

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 7th JANUARY 2016

Present: Councillor B Hogg Chairman

Councillor J Ladell
Councillor D Haycock Clerk
Councillor C Flood
Councillor D Stewardson
Councillor P Clarke
Councillor P Fleig

1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
Attending: County Councillor Joanna Spicer, Borough Councillor Wade and 3 members of the public
 2. Request for any items from Councillors not already on agenda – The closure of the Hopton Dr's surgery was raised and Councillor Spicer asked to comment in her report – see below
 3. Chairman explained the scheme for public speaking and asked if anyone had a specific item on the agenda they wished to speak on.
 4. **County Councillor Joanna Spicer** reported on the sudden closure in December of Hopton GP Surgery with no consultation of patients. There is a meeting on 12th January which she asked if a member or members of the PC would be able to attend – Councillors Hogg and Flood both said they would. A planning application for new surgery facilities has been submitted to be included in the development adjoining the new Village Hall at Hopton. In the meantime, patients are having to attend the surgery at Stanton. Councillor Spicer stressed she would do everything she possibly could to keep GP services in Hopton. There is still no interest in the **Community Speed Watch**. Councillor Spicer will check if it is possible for a group of volunteers, not connected with CSW, to be trained in procedures for use of a Speed Recognition Sign. As our laser gun is kept with Jean Mills of Hopton, it was suggested we write and ask Hopton group to come to Coney Weston to use it. **Councillor Hogg**
- Potholes** are still a big problem, Councillor Spicer advised the Street would be re-surfaced this coming summer, but we still have huge potholes and repairs are not carried out very efficiently and soon re-appear. Councillor Spicer is meeting with Charlie Mitson from Highways next week and will endeavour to come up through Coney Weston from Hopton to show him the problems.
The PC will write to Guy Smith and Stephen Boor head of SCC Highways Department with a copy to our MP Matthew Hancock and CC Joanna Spicer. **Councillor Hogg**
- Borough Councillor Paula Wade** explained St Edmundsbury Borough Council, have now taken over responsibility for our **Brown Bins**, we will be charged £40 per bin per year for emptying. Details have yet to be finalised but it will be possible to 'opt out'
BC Wade advised her Locality Budget, available to charitable organisations, still has a small amount of money available before the end of the financial year.

Police Report – since the last meeting there has been 1 crime Burglary dwelling between 6/11/15 – 13/11/15 unknown offender has forced entry to a residential property through a window, untidy search made of the property.

OPEN FORMAL P.C. MEETING

5. **Apologies** None
Declaration of Interests: None
6. **Approval of Minutes** of previous meeting on 5th November - having been circulated, were agreed and signed

7. **Matters Arising for Discussion**
Hedges/Footways/Public footpaths and Roads/Potholes

Speed Recognition Sign and Community Speed Watch – See Councillor Spicer's report

Hedge – Dead tree at Holland Cottage, Coles Path has been cleared. There are overgrown hedges along the Street, if Clerk is notified which ones she will write and request they are cut.

Potholes –See Councillor Spicer's report

Celebration for Queen's 90th Birthday – PC has settled on a date in June and to have a tea party. Thanks to Councillor Stewardson who will organise

News Letter – the possibility of sending out a news letter to all houses in the village was discussed. More information at next meeting **Councillor Clarke**

Changes to Policing – all councillors had received this information. Councillor Flood wanted to include the Neighbourhood Watch details that are sent around on the website. All agreed this would be good.

Emergency Plan – Councillors provided Clerk with telephone numbers, key holders of Village Hall and local information. Clerk will collate.

8. **Matters Arising for Decision**
Cheques for Notice-boards £258.18 (Councillor Fleig advised one notice board is in position the other will be in place next week, thanks to Councillor Fleig) and St Edmundsbury BC for PC Elections in May £441.53

Bank mandate – Councillor Hogg still not certain he is a signatory to PC cheques

Defibrillator – The British Heart Foundation has approved our application and PC agreed unanimously to have one in the village. Clerk to arrange insurance and Councillor Clarke to contact BHF.

Review Risk Assessment and Management (financial) for the period to March 2016 and Review Effectiveness of Internal Audit – Councillor Hogg in conjunction with the Clerk had adjusted the items listed to be more effective to Coney Weston a copy was given to all Councillors. To be reviewed at next meeting if necessary.

New Audit Regime SALC had advised from next year councils would need to provide their own external auditor, a Sector Led Body has been created to establish an effective and efficient audit arrangement for local councils. This would be a group arrangement and the contract would be for 5 years – each council paying their share. We do not need to do anything if we wish to be included in this group, but would need to notify SALC if we wish to opt out. Council agreed unanimously to be included.

Time of Meetings – Councillor Hogg suggested it might be more convenient to start PC meetings earlier, possibly at 6.30pm. Next agenda

9. **Correspondence** - None

10. **AOB** Financial update, Clerk advised to date in this financial year, Council had spent £2656.10

The next meeting to be on Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7pm

There was no further business the meeting closed at 8.55p.m.