

MINUTES OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER
AT 7pm VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT: Councillors: P. Clarke (Chair) S. Hindry , C.Flood, D.Haycock, J.Ladell, G.Mihr, Suffolk County Councillor J Spicer, West Suffolk Borough Councillor A Smith and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies: Councillor B.Hogg,
2. Declaration of Interest: None
3. The draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting (20th August) had been pre-circulated and were unanimously approved
4. No members of the public wished to speak.
5. County Councillor's Report (incorporating agenda item 8 – To receive and consider an update regarding Thetford Road bungalows)

The signpost at the cross roads has not yet been straightened.

The County Council and Havebury Housing who jointly own the grass in front of the bungalows have agreed in principle to the proposal, which is to create an area with a village green feel and protect the Highway. Councillor Ladell and Councillor Clarke have had discussions with Councillors Spicer and Smith with regard to the installation of a kick rail, flower boxes and an additional bench on the green. County Councillor advised the need for a licence to put posts in council land, gaps for walking and grass cutting. Residents need to be advised what we are planning to do and their views sought. Councillor Smith advised he would act as a conduit with Havebury but that they would need a detailed sketch plan and sight of builder's quote, to be in full agreement to confirm. Councillor Spicer advised she would, if possible, fund the kick rail and its installation. Councillor Smith agreed to endeavour to allocate a grant of £500. Councillor Clarke had drawn up a plan and after discussion, some amendments to shorten the fence line were agreed. The Parish Council would meet the purchase of the flower boxes and possibly the bench and the maintenance of fence.

Agreement in principle - proposed by Councillor Clarke Seconded by Councillor Mihr. Unanimously agreed.

6. Borough Councillor Smith has had an approach from a member of the Playingfield Committee regarding grants for the playingfield. He has referred him to the grant location facility operated by West Suffolk which will provide him with a Funding Report; this lists details of potential organisations who may provide funding.

7. Parish Councillor Reports:-

Councillor Flood had attended a meeting at Knettishall Heath and reported there were problems with the number of people visiting, between 500 and 1000 people every day, big recreational groups, loud music, litter, racing between cattle grids, ponies harassed by visitors, lighting fires, camping and fly tipping. Solutions suggested were – trail cameras, litter bins, improved signage, possibility of speed bumps between cattle grids, car parking charges, with the possibility of couple of hours free parking at beginning of day for dog walkers, automatic number plate recognition and body-cams for staff. They are also trying to create a public protection order which would give more power to local councils.

7.1 Village Groups/Neighbourhood Watch Liaison –A resident, who had expressed an interest some time ago, has made some suggestions to revive the Neighbourhood Watch scheme – to be followed up by Councillor Hogg.

7.2 Communications and Publicity including website. Councillor Flood had checked the website for its accessibility to the less-abled and our website is compliant. Notice had been received that the main road to Thetford would be closed for 11 weeks between 19.00 hours and 6am. Notice had been put on our Facebook page.

7.3 Hedges and Highways/Speed Device – Councillor Mihr advised there had been a complaint regarding the overgrown hedge from the street to church crossroads. The hedge was severely cut back earlier this year so it is all new growth. It was agreed that the hedges leaflet be delivered to landowner in next 7-10 days in line with the Parish Council's Hedge policy. Then if necessary the first formal letter would be sent early October.

The Speed Device is moved every 2 weeks, the data downloaded and stored on computer. It was suggested that turning the camera around on the post by The Swan to face the Swan, would enable the speed of traffic coming from Barningham to be checked .Possibly need new batteries.

7.4 Defibrillator/ Volunteers – Councillor Clarke reported the defibrillator had not been used and was in good condition apart from the sight gauge is a little cloudy.

Volunteers met last weekend, 8 people turned up and cut back the growth at the double bend aiding visibility, hedge around village hall and footway opposite cleared towards the street.

7.5 Playingfield Liaison – Councillor Ladell advised playingfield would be requesting grant monies from the PC for next year's insurance premium which may be a little more than this year (£322) and also a grant for grass cutting, to be advised before November PC meeting. Grass has not been cut during August; West Suffolk Council has been notified.

7.6 Planning Matters (Government White-Paper) – Councillor Haycock advised this is mainly to make people aware the planning process is going to be changed. This proposal was designed to make planning matters easier. There are few building opportunities in Coney Weston apart from, possibly, the land beside the Village Hall.

8. Update re Thetford Road Bungalows dealt with under County Councillor's report.

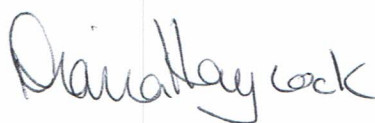
9. To approve the closure of the old bank account and transfer monies to new account – The cheque book for new account has been received. Councillor Hindry proposed Councillor Clarke seconded and it was agreed unanimously.
10. To consider the vacancy for role of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
There has been some response to our advertisements. The deadline of 17th September has not yet been reached.
11. To consider the Freedom of Information documents – After we had considered the whole document and made minor amendments Councillor Hindry proposed we adopt the Freedom of Information documents, seconded by Councillor Flood and unanimously agreed.

Date of next meeting to be Thursday 5th November 2020 at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.



Councillor P Clarke Chair



Councillor D. Haycock (Minute taker)