

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

**held at The Stevenson Centre on Monday 23rd May 2022 at 7pm**

**PRESENT**  Councillors Mr S M Sheridan **Chairman**

Mrs M Bark Mr A C Bavington

Mr K Graham Mr T J Keane

Mr M D Newman Mrs T E A Welsh Mr T M Welsh Mrs P White Mrs J Wilson Mr C G Wright

Mr D Young

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AS CHAIRMAN**

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Bavington and **SECONDED** by Councillor Graham that Councillor Keane be elected Chairman for the following year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Keane be elected Chairman for the following year.

The Chairman, Councillor Keane, made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman and took the **CHAIR.**

Councillor Bavington thanked Councillor Sheridan for the last four years and the outgoing Chairman thanked the Council Manager, staff and fellow Members for their support as it had made the position of Chairman a lot easier.

The Chairman thanked Members for his nomination and election to the position of Parish Council Chairman and said he was proud of the confidence shown in him and vowed to do his best during his term. The Chairman thanked Councillor Sheridan for his excellent contribution over the last four years, especially during the Pandemic.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Sheridan and **SECONDED** by Councillor Graham that Councillor Bavington be elected Vice Chairman for the following year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bavington be elected Vice Chairman for the following year.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Bavington, made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chairman.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C J Baker and T Harman.

The Council Manager advised that Councillor Harman had not attended a meeting since 6th December 2021 and had therefore failed to attend a Full Council or Committee meeting for a period of six consecutive months, which means that Councillor Harman will cease to be a Member of the Council from 7th June 2022. The Council Manager confirmed that Mr Harman had not submitted a written request for his reason for absence to be considered by the Council.

Members **NOTED** that Councillor Harman was well aware of the 6 month rule and the need to submit a written request to the Council for consideration.

Councillor Newman gave apologies on behalf of County Councillor Peter K Beer.

**4.** **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NONE.**

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Bavington declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item relating to Thomas Gainsborough School as he volunteers at the School and a family member is employed by the Trust.

Councillor Young declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item relating to Thomas Gainsborough School as he and a family member are employed by the Trust.

The Council Manager reminded members to continue to consider their interests throughout the year. **NOTED.**

**6. TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES**

Councillor Bavington stated that Great Cornard Parish Council had always politically balanced its Committees and the proposed Committee membership reflected this policy.

**RESOLVED** that the following Committee appointments be **CONFIRMED:-**

**Development and Planning Committee**

Mrs P White **Chairman**

D Young **Vice-Chairman**

Mrs C J Baker

Mrs M Bark

K Graham

T Harman

T J Keane

Mrs T E A Welsh

**Art, Sport and Leisure Committee**

M D Newman **Chairman**

Mrs T E A Welsh **Vice-Chairman**

Mrs C J Baker

Mrs M Bark

A C Bavington

T J Keane

S M Sheridan

Mrs J Wilson

C G Wright

D Young

**Policies and Resources Committee**

A C Bavington **Chairman**

T M Welsh **Vice-Chairman**

T Harman

T J Keane

K Graham

M D Newman

S M Sheridan

Mrs P White

Mrs J Wilson

C G Wright

**7. TO CONFIRM THE COMMITTEES’ TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Development and Planning Committee**

Planning Applications

Highways (Management and Repairs)

Traffic Calming

Waiting Restrictions and Traffic Orders

Footways

Signs

New Developments

Street Furniture

Streetlights

Members **AGREED** that because of the increase in expenditure expected with upgrading the Council’s streetlights, it should be separated from ‘Street Furniture’ and have its own heading.

**Art, Sport and Leisure Committee**

Allotments

Country Parks (including Shawlands Avenue amenity land)

Stacey Ardley Ground

Village Green

Blackhouse Lane Sportsfield and Car Park

The Recreation Ground

The Play area, play equipment and assault course

The Bowls Club

Public Rights of Way

Grounds Maintenance

**Policy and Resources Committee**

Financial Matters

Staffing and Personnel (Acting as HR Committee)

Applications for Grant

Council Properties

Street Naming

Awarding Contracts

Publicity

Grant Applications Made on This Council’s Behalf

Policies

Risk Assessments

Standing Orders

**8. TO CONFIRM THE MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING PARTIES**

The Council was requested to appoint representatives to various working parties.

**RESOLVED** that the following membership of working parties be **CONFIRMED:-**

**Village Hall Lease Negotiations**

A C Bavington

M D Newman

T M Welsh

**Cornard Dynamos Lease Negotiations**

A C Bavington

M D Newman

**Cornard Dynamos Pavilion Working Party**

S M Sheridan

T M Welsh

A C Bavington

M D Newman

**Councillor Safeguarding**

Lead – Council Manager

Safeguarding Member - Mrs T E A Welsh

Safeguarding Deputy Member – Mrs P White

**Recreation Provision Working Party**

M D Newman

T J Keane

S M Sheridan

Mrs M Bark

**Cemetery Working Party**

S M Sheridan

Mrs M Bark

T J Keane

C G Wright

D Young

**Allotments Working Party**

M D Newman

C G Wright

S M Sheridan

**Neighbourhood Plan Working Party**

Mrs M Bark

A C Bavington

S M Sheridan

D Young

**Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Working Party**

K Graham

M D Newman

Mrs T E A Welsh

Mrs J Wilson

C G Wright

D Young

**Internal Control Member – T M Welsh**

**Internal Auditor – Mrs A Revell**

**9. TO APPOINT THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTITIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council was requested to appoint representatives to various outside organisations and/or charities.

**RESOLVED** that the representatives of the Parish Council be as follows:-

1. Cornard News Correspondent Mr C G Wright
2. Emergency Advisor M D Newman (until another

Member is appointed)

1. Sudbury WATCH Mrs F A Jackson\*
2. Sports Centre Management Mr M D Newman

 Mr A C Bavington

1. Gainsborough Trail Working Group Mr M D Newman

 Mr C G Wright

1. Sudbury Market Town Partnership Mr C G Wright
2. Suffolk Association of Local Council Mr C G Wright

Mr T J Keane

Mr K Graham

1. Babergh Area Liaison Meetings Mr C G Wright

Mr T J Keane

Mr K Graham

1. Tree Warden Mr M D Newman
2. Friends of Great Cornard Library Mrs P White
3. Hardwicke House Patient Partnership Group\*\* Mr S M Sheridan

Mrs J Wilson

1. Great Cornard Town Land Charity Mr S M Sheridan

 Mrs P White

 Mrs J Wilson\*\*\*

\*The Council Manager will contact Mrs Jackson to confirm the group’s current position.

\*\*The Council Manager will contact Hardwicke House Patient Partnership Group to ascertain whether they still meet.

\*\*\*Councillor T M Welsh will investigate the possibility of Mrs J Wilson becoming a Trustee of Great Cornard Town Land Charity and report back accordingly.

**10. TO CONFIRM ALL RELEVANT INSURANCES ARE IN PLACE**

Members reviewed a copy of the Council’s Public Liability and Employers Liability Insurance Certificates from Zurich Municipal from 1st April 2022 through to 31st March 2023. **NOTED**

**11. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 14th MARCH 2022**

**AGREED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th March 2022 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**12. POLICE REPORT**

No Police report was provided.

**13. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

District Councillor Newman gave an update on the development of Belle Vue Park and said that the matter was due to be discussed at the next Babergh Full Council meeting and he would update the Parish Council accordingly.

**14. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD LIST – FOR NOTING**

The Items Brought Forward List was **NOTED**.

**15. FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS**

**At 7.46pm the Council allowed electors of the Parish of Great Cornard to put questions to the Council.**

**No members of the public were present and the business of the meeting resumed at 7.46pm.**

**16. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CRAB LANE**

Members reviewed an update provided by the Definitive Map Officer at Suffolk County Council which explained that one objection had been received from a local resident and the matter would now be put before the Planning Inspectorate for determination. **NOTED.**

**17. TO ADOPT THE NEW MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

Members reviewed hard copies of the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct and detailed guidance notes which had been circulated to all Members. Councillor Bavington advised that this replaced the Suffolk Code and was due to be adopted by the five principal Suffolk authorities and would work well alongside the Council’s new employment policies which refer to the Code of Conduct.

Members **AGREED** to adopt the new Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

**18. TO CONSIDER A DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

At the Policy and Resources meeting in April 2022, it was agreed that Councillor Bavington would draft a response to the Community Governance Review, which he had now done.

Members reviewed the draft response and made a small amendment. Members **AGREED** for the Parish Council to submit the amended version as its response to the Community Governance Review. **(see Appendix A).**

**19. TO REVIEW QUOTATIONS TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO THE VILLAGE HALL**

**RIGHT OF WAY**

Councillor Sheridan declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a committee member of the Great Cornard 1st Scouts Group.

Members considered two quotations received in respect of groundworks required at the Village Hall right of way.

Members agreed that contractor 1 appeared to have a better understanding of what the Council was looking to achieve and **AGREED** to accept contractor 1’s (S P Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd) quotation of £14,450 plus VAT based on all the quoted works being instructed at the same time. The Council Manager stated that she would need to check whether the contractor would honour the reduced price if all works were instructed, as it had been sometime since the quotation was issued. **NOTED.**

A Member stated that some hardcore had been laid on the right of way, believed to have been done by the owners of the bungalow to allow vehicles easier access whilst they were filming a television programme. Members **AGREED** that if this was the case then the Parish Council would need to instruct the owners to remove the hardcore.

**20. TO CONSIDER A FEE PROPOSAL FOR CONCERTUS TO DRAW UP PLANS THROUGH TO THE PLANNING APPROVAL STAGE FOR THE VILLAGE HALL**

Members reviewed a Fee Proposal for Concertus Design and Property Consultants to provide a feasibility study associated with the rear extension at Great Cornard Village Hall for £2,620.00 plus VAT. The study would include all works required to take the project up to the planning approval stage.

A Member stated that Concertus were the company who dealt with the refurbishment of and extension to The Stevenson Centre.

Members **AGREED** to accept the Fee Proposal for Concertus to draw up plans through to the planning approval stage for the Village Hall at a cost of £2,620.00 plus VAT.

Funds to be allocated from the Village Hall Fund.

**21. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE WORKING PARTY**

Councillor Newman stated that plans were going very well and that the working party was meeting every Tuesday up until the event. Members were asked to volunteer in whatever capacity they could on the day.

**22. DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

1. **Confirmation and adoption of Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 14th and 28th March and 25th April 2022**

The Minutes of the Development and Planning meetings held on 14th and 28th March and 25th April 2022 were duly confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1. **Questions to Committee Chairman**

**NONE.**

**23. ART, SPORTS & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

1. **Confirmation and adoption of Minutes of the meetings held on 28th March and 25th April 2022**

The Minutes of the Art, Sports and Leisure meeting held on 28th March 2022 were duly confirmed and signed as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Art, Sports and Leisure meeting held on 25th April 2022 were duly confirmed and adopted as a correct record subject to the following changes:-

1. **Page 3, Item 7 Paragraph 2 To Receive a Verbal Update on the Restoration of the Great Cornard Cricket Square**

**FROM**

A Member raised concerns over work starting this year with the pitch not being up to standard for anything other than school use until next year.

**TO**

A Member raised concerns about any work being carried out on the pitch this year as it would not be ready for the school to use this year.

1. **Page 3, Item 7 Paragraph 3 To Receive a Verbal Update on the Restoration of the Great Cornard Cricket Square**

**FROM**

As Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor Bavington stated that the Council had previously set aside a sum of £300 for cricket square maintenance and that it should be used for that purpose. Any expenditure above that should be brought back to the Committee.

**TO**

As Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor Bavington stated that the Council had previously authorised expenditure of £300 to carry out restoration works to the cricket square. Any expenditure over that should be brought back to the Committee.

1. **Questions to Committee Chairman**

**NONE.**

1. **Ratification of Recommended Items**

**Page 4, Item 9 APPLICATION FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that permission be granted to install a memorial bench along the fence line of the enclosed play area on the Recreation Ground. **AGREED.**

**24. POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

1. **Confirmation and adoption of Minutes of the meetings held on 28th March and 25th April 2022**

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 28th March 2022 were duly confirmed and signed as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 25th April 2022 were duly confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following changes:-

1. **Page 1, Item 1 Paragraph 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**FROM**

No apologies were received.

**TO**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Graham.

**ii.) Page 2, Item 5 Paragraph 2 CORRESPONDENCE a) Babergh District Council: Request to consider three new road names for the development at Cats Lane**

 **FROM**

A Member stated that they had seen a recent national trend where personal names were not being used to name new roads because there was the possibility of those people’s political affiliations being offensive to others.

**TO**

A Member stated that they had seen a recent national trend where personal names were not being used to name new roads because they could be offensive to others.

**iii.) Page 2, Item 5 Paragraph 3 CORRESPONDENCE a) Babergh District Council: Request to consider three new road names for the development at Cats Lane**

 **FROM**

Members discussed the names on the Street Names List and agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Council Manager respond to Babergh and decline the developer’s suggestion of ‘Chalk Close’ but put forward the following names, due to their close connection to the location of the development:-

1. Mary Leftwich
2. Jon Colleer
3. Doris Rowland

**TO**

Members discussed the names on the Street Names List and agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Council Manager respond to Babergh and accept the developer’s suggestion of ‘Chalk Close’ and also put forward the following names:-

1. Mary Leftwich
2. Jon Colleer
3. **Questions to Committee Chairman**

**NONE.**

1. **Ratification of Recommended Items**

**Page 2, Item 5 Paragraph 3 CORRESPONDENCE a) Babergh District Council: Request to consider three new road names for the development at Cats Lane**

Members discussed the recommended names put forward and **AGREED** that Doris Rowland was a more suitable choice for the proposed development and to change the suggestions:-

**FROM**

1. Chalk Close
2. Mary Leftwich
3. Jon Colleer

**TO**

1. Chalk Close
2. Mary Leftwich
3. Doris Rowland

Members also **AGREED** for Jon Colleer to remain on the Street Names List which was due to be reviewed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its next meeting.

**Page 2, Item 6 TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY WARDENS SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it accepts the Service Level Agreement for the 2022/2023 Community Warden Service. **AGREED.**

The Council Manager explained that an Action out of Meeting had already been signed in relation to the Community Wardens Service Level Agreement and that would be noted under Item 25b) i.) later in the meeting.

**Page 3, Item 9 TO REVIEW POLICIES FOLLOWING THE OUTCOME OF FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL MONITORING OFFICER AND STAFF AND/OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that all five Policies be adopted subject to Councillor Bavington silently making the Council Manager’s minor amendments.

Councillor Bavington had made the small number of minor amendments but the Council Manager had not yet had the opportunity to view the amended documents. The Policies will therefore be brought back before Full Council once the Council Manager has viewed them. **NOTED.**

**Page 4, Item 10 FINANCIAL MATTERS c) Cornard News: Increase in Printing Costs**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that they accept the increase in printing costs of £36 per issue/quarter. **AGREED**.

**25. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. **To review the latest list of payments (see Appendix B).**

Members reviewed the latest list of payments. **NOTED.**

1. **To approve Actions Out of Meeting**
2. **01/2022-2023 Asbestos removal at Great Cornard Cemetery**

**NOTED** the Council Chairman authorised an “Action Out of Meeting” No. 01/2022-2023 to authorise the removal of several pieces of piping which was thought to contain asbestos, during the removal of the Laurel hedge at the Cemetery at a cost of £280.00 plus VAT. Funds to be allocated from the Cemetery Budget.

The Council Manager informed Members that the above Action out of Meeting was in relation to the first visit to remove asbestos containing material. Following further works to remove the soil, the grounds contractor discovered more piping which required three further visits and incurred an additional cost of £280 plus VAT bringing the total to £560 plus VAT. **AGREED.**

1. **02/2022/2023 Community Warden Service Level Agreement**

**NOTED** that the Council Chairman authorised an “Action Out of Meeting” No. 02/2022-2023 to approve the Community Wardens Service Level Agreement for FY22/23 with an hourly increase from £20.60 to £21.95 which had needed to be authorised prior to the start of the new financial year. Funds to be allocated from the Community Wardens Budget.

1. **03/2022-2023 Upgrade the Council’s Streetlight Columns**

**NOTED** that the Council Chairman authorised an “Action Out of Meeting” No. 03/2022-2023 to commence the phased upgrade of the Parish Council’s streetlight columns to LED Lanterns at a cost of up to £32,000 depending on the associated costs of traffic management and road closures.

**Meeting closed at 8:51pm**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairman**

**Cllr T J Keane**

**APPENDIX A**

GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL

**Council Manager**

**Nadine C. Tamlyn**

**The Stevenson Centre**

**Stevenson Approach**

**Great Cornard**

**Sudbury**

**Suffolk CO10 0WD**

**Tel (01787) 373212**

**E-mail** **councilmanager@greatcornardpc.co.uk**

# Response to the Babergh’s Community Governance Review

## Introduction

Babergh’s new Community Governance Review into parish arrangements follows the electoral review of the Babergh District which the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) conducted in 2017-2018 in time for the 2019 local and district elections. The LGBCE’s review of district arrangements is relevant to Babergh’s review of parish arrangements because, as will be seen below, when Great Cornard Parish Council (GCPC) ‘strongly objected’ to the LGBCE’s initial proposals for both the external boundaries and internal warding arrangements for Great Cornard, the LGBCE accepted the Parish Council’s objections in full. The LGBCE’s response to GCPC’s objections was as follows:

55. We received one submission regarding Great Cornard, from the Parish Council. The Great Cornard ward as proposed in our initial set of draft recommendations did not include the Cat’s Lane area of Great Cornard parish, moving it instead into Sudbury South …. The submission strongly objected to this proposal, arguing that Cat’s Lane is a historic part of Great Cornard and that electors in the area identify much more strongly with Great Cornard than Sudbury. The Commission is therefore recommending retaining Cat’s Lane in Great Cornard ward.

56. Great Cornard Parish Council’s submission asserted their preference for not only a pattern of single-councillor wards but also stated that their parish warding arrangements should remain the same. However, they also stated that if a single-councillor ward pattern was not possible then they would prefer a three-councillor ward that enabled them to keep their parish ward arrangement. It is not possible for the Commission to recommend three single-councillor wards for Great Cornard without also creating new parish warding arrangements. Therefore, we are recommending a three-councillor ward that keeps the parish warding arrangements intact.

It is the view of Great Cornard Parish Council that what held good for the LGBCE so recently should also hold for Babergh now.

## Great Cornard: Community Interests and Identity

Great Cornard (Cornard Magna) has been a continuously inhabited site since ancient times. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book, the survey completed in 1086 for William the Conqueror. So is our parish church, St Andrews. Thomas Gainsborough’s parents were married in St Andrews in 1704. One of his famous paintings, Cornard Wood, is also the subject of a drawing which has recently been discovered in a folder attributed to Sir Edwin Landseer in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. Cornard Wood strongly legitimates the whole folder of drawings as being by Gainsborough. Art historians Lindsay Stainton and James Hamilton explain:

The drawing for Cornard Wood is “an important and highly revealing squared-up study”, [Hamilton] said. “Squaring-up” a drawing was a common way for artists to transfer a composition to a painting. Stainton said that when the drawing is superimposed on to the painting they were “a perfect match”.[[1]](#endnote-1)

We believe Cornard Wood was painted from what is now Great Cornard Country Park, which GCPC created in 1986 and David Bellamy opened on our behalf. We believe that GCPC was the first parish council in the country to create a country park from scratch as opposed to taking over the management of one from a principal council.

Great Cornard Country Park both provides much-needed outdoor leisure facilities for our developed urban area and acts as a green barrier to urban sprawl into our own Cornard Tye and our rural neighbours in Little Cornard and Newton Green. Since 1986, the country park has been extended with the purchase of ‘Danes Hole’ - thought to be the site where Viking raiders were defeated by local Anglo-Saxons and buried where they fell. According to the new Gainsborough Trail leaflet, it may also be the site of Queen Boudicca’s defeat of the Romans in 60 AD. Danes Hole was chosen as a site for the Heritage Orchard Scheme which encourages the planting of local varieties of fruit trees. Shawlands Wood, to the East of the village, has also been designated a Local Nature Reserve.

Great Cornard has a strong local identity. Though never a market town, we are the second largest population centre in the Babergh district. Only Sudbury next door is larger. We are marginally bigger than Hadleigh. The basis of our growth was the development of London overspill housing by the GLC in the 1960s and 1970s but growth has continued up to the present day and beyond, making Great Cornard a very vibrant community.

Great Cornard has excellent community facilities, including the highly regarded Thomas Gainsborough School (TGS) and Sixth Form, in brand new buildings on the site of the former Great Cornard Upper School, part of the multi-academy Unity Trust; two primary schools; and Chalk Hill School, part of SENDAT, which is seeking funding to expand, become co-educational, and cater for young people on the autistic spectrum or with challenging behaviour. Great Cornard Library, Leisure Centre and Community Swimming Pool, recently refurbished and reopened by Karen Pickering MBE, former World Champion, are all centrally located on the TGS site. We have thriving Scouts and Guides groups, the Scouts operating from their own premises, the Village Hall, on a long term lease from Great Cornard Parish Council, and the Guides based in Cornard Old School owned by Suffolk County Council.

Great Cornard has several thriving church congregations, for example, St Andrews Church and the Cornard Christian Fellowship. We have both a doctors’ and a dentists’ surgery, though both sadly are under threat. The Poplar Road shops, regenerated within the last fifteen years, include a pharmacist, the local post office and a convenience store, as well as three fast food outlets. The convenience store was a McColl’s but GCPC understands that Morrisons Daily are set to invest in it and reopen it swiftly. The village also benefits from having two well used Co-op food stores and four public houses, though one is now at risk of closure.

Great Cornard has some of the best flat-access sports fields in the whole sub-district of South West Suffolk. Our sports centre and swimming pool have been mentioned. Great Cornard Parish Council owns Blackhouse Lane Sports Fields, home to Cornard United Football Club and Cornard Dynamos Youth Football Club, and featuring a cricket square which TGS plan to use. The Sudbury Rugby Club and Boxing Club are also based in Great Cornard.

Great Cornard has a bustling community centre, The Stevenson Centre, which is a hub for over 40 local groups and volunteer organisations. Again, it is one of the best flat-access public buildings in this area of South-West Suffolk – recently chosen by James Cartlidge MP to host his Employment and Skills Fair - and is well-used by organisations like Success after Stroke. A recent extension offers improved facilities for all users, the elderly and disabled, in particular. During the pandemic, The Stevenson Centre hosted a Suffolk County Council centre for Lateral Flow Tests. The Stevenson Centre also benefits from a large Recreation Ground with an adult exercise gym and play area. The Recreation Ground is also home to the Cornard Bowls Club. The Parish Council part-funds a popular local newsletter called Cornard News, which is independently edited and circulated by a team of volunteers to all households in the village. Cornard News was created over twenty years ago as an outcome of a Village Assessment conducted by Great Cornard Parish Council.

Great Cornard is a self-sufficient community and depends on Sudbury Town only for its shops and some leisure and employment. A daily shop can be carried out in the village – indeed, the local Sainsbury’s is on land originally in Great Cornard before a previous review, a weekly shop is more likely to take place in Sudbury town centre or one of its supermarkets but a monthly shop might take residents as far afield as Colchester, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge or Braintree. Similarly, Sudbury might supply some employment opportunities but so too might any of the above towns, as might Haverhill or Halstead.

## Great Cornard Parish Council Boundaries

As explained in the Introduction above, when in 2017 the LGBCE published its first draft recommendations for changes to Babergh District Council boundaries, it proposed lopping off Cats Lane and Newton Road in Great Cornard and adding them to parts of South Sudbury to make a new ‘Elm and Hillside’ ward in Sudbury. When GCPC first discussed the draft recommendations, one locally-born parish councillor exclaimed, ‘But Cats Lane is one of the oldest roads in Great Cornard!’

When Babergh District Council came into existence in 1974, the boundary between the parish of Great Cornard in what had been the Melford Rural District and the town of Sudbury, the successor town council to Sudbury Borough Council, was considerably closer to the centre of Sudbury than it is now. Most of the residential properties in Cornard Road (B1508) were in Great Cornard and the boundary between Sudbury and Great Cornard ran up the footpath between the Lucas/CAV factory, now Lucas Road, in Sudbury and the Armes factory, now Sainsburys, then in Great Cornard. The boundary came out at the Newton Road (A134) at Newton Croft, all of which was in Great Cornard. Indeed, much of what was shown on the LGBCE’s map of ‘Parish Warding Arrangements for Great Cornard’ as ‘Elm and Hillside ward’, Sudbury, in 1974 was in Great Cornard.

However, the boundary did not run straight along the Newton Road to Maldon Court and Shawlands Avenue (then Northern Road) but wiggled through the Cats Lane estate, taking some of Elm Road and Hillside Road into Sudbury. In 1991, Babergh attempted to ‘straighten up’ the boundary much as the LGBCE was proposing in 2017 and there was outrage in Great Cornard. The senior district and parish ward member for Great Cornard, Mrs Betty Cocker, had been born, brought up, married, brought up her own family and worked all her life in Great Cornard. Suddenly, by administrative fiat she had been moved to Sudbury! Eventually, a compromise was reached under which the boundary between Great Cornard and Sudbury ran down the middle of Cats Lane, as it does now. This boundary was clear and obvious, and Betty Cocker continued to live in the parish of her birth. However, the Cats Lane estate remained in Sudbury.

GCPC has a policy of naming roads after well-known Great Cornard persons and families. The most noticeable road apart from Cats Lane itself in the area that LGBCE proposed to move is Betty Cocker Grove. Betty and her husband, Stuart, are now dead. The land on which their bungalow sat has now been redeveloped and the development is named Stuarts Drive. Yet another road, this time off Newton Road, Percy Ruse Close is named after Mr Percy Ruse, who was for many years the village footpath warden. It would have been rather foolish of the LGBCE to move so many roads symbolising the contribution made to community life in Great Cornard into Sudbury and it would be equally foolish for Babergh District Council to seek to do so now.

There are only two major roads into Sudbury from Great Cornard, the A134 Newton Road and the B1508 Cornard/Bures Road. However, a feature of roads is that they go in two opposite directions, and it is as easy to get further into Great Cornard along either of these roads as it is to get into Sudbury! Indeed, Sudbury town centre may appear nearer, but it is much more heavily congested with traffic.

The two major footways into Sudbury run alongside these two roads. In addition, however, there is a footpath which runs up alongside The Maldon Grey public house in Cats Lane directly into Poplar Road near Maldon Court and hence within easy access of the Poplar Road shops. At the Newton Road roundabout, it is not necessary to go all the way to the roundabout before being able to walk up the steps which again lead into Maldon Court. There are no comparable alternative foot routes into Sudbury.

Many people from Maldon Court and other roads on the North Shawlands estate, as well as from Cats Lane itself, can be seen walking to Sainsburys to do their weekly shop, emphasising how much Sainsbury’s is ‘our’ supermarket in Great Cornard. They do not necessarily continue into Sudbury town centre. Indeed, many Cornardians can be seen walking home from Sainsbury’s carrying their shopping in orange shopping bags.

At the Southern end of Great Cornard, in a boundary review long ago, electors in a very small number of houses in Valley Road, another historic Great Cornard road, were offered by GCPC the opportunity to remain in Great Cornard or join Newton Green. They chose to join Newton Green and GCPC did not oppose them. In short, we can see that the modern boundaries of the parish of Great Cornard have been settled by negotiation with our neighbours and there are no good reasons for damaging the integrity of the community of Great Cornard by reopening those settled arrangements.

## Great Cornard Parish Council Wards and Councillor Numbers

For as long as anyone can remember, Great Cornard Parish Council has been divided into two wards, North and South. The Western boundary of Great Cornard is the River Stour, while beyond the Shawlands Wood Local Nature Reserve to the East lies an area of farmland which acts as a green buffer zone between the developed urban area of Great Cornard and Cornard Tye, with Newton Green beyond. A minor adjustment to the ward boundaries might take the boundary between the two wards all the way up Canham’s Road to and along Shawlands Avenue, taking into the North ward all the houses of the South Shawlands estate. This would depend on a calculation as to the relative number of electors in the two wards.

The case for the continued division of Great Cornard into North and South wards has already been made in correspondence with the LGBCE, as shown both in the Introduction and above. Good equality between the number of electors in each of the two wards has been achieved and maintained through successive Community Governance Reviews. Hence, the number of councillors elected to represent each ward has been the same, seven for each ward. Again, Great Cornard Parish Council sees no need to deviate from this number. For example, the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic meant that GCPC was unable to fill two vacancies which arose through councillor resignations in 2020 for a longer period than the Council would have liked. When, in 2021, the Council advertised the vacancies – no election having been requisitioned at the time, for obvious reasons – four good applications were received and two very good councillors were co-opted following interview, demonstrating that there is still interest among the public locally to serve their local community by seeking election to Great Cornard Parish Council.

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/jul/09/thomas-gainsborough-sketches-newly-discovered-at-windsor-castle>

**APPENDIX B**

**Great Cornard Parish Council BACS payments up to 9th May 2022**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME UPTO** |   |   |   |
| **09.05.22** | **Source** | **Amount** | **Details** |
|   | Cemetery | £41.00 |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |
|   | TOTAL  | **£41.00** |   |
| **EXPENDITURE** |   |   |
| **Direct Debits**  | **Company** | **Amount** | **Details** |
|   |   |  |  |
|  |   |   |   |
| **BACS**  | **Company** |  | **Details** |
| **25.04.22** | 3IT | £211.91 | IT support |
|  | Sudbury Office Supplies | £50.33 | Stationery supplies |
|  | ICCM | £95.00 | Annual membership fee |
|  | Ricoh | £375.49 | Quarterly photocopier rental/usage |
|  | Sudbury Garden Services | £760.00 | Cemetery monthly grass cutting contract |
|  | Sudbury Garden Services | £450.00 | Churchyard monthly grass cutting contract |
|  |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |

**Great Cornard Parish Council BACS payments up to 23rd May 2022**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME UPTO** |   |   |   |
| **23.05.22** | **Source** | **Amount** | **Details** |
|   | Cornard United  | £123.76 | Apr/May Insurance reimbursement  |
|   | Cemetery | £47.00 |   |
|   | SCC | £1,500.00 | Queen's Jubilee Celebration Grant  |
|   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |
|   | **TOTAL**  | **£1,670.76** |   |
| **EXPENDITURE** |   |   |
| **Direct Debits**  | **Company** | **Amount** | **Details** |
| **29.04.22** | Talk Talk  | £34.25 | Internet Support  |
| **04.05.22** | Intuit | £31.20 | QB Online Accounts Package |
| **17.05.22** | Intuit | £34.80 | QB Desktop Accounts Package |
| **16.05.22** | PWLB | £8,696.75 | Loan Repayment  |
| **BACS**  | **Company** |  | **Details** |
| **12.05.22** | Salaries  | £4,297.23 | Salaries  |
| **12.05.22** | HMRC  | £1,301.39 | Tax & NI Payover  |
| **12.05.22** | SCC Pension Fund  | £1,599.57 | Pension Payover  |
| **From 23.05.22** | P Bower Assoc. Ltd -DYNOROD | £252.00 | BHL Pavilion Drains Jetted |
|  | Herts Fullstop | £4.68 | Stationery  |
|  | R Butterworth | £750.00 | Platinum Jubilee Celebration Postcards |
|  | Countrywide  | £497.00 | BHL Grounds Maintenance Contract |
|  | Sudbury Town Council | £150.00 | Cost Towards QPJ Beacon Lighting  |
|  | CMAC Specialists Ltd | £672.00 | Cemetery - Removal of Asbestos  |
|  | Anglian Water Business  | £240.28 | BHL - Qrtrly Water Bill  |
|  | Anglian Water Business  | £19.47 | Cemetery - Qrtrly Water Bill  |
|  | Anglian Water Business  | £111.21 | Allotments - Qrtrly Water Bill  |
|  | Hevey Building Supplies Ltd | £5.22 | Installation of Bin - Drill piece  |
|  | Hevey Building Supplies Ltd | £9.05 | Installation of Picnic Tables - Drill Pieces  |
|  | Hevey Building Supplies Ltd | £26.06 | Installation of Picnic Tables - Angle Brackets |
|   | **TOTAL** | **£18,697.91** |   |
|   |   |   |   |

 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)