

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2017**

PRESENT: Councillors: B. Hogg, P. Clarke, C. Flood, D. Haycock, J. Ladell, C. Pelling, County Cllr. J. Spicer, Borough Cllr. A. Smith, R. Jay (Clerk) and eight members of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Cllr Hogg was nominated by Cllr Haycock, seconded by Cllr Clarke;

Cllr B. Hogg was unanimously elected as Chair. Nominations for Vice Chair were requested: Cllr Ladell was nominated by Cllr Haycock, seconded by Cllr Flood, Cllr Ladell was elected to the post by unanimous vote.

2. Apologies were accepted from Cllr D. Stewardson.

3. Cllr Hogg welcomed Cllr C. Pelling to his first meeting, he was pleased to note the attendance of eight residents and confirmed that the scheme of public speaking was operative; there were no requests to speak on any agenda items.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. The minutes of the last meeting (March 2nd) and the Extra ordinary meeting of 13th April were approved by Council and signed by Chair and Clerk.

6.1 County Cllr Spicer noted a change of emphasis in future towards focusing her priorities on local projects in the villages that she represents; one such aim will be the enhancement of the footpath network to create more circular routes near or around villages.

6.2 Borough Cllr Smith's report had been previously circulated; the latest news about the further integration of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath Councils into one body was given; public consultation will follow soon.

OPEN FORMAL MEETING: Matters arising for discussion (progress reports/actions)

7.1 It was confirmed that funds should be available to construct a traffic calming measure for Rushford road once the highway has been surveyed for suitability - **Action Cllr. Spicer**

7.2 The vehicle activated speed sign (S.I.D.) has operated in three locations during the past six weeks, results from Thetford Rd and Rushford Rd have been downloaded. Results from all four locations should be available for analysis before the next meeting. A request to set up a battery charging point in the village hall will be passed on for action – **Action Clerk.**

7.3 Feedback from the recent Village Meeting was considered in detail: -

- Weak mobile phone signal – liaison required with Barningham P.C.C. to establish the status of plans to place a new mast on the Church tower. – **Action Cllr. Hogg**
- Inconvenient times of No.338 bus since two recent schedule changes. **Action Cllr Pelling.**

- Request remedial work to post & rail fence plus the adjacent pavement from Three Ways to Thetford Road. **Action Cllr Hogg.**
- Remedy occasional flooding of the highway near the area above. NB: The drains and gullies were jetted out since the complaint; rain is awaited before any further action is considered, should the problem still exist.
- Praise was noted for the pond landscaping work; although this is not a Parish Council project, but a volunteer scheme, the 'Pond Life Group' were thanked for their work to date, which it was stated will only come to fruition once the water level recovers, which will allow some aquatic plants to prosper.
- Some remaining defects following the earlier surface treatment to the street were itemised, accumulated loose chippings were swept again prior to the meeting. Action to follow up surface defects will be progressed: **Action Cllr Hogg.**

7.4 Action to maintain clear footways was discussed; it was agreed to request tidy up action from some land owners after the current bird nesting season is over; this work to be in accord with established P.C. policy. Action: **All plus Clerk.**

7.5 The Street clean was completed by a large volunteer team on 11March; Cllr Hogg thanked those involved with both the clean-up work and the catering. It is hoped to make the Bus Shelter at 'Three Ways' our next community volunteer tidy up effort. It was noted that some vehicles are parking with wheels up on the pavement causing pedestrians to pass in the road. Residents and visitors are requested to avoid parking on pavements; if the problems persist, the Parish Council will contact vehicle owners.

7.6 County Cllr Spicer confirmed that plans for remedial work to cure the street flooding problems near the Old Post-office are near to publication; to be progressed with Highways engineers. Action **Cllr Spicer.**

MATTERS FOR DECISION:

8.1 The possible uses for s106 money available (£9838) had been submitted for scrutiny to the Borough Officer, as all uses must be for either 'green' infrastructure or play related projects, the following subjects were considered to be acceptable: -

- Additional car-parking spaces for playing field users
- Provision of adult gym equipment on the playing field
- Provision of allotments
- Renew worn and deteriorated 'woodchip' surface for the enclosed play area

It was agreed to investigate whether a mix of match funding and/or grants may be used with the s106 money before a final decision is taken: **Action Cllr Hogg.**

8.2 Standing orders have been reviewed; It was resolved to accept the amendments and incorporate the new paragraph for voting on Co-opting a member to the Council. Clerk to issue the revised document to all members. Action: **Clerk.**

8.3 Cheques were authorised for signature as follows:

- SALC for payroll service, £18
- Grant for Three Ways garden, £35
- Suffolk Cloud for website hosting, £100
- SALC annual subscription, £173.09
- Admin expenses/computer repairs, £ 85.33

8.4 The P.C. accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 had been previously circulated to members, these were agreed and signed. The Annual return for the same period was answered at section 1 – Annual governance statement as follows at each question: -1.yes, 2.yes, 3.yes, 4.yes, 5.yes, 6.yes, 7.yes, 8.yes, 9. n/a and signed by Chair and Clerk. Section 2 statement was signed by Chair and RFO. This being Cllr Pelling’s first meeting, he was unable to comment on section 1.

9. Correspondence received since publication of agenda – None.

10. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

The 388th Bomb Group Association have made some informal approaches to develop a closer liaison with the village; this was welcomed. Cllr Hogg offered to foster the link, while not formally representing the Parish Council.

Cllr Haycock asked for details of any new residents who may not yet have received a welcome pack.

11. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 6th, as one or two members may be indisposed, it was hoped to arrange an earlier date.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:25hrs.

After meeting note: The next meeting has been re-scheduled for WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE

B. Hogg Chair

R. Jay Clerk