

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE 2017**

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

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Spicer.
2. Cllr Hogg welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the scheme of public speaking was operative; a request to speak on emergency planning was received.
3. Declarations of interest: none
4. The draft minutes of the last meeting (11th May 2017) were approved as written.

5.2 Borough Cllr's Report: The merger of Forest Heath with St Edmundsbury Council is proceeding, a forecast saving of a further £800k is expected, the process should be completed in time for the revised ward boundaries to be used in the May 2019 elections. Following the Grenfell Tower fire in London a survey of Suffolk housing stock has not identified any that are thought to be similar. Health advice has been promulgated for dealing with the current heatwave.

OPEN FORMAL PC MEETING: Matters arising for discussion (members progress reports).

6.1 The Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (SID) has been deployed at all four locations, the data collected has shown that approximately 20% of all vehicle are passing in excess of 35mph, with 0.1% exceeding 50mph. The use and presentation of the data was discussed; it was agreed to keep all four locations active on the current time cycle and publish again in time for the September meeting. ACTION CP & PC.

6.2.1 The weak mobile phone signal remains despite the reported installation of a local transmitter on Barningham Church tower; a village survey to determine the signal strength of various providers will be conducted. ACTION DH & PC. **AFTER NOTE:** *The transmitter is not yet operational, it will serve Vodaphone, EE, O2 and Three network customers in due course.*

6.2.2. The reduced subsidy for the No 338 bus service has caused timetable changes being made to protect peak time services and enable a reduced service to continue at other times. This has resulted in some shorter and other longer periods between return journeys from Bury St Edmunds than the operator would prefer.

6.2.3. Suffolk Highways engineers have surveyed the reported faults in the Street road surface, they have confirmed that appropriate repairs will ensue.

6.2.4. Fence & footway – three ways to Thetford Rd, condition reported and action to survey the site agreed with County Council. Cllrs invited to attend a site meeting when one is arranged. ACTION BH

Chair B. Hogg

Clerk R. Jay

6.2.5. It was noted that the recent issues about cars being parked with wheels on the Street Pavement has shown some improvement; residents have responded positively.

6.2.6. Street flooding: A proposed scheme for remedial action has been scored and given a low priority which makes it unlikely to qualify for action this year. The scoring matrix has been received, it prioritises properties considered at risk of internal flooding. This outstanding issue will automatically go forward into 2018 with an additional score as an outstanding project.

6.3. The next volunteer team project: - It was resolved to work on the Playing-Field hedges and borders, which have become overgrown and are encroaching on the mowed grass area in some places; details will be announced for a Saturday in September. ACTION: ALL

MATTERS FOR DECISION:

Consider allocation of Section 106 fund (£9838) to approved projects.

7.1.1. Repair of woodchip safety surface to children's play area, estimate at £700 – to be funded from playing-field committee assets.

7.1.2. Provision of adult exercise equipment: Initial enquiries show just how expensive simple fixed structures are. It was resolved to research demand and work up ideas, which might include a marked perimeter track on the playing-field. ACTION DS & JL.

7.1.3. The provision of allotment facilities was considered to be a high risk use of money.

7.1.4. Purchase of the orchard to the rear of Garland House in Crow St. as amenity land; this is not for sale and public access might devalue the property; no further action envisaged.

7.1.5. Improve car-parking facilities for playing-field users: Extending the lay-bye on Thetford Rd. might be one solution, it was resolved to set up a site meeting with Havebury Housing Association and other interested parties to find a way to resolve this ongoing issue.

ACTION JL & CP

Given the various requests for provision of amenity locations, the Chair questioned whether some further amenity land should be sought in the village as a low risk use of the s106 cash; It was resolved not to take this proposal further at present.

Consider other suggestions made at the recent Annual Parish Meeting.

7.2.1. Fund raising for a new gate & fence to the Church-yard; It was confirmed that the Parochial Church Council are already raising funds to support the project.

7.2.2. Improve street lighting: The installation of several modern luminaires is complete, but overgrown trees and shrubs require cutting back as they block any useful illumination at street level. A survey to identify specific problems will be conducted to identify appropriate action, which will be requested from land owners. ACTION BH.

7.2.3. The community emergency plan is reviewed annually. It was resolved to display Notices about: - 'in case of emergency' on the website and notice boards. ACTION PC & CP. Further details can be considered when the plan is reviewed at the next meeting.

7.2.4. Provide free Wi Fi in the village hall: Based on the existing users, a need for this was not immediately apparent, however it was stated that hiring income can be boosted by enabling internet links for particular activities; an estimate of annual cost reqd. ACTION RJ.

B. Hogg Chair

R. Jay Clerk

7.2.5. Provide recreational facilities for older children: This was considered as a worthwhile aim to be developed in outline format for further consideration by council. ACTION CF.

FINANCE

8.1 To receive a finance report: expenditure to date (including approvals at this meeting) is £1197, leaving £6497 of the allocated budget to 31st March; reserves equal £5256. A reclaim through SALC from the government's Transparency Fund will be made to recover web hosting charges and computer maintenance costs recently paid.

8.2 Cheques were authorised and signed for the following:

- C&G Noel for village hall car-park lease £150.
- Administration expenses 12/5 – 21/6 £13.27
- Tools & safety clothing for volunteer workers £21.46.

9. Matters & correspondence for the attention of the Council since publication of agenda.

9.1 The Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) has advised that guidance exists for councils on: - Local proclamations and protocol in the event of the death of a senior member of the Royal Family. ACTION Clerk

Reverend David Messer has expressed a wish to attend our next Council meeting to speak about the same subject, he will be invited to the September meeting.

9.2 The need to change traditional meeting dates was questioned, this subject can be on the next agenda if desired. ACTION: Clerk

10. Date of next meeting was agreed as the first Thursday in Sept. which is: - Thursday 6th September at 19:00hrs.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:12hrs.

B. Hogg Chair

R. Jay Clerk