed shortly by the Community Wardens.

Blackhouse Lane Pavilion

In August 2021, the Parish Council completed its project to refurbish the Sports Pavilion at Blackhouse Lane which included major external renovations and the installation of a state of the art CCTV system and automatic timed doors to the external toilets which are now open to the pubic during the day.

The Council is grateful to the District and County Councillors for providing financial support from their Locality Budgets to support this project.

Gainsborough Trail

The official opening of the Gainsborough Trail took place on Saturday 7th May and four new interpretation boards have been installed along the route in Great Cornard.

Shawlands Wood LNR

The Parish Council recently arranged a public meeting at Shawlands Woods to listen to the publics views on the management and use of the woods and to put forward the Council’s own views. The meeting was well attended with a number of suggestions put forward which the Parish Council will investigate.

Recreation Ground

The Parish Council is in the process of drawing up plans to improve the play area on the Recreation Ground. The plans include the replacement of various items in the enclosed play area and the installation of a new ‘Toddler Zone’ and inclusive roundabout. The Council also intends to install a ‘Teen Piece’ on the Recreation Ground as well as four multi-user pieces of adult exercise equipment which will replace the equipment adjacent to the car park which has come to the end of its useful life.

Crab Lane

Suffolk County Council have issued a Notice of Modification Order to the Definitive Map by adding Crab Lane as a restricted byway. As of today’s date, we understand that an objection has been received and the outcome will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebration

In conjunction with the Great Cornard Community Association, the Parish Council is organising a celebration event on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 4th June from 11am to 3pm. The whole community is invited to bring their own picnic and enjoy all the usual fete activities including two free bouncy castles and live entertainment. All the local schools are participating in an art competition with the winning entries being displayed in the hall on the day. We hope you will all come along and support this great community event.

Councillor White asked whether all the allotments have been allocated as some look overgrown. The Council Manager explained that all allotments now have tenants although a few have only very recently been taken over. Monitoring of the plots will start in June and letters will be sent to those tenants who appear not to be working their plots.

Councillor Welsh advised that the QR code on the new Gainsborough Trail boards is not working, Councillor Newman is aware and the codes should be working in the next week. The boards are being monitored in case of vandalism.

Councillor Newman passed on to the Parish Council that Ashley Cooper, who opened the Gainsborough Trail on Saturday 7th May, commented that Great Cornard was a lovely village with lots of amenities.

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

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

**Burial Authority Report for 2022 Annual Parish Meeting**

There have been a total of 20 burials in the Cemetery since 26th April 2021, the date of the last Annual Parish meeting.

3 X burials

17 X ashes interments

This is significantly less than in previous years which have been approximately 40 burials per year.

**Other information**

In October 2021 new line markings and signage were installed at the parking area at the front of the Cemetery. These works were instructed to try and combat the issue of local residents using the parking spaces and has proved quite effective to date.

The remains of the Laurel hedge at the top of the Cemetery were removed by contractors in April 2022. The roots of the Laurel were completely dug out and removed, together with large mounds of old soil and debris which had built up over the years. Large tree root systems were also ground out. The clearance works were undertaken with a view to freeing up the space for future burial plots.

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 the Council Manager on behalf of the Trustees of The Stevenson Centre Charitable Trust**

**THE STEVENSON CENTRE**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**9TH May 2022**

The Centre’s bookings have recovered well since reopening after the last lockdown and the total income for 21/22 was £49,605.00 compared to the reduced income, due to Covid, of £17,585.25 for the previous year and it is now back to pre-covid income levels. The Centre also benefitted from a £8k Government restart grant which further improved the Centre’s financial position.

The Centre continues to be used by the Blood Donor Service for an increased number of sessions as the Service still limits the number of donors per session and likes the hall as it enables donors to maintain a good distance from each other.

New users this year include several dance groups, a martial art and a drumming class, and three new yoga and meditation classes. We were also pleased to welcome a number of new child based activities such as Tots and Teepees and Huggy Cuggles who both offer soft and messy play sessions, and the Phoenix Children’s Centre continues to offer a weekly baby clinic.

The Centre is also used by Abbeycroft Leisure during the school holidays to provide Family Park Cooking and Adventure Days for low income families and it’s great that the Centre is being used to provide such an important community service.

Sadly, a number of support groups such as the MS, Parkinsons and Breatheasy Groups have still not returned.

At the time of setting the Centre’s budget and due to the uncertainty surrounding possible future lockdowns, the Council agreed to adopt a cautious approach to any future expenditure and put on hold its plans to install acoustic panels in the hall, although it was agreed to revisit that decision once the end of year accounts had been finalised. The Council has also applied to Babergh District Council for funding towards a 55” LED TV Screen, webcam and mobile stand which, if successful, will enable hirers throughout the building use of a state of the art presentation facility.

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

Councillor Baker requested an update on the Parish Council’s efforts to prevent the closure of the doctors surgery in the village now that planning permission has been granted for the new surgery in Sudbury. District Councillor Newman explained that everything that could be done had now been done and that focus should move to the provision of free transport from Great Cornard to the new surgery.

Councillor Wilson gave an update on the St Andrew’s Still Good to Eat Community Shop project on behalf of The Rev Chris Ramsey.

The shop will be based at Wells Hall Old School and will be accessible to everybody, unlike a food bank which requires a referral on the basis of low income, and will aim to reduce food waste by supplying the fresh produce that stores and suppliers are no longer able to sell.

A donation of £3 will be required and the shopper will be allowed to choose produce to fill a bag which will be provided by the shop.

The shop will not be restricted to residents of Great Cornard and will be staffed by volunteers.

St Andrews Church are hopeful that the shop will be open by the end of June, initially on Wednesday mornings only to coincide with the Agape Café.

**Meeting closed at 8:05pm**

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

**Councillor Stewart Sheridan**

**Council Chairman**

**APPENDIX A**



**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Treasurers Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

9th May 2022

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Income** | **2021/2022** |  | **Current Assets** | **2021/2022** |
| Precept | 234,592 |  |  |  |
| Interest  | 30 |  | Debtors | 1,426 |
| Allotments | 2,935 |  | Cash in Hand | 235,782 |
| Cemetery | 4,555 |  | VAT | 6,079 |
| Blackhouse Lane | 4,700 |  | **Total Assets** | 243,287 |
| Recreation Ground WayleavesRecycling  | 250125985 |  |  |  |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | 19,034 |  | **Current Liabilities** |  |
| Local Council Tax Support Grant  | 4,218 |  | Creditors  | 1,947 |
| Locality Grants received | 19,438 |  |  |  |
| **Total Income** | 290,712 |  | **Net Assets** | 241,340 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |  | **Represented By** |  |
| Administration | 12,949 |  |  |  |
| Agency Services  | 9,920 |  | Capital Account | 218,217 |
| Community Warden |  6,458 |  | CIL Funds | 19,062 |
| Litter/Dog Bins | 2,388 |  | Twinning Group | 863 |
| Section 137 payments | 9,500 |  | Stevenson Apprch | 3,198 |
| Capital Spending | 58,640 |  |  |  |
| Loan Repayments & Interest | 17,603 |  |  | 241,340 |
| CIL Fund | 3,440 |  |  |  |
| Stevenson Approach Fund | 6,000 |  |  |  |
| Stevenson Centre FundAllotments | 1402,606 |  |  |  |
| Cemetery | 8,855 |  |  |  |
| Blackhouse Lane | 1,622 |  |  |  |
| Recreation Grounds | 15,404 |  |  |  |
| Salaries & Wages | 84,101 |  |  |  |
| Street Lights | 18,039 |  |  |  |
| Insurance | 3,212 |  |  |  |
| Village Hall Expenses  |  1,313 |  |  |  |
| Shawlands Wood LNR | 2,040 |  |  |  |
| Professional Fees | 1,250 |  |  |  |
| **Total Expenses** | 265,480 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Net Income** | 25,232 |  |  |  |