

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2016

**Present:** Councillors: B Hogg (Chair), P Clarke, P Fleig, C Flood, D Haycock, J Ladell, County Cllr J Spicer, R Jay (Clerk) and five members of the public.

2. Apologies: Cllr D. Stewardson, Borough Cllr P. Wade.
3. Cllr Hogg welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the scheme of public speaking was operative; requests were received for agenda items 7.1 and 7.4
4. No declarations of interest were made by councillors.
5. The minutes of the last meeting (12<sup>th</sup> May) were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
6. County Cllr Spicer reported on the investigative work to identify the cause of repeated flooding in the Street adjacent to the Old Post-Office; after lengthy discussion, it was resolved to set up another meeting with the contractors, County Council Highways Engineers and representatives of this council to agree a course of action to remedy the problem; It was suggested that further investigation works were required to identify the problem if possible before the road is re-surfaced. Cllr Spicer had also been approached to consider some suggested enhancements to the site of the 388<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial at the Church cross-roads, including surfacing, scrub removal and improved drainage; this site is also subject to flooding although has improved following recent re-surfacing. She suggested that the group contact the PC and liaise. Cllr Fleig and Cllr Haycock volunteered to meet the group when contact was made.

It was noted that surface dressing following major structural repairs to the entire Street is still scheduled before winter; it was hoped that this work can follow the drainage repairs yet to be identified.

Cllr Spicer had no further news regarding the loss of our G.P. surgery at Hopton.

### Police

The lack of easy access to Police and crime information was raised, the suggestion to put the Police Newsletter up on the village website was agreed as a means to achieve a wider circulation of incidents for residents.

7. OPEN FORMAL MEETING (Matters arising for discussion and progress reports)
  - 7.1 **Flooding in the Street** – see item 6 above.
  - 7.2 **VAS speed recognition sign:** It was resolved (in principle) by a unanimous vote to proceed with the device version that records and registers actual vehicle speeds; this project will be supported by a grant from Cllr Spicer's locality budget with the balance raised from within the Parish.
  - 7.3 **Dog fouling on playing field:** It was confirmed that the 'no dogs on playing field' signs are in situ and remain in good condition.
  - 7.4 **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration:** A report from Cllr Stewardson was read to the meeting; 80+ residents attended at the village hall to enjoy a wide variety of traditional English High Tea fare prepared by volunteers from several village organisations. Cllr Hogg wished to record a vote of thanks to Cllr Stewardson and her team. A question was asked regarding the remainder of the allocated money for the event. It was explained that the figure had been budgeted with the actual amount to be drawn down on receipt of itemised expenses. See item 9. There was in fact therefore no surplus funds.

7.5 **Finger post signs to locate Village Hall and Defibrillator:** Cllr Clarke confirmed that an interest had been registered on the County Council website. Further that temporary signs to locate the defibrillator had been put in place.

7.6 **Welcome letter for new residents:** The final version from Cllr Haycock had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting; this was approved and it was resolved to provide a copy to new residents. All Councillors were requested to notify Cllr Haycock of new residents as appropriate.

7.7 **Clerk's report:** A new travel and transport initiative: - CONNECTING COMMUNITIES has been launched county-wide; for the St Edmundsbury area, residents can plan and book travel by calling 01440 712028. Some residents had requested distribution of the 'Bury Mercury' free newspaper, copies are available each Wednesday in Stanton and Bardwell. The new Families and Communities Officer from the Borough Council has asked to attend the September meeting, this was agreed.

#### MATTERS FOR DECISION

##### 8. Planning

8.1 DC/16/1032/LB Coney Weston Hall: No objections raised.

8.2 Caravan at Jaytrumps Farm: To consider a response to a Borough Council letter of 28 April 2016 concerning a possible planning contravention. After discussion, it was resolved to let the matter rest in accordance with the Borough Council's recommendation unless a change occurs in the present circumstances. Clerk to write and confirm the Parish Council accepts with some disappointment this position.

8.3 Individual roles for councillors: Cllr Hogg outlined his wish for council members to take a lead role for a nominated function of council business with a deputy. After detailed discussion, a motion to accept in principle the creation of councillor roles was carried by 3 votes to 2. It was agreed to convene a separate meeting to discuss the matter in more detail before moving forward with the proposal.

##### 9. Finance

9.1 The following cheques were authorised by the Council and signed:

- £30 to SALC for Clerk's training workshop.
- £169.66 to SALC for annual subscription.
- £25 Honorarium for defibrillator training courses. (reimburse Cllr Clarke)
- £236.69 consolidated costs for Royal birthday celebration party. (reimburse Cllr Stewardson)
- £150 to G & C Noel for Village Hall car-park lease.
- £64.48 leaflet printing and sundries for defibrillator activation. (reimburse Cllr Clarke)
- £60.19 clerk's expenses.

9.2 It was resolved unanimously to approve the use of SALC payroll services for the calculation of Clerk's salary.

9.3 First quarter expenditure to July 7<sup>th</sup> confirmed as £ £1209.11. Balance at Bank = £5177.74

9.4 The recovery of £99.99 (from the Transparency Fund) for computer software purchased last year can now proceed, Clerk to action this reclaim.

10. Correspondence: None not previously circulated.

11. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:

11.1 Cllr Clarke suggested that the format of the Annual Parish Meeting be reviewed with the aim of gaining a wider public participation in this annual meeting. It was resolved to include this subject on the next agenda supported by a brief working paper from Cllr Clarke.

11.2 Cllr Clarke asked that Email communications from Cllrs be copied to all when responding.

12. Date of the next meeting: **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 19:00hrs in the Village Hall.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed @ 21:15hrs.