

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd JANUARY 2019

PRESENT: Councillors: B. Hogg (Chair), C. Flood, D. Haycock, J. Ladell (Vice Chair), D. Stewardson, Cllr P. Clarke, R. Jay (Current Clerk), R Salter (Clerk with effect from 5th Jan 2019), Cllr J. Spicer, Borough Cllr A. Smith and 5 members of public.

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. The draft minutes of the last meeting (1st Nov) had been pre-circulated; were taken as read and approved.
4. Scheme of public speaking: 1 member of public to speak on item 6.4.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION BEGINS.

5. 1 County Cllr's Report: Cllr Spicer queried if all work had been completed satisfactorily at the American War Memorial and the adjacent cross-roads from flooding. Further enhancements are planned and funds are available.

Cllr Spicer provided confirmation of an approved traffic calming scheme for the Norwich Lane/Rushford road junction with improved signage and slow road marking. See Item 6.4 on the agenda which was discussed at this stage of the meeting. The recent accident was raised by a member of the public. Cllr Spicer offered to try to obtain police reports of the latest accident at the junction and consider further measures if appropriate. Also to request costings for the alteration of the 30mph signing at the junction and report back.

Parish Council to contact the landowner about hedge cutting on the junction corner to improve visibility for drivers, and cutting back round the post could be picked up by the village volunteer group. Action BH

Cllr Spicer also provided an update on school transport and also asked for publicity regarding the need for a new governor for Barningham School. CF will put this on the website and Facebook page Action CF

5.2 Borough Cllr's Report: Funds for the village hall roof can be paid to the Parish Council, DS to obtain quotes for the work, maximum of 3. DS to contact Cllr Spicer & Cllr Smith when quotes are in for additional funding. Action DS

Cllr Smith to confirm to DH when an application for funds would need to be in by, likely to be early March due to May elections. Action AS

5.3 No matters raised by the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CEASES

6 OPEN FORMAL P.C. MEETING: Matters for discussion (members progress reports/actions)

6.1 Two inaugural meetings of volunteers have been held. PC/BH co-ordinating tasks and volunteers and hoping to have a volunteer day setup for late January.

6.3 Facebook links: there has been good interest in the Facebook page.

6.4 Rushford Rd/Norwich Lane Junction. Covered under 5.1. BH also flagged the state of the signs in the village. A signage audit is something which maybe the volunteer group can help with. Also Neighbourhood Watch signs need to be taken down as there is no Co-ordinator this could also be a task for the volunteer group.

6.5 Landscaping quote for 2019 was agreed. RS to respond to St Edmundsbury. Action RS

6.6 Dog Fouling. Further correspondence had been received following the discussions at the previous meeting about dog fouling, clarifying that bins could be considered a facility rather than a cure. It was agreed to continue with the publicity and campaign agreed at the previous meeting. The Parish News and Facebook page can be used to publicise the problem and perhaps improve the conduct of the few dog walkers who do not clear up. It was confirmed that the two grey bins by the Village Hall may be used for dog waste. The situation will be monitored to determine whether further action is required following a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the nuisance caused. BH to respond to the letter. Action BH

MATTERS FOR DECISION:

7.1 Election costs were considered and if it was necessary to specifically budget for them in the coming year in addition to the provisional budget discussed at the November meeting. Costing will depend on whether or not an election is contested. The Clerk confirmed that St Edmundsbury had confirmed that there would be a small administration charge in any case. It was proposed and unanimously agreed to include £250 in the budget to cover any administration charge, and any other costs can be covered from reserves. Agreed unanimously.

7.2 It was proposed to include within budget funding for tools/equipment for the Volunteer Group of £50. Agreed unanimously.

7.3 Operating budget of £5622 was therefore proposed and unanimously agreed, including £1000 from reserve. There will be a demand to St Edmundsbury Borough Council for £4622 as a precept. This is a 24.8% reduction on Band D local tax. Agreed Unanimously. Action RS/BH

7.4 Charitable Lands: The governance documents of both the playing field and village hall were presented by the Clerk and it was proposed and agreed Governance of Village Hall and Playing Field needed to be an agenda item at a future meeting. Agreed Unanimously. Action RS

7.5 Internal Audit arrangements were discussed and it was unanimously agreed that last year's internal auditor Donna Lash to be approached again for this year. Agreed Unanimously. Action BH/RS

7.6 Cllr Hogg reported on the interview process for the new Clerk and recommended that Rowena Salter be appointed to the role of Parish Clerk and RFO following completion of this process, appointment in accordance with terms and conditions as advertised. The proposal was Agreed unanimously.

FINANCE:

8.1 The year to date financial summary (pre-circulated) confirmed payments to date as £2696.00. Budgeted expenditure remaining to year end equalled £1350 (Village Hall Insurance, Salary, Administration and Training). This leaves a forecast reserve (not allocated) of £8590 at 31st March 2019.

8.2 Payments were authorised for the following invoices:

Remembrance Sunday Refreshments £100, Memorial Plaques for Coney Weston Church: £50.
Administration expenses for period Nov-Dec. £11.95.

9.1 Correspondence received: Letter from the Parochial Church Council expressing thanks for the funds towards the Centenary Memorial Plaques.

The Parish Council would formally like to record thanks to all involved in the Remembrance Sunday event. It was a good day and good to see the village getting together.

The Parish Council would formally like to record thanks to Reg Jay in his role as Parish Clerk in recent years.

10 Date of next meeting confirmed as March 7th 2019. There being no other business the meeting was closed at 20.30hrs.