

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT B. Hogg (Chair), C. Flood, D. Haycock, J. Ladell (Vice Chair), P. Clarke, G. Mihr, R. Salter (Clerk), County Cllr J. Spicer (part), Ward Cllr A. Smith (part) and 14 members of public.

| | ACTION |
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| 1. Apologies: None | |
| 2. Declaration of Interest declared – Cllr Clarke regarding the Bowls Club agenda item 6.1.1.2 and Cllr Ladell regarding the village hall roof 6.1.1.1. Neither would participate or vote on these agenda items. | |
| 3. 2 alterations to the minutes. With these alterations made agreed and signed. | |
| 4. 2 members of public to speak on the Bowls Club item, 6.1.1.2 | |
| <p>5.1 County Councillor J Spicer reminded councillors of the Boundary Commission consultation that is open to the 13th January. Although we are unlikely to be affected it would be worth responding to show our support. The hedge towards the war memorial was cut last year, it was agreed we need to look at how this can be prevented from becoming an issue again next year. Cllr Spicer suggested the volunteer group could help with clearing pavements and she maybe able to fund the hire of some equipment to help with this. It was confirmed the flooding in The Street had reduced but had been bad for a short period at the Thetford Road bend and the war memorial crossroads. Outstanding items are –</p> <p>The signpost repair at the Rushford Road crossroads.</p> <p>Thetford Road Bungalows green area, Cllr Spicer will bring a proposal to the March meeting for funding a low fence around this area.</p> <p>There is a lot of deterioration between the verge and the road which will need to be monitored and Cllr Spicer updated on the situation.</p> | JS |
| <p>5.2 Ward Councillor A Smith confirmed a meeting was to be arranged with the W Suffolk Locality Officer and the Bowls Club to see if she can assist them with grant applications. This is also the contact for the Playing Field Committee to liaise with too. Cllr Smith also confirmed he had been able to help fund a sprayer for the Bowls Club.</p> <p>W Suffolk are taking on issuing parking tickets going forward.</p> <p>Operational Waste Hub - The move to the new Hub has gone well and our services team are now using it. Not only is this a much more modern facility linked with the County Council, but it will help us to manage waste services in a more efficient way as our population in West Suffolk continues to grow. The recycling centre will also be operational in the new year which should make it easier for residents to reduce, reuse and recycle.</p> <p>Fly-tipping - We are part of a Suffolk wide campaign to crack down on fly-tipping. While the actual crime is easy to spot, detecting and finding the culprit is not. As part of this we are also making sure people know they are using reputable companies to dispose of rubbish.</p> <p>A recent successful enforcement in this respect involved a restaurant owner from Bury St Edmunds who was fined for breaching a duty of care which led to his waste being fly tipped.</p> <p>Abbey Gardens - A new information point and plant sales area has opened in the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds, offering visitors even more to enjoy. The wonderful Abbey Gardens attract more than 1.2 million visits per year (the footfall is recorded at its entrances. The Abbey Gardens is part of the much</p> | |




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| <p>larger area that once served as the Abbey of St Edmund, and in 2020 will see community celebrations to mark 1000 years since the Abbey was founded by King Canute.</p> | |
| <p>6.1.1.1 Village Hall Roof Grant Update. This item was deferred from the last meeting as insufficient information had been received regarding the additional expenses incurred. Further information had been circulated prior to this meeting. After discussion - it was felt that a further £1000 could be provided to assist the Village Hall who have a shortfall in their accounts due to the extra work needed on the roof specifically the recladding of the South Gable and repairs to the northern main roof truss. This was agreed unanimously by all Councillors who could vote. RS to action</p> | <p>RS</p> |
| <p>6.1.1.2 The project manager for the possible purchase of land and the vice captain of the Bowls Club outlined the situation. The Bowls Club had recent contact from Greene King that they were selling all the land and the Bowls Club as users of part of the land could have first refusal.</p> <p>The Bowls Club has 35 members and over half are from Coney Weston. Three options were outlined –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing, the land use is currently recreational but no security of tenure. 2. Purchase just the Green but this gives issues over vehicle access in particular. 3. Purchase the whole site. Total of £63,000 inclusive of VAT and fees. They are in negotiation with Greene King to reduce this but it is unlikely. The Club can contribute a small amount and look for grants from other bodies including Sport England but this could take too long. The preferred option for the Club is that the Parish Council buys the land possibly through a loan from the Public Works Loan board. The future is then in the hands of the village. The Club has been there for 50 years and benefits all ages, it is next to the pub so the pub also benefits. They hold fundraising events through the year and have hosted a couple of Blind Veteran events. <p>Another member of public who is not a Bowls Club member said that this was a village feature that should be preserved and it was upto the Parish Council to do this. They queried if Section 106 money was available to be used and also if other Bowls Clubs had been in a similar situation we could benefit from their experience. They recognised this is a big step for the Parish Council and asked whether the Bowls Club could be recognised as a community asset.</p> <p>There was some discussion amongst Councillors and it was felt more information was needed. How much money is actually being requested? How do the Council recoup the money? If the Council raise the precept should a village meeting be held? A rental agreement would need to be worked out. It was suggested by Cllr Spicer that advice was sought from SALC.</p> <p>Cllr Hogg summarised saying more information was needed, the Parish Council and Bowls Club should work together but the Bowls Club should still pursue grant applications in the meantime. Councillors Mihr, Ladell and Hogg will form a working group with the Bowls Club to take this forward.</p> | <p>GM/JL/BH</p> |
| <p>6.1.2.1 Cllr Mihr gave an update on the SALC AGM. They gave their annual report and adopted a new constitution. Other councils shared their work and key themes were investing in training, raising money from other organisations and tackling loneliness.</p> | |

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| 6.1.2.2 An annual village meeting date was agreed for Thurs 16 th April. It was suggested that the format be changed to a small group workshop. Cllr Clarke and Flood will work on planning the meeting. | PC/CF |
| 6.1.3 Cllr Flood advised that communications and publicity was progressing well. There are 47 facebook followers now. | |
| 6.1.4.1 SALC Planning Survey. The Clerk had received responses back and will respond to this survey. | RS |
| 6.1.5 No playing field update, separate agenda item later. | |
| 6.1.6 Cllr Mihr will liaise with Cllr Spicer about the hiring of equipment to help clear the pavements. | GM |
| 6.1.7 Cllr Clarke advised the speed device is now being moved between 3 places in the village. There are no major changes in the data being provided, the data is available on the website. The next volunteer group date is Sat 1 st Feb. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could be launched at the Annual Village Meeting. Cllr Clarke to progress. | PC |
| 6.2.1 Policy review. The Grants policy was reviewed and a couple of amendments agreed, it was agreed to leave the £500 limit in and to add that applications which had secured match funding would be encouraged The Complaints policy was updated to say that complaints would be acknowledged within seven working days with a formal response in 30 working days. RS to update and publish on the website. | RS |
| 6.2.2 Policies for next meeting were agreed as Health and Safety and Social Media. RS to draft and circulate. This completes the suite of policies originally identified. | RS |
| 6.2.3 Cllr Clarke gave an update on the Community Emergency Plan. It won't have a list of individuals with equipment as it was felt individuals would help as and when needed. Cllr Clarke will update the document with upto date Councillor details, phone numbers etc. | PC |
| 6.3 Cllr Haycock gave an update on the Playing Field Committee. They are in the process of updating the signatories for the bank account. They also want to change the account name to include Playing Field. The Charity Commission needs the new trustee information. The Parish Council Clerk has sourced an insurance quotation which is £322. Until the bank account is changed the Parish Council will continue to cover the playing field insurance. Ongoing maintenance is taking place where possible although a lot has to wait for better weather. The Playing Field Committee were advised to keep Cllr Clarke updated on how the volunteer group could help. | |
| 6.4.1 The application for a new bank account had been submitted but no further update at present. Clerk to chase. | RS |
| 6.4.2 The draft budget for 2020/21 was considered and it was agreed that the precept should reflect the need to support village initiatives such as the Village hall roof, playing field, volunteer group etc as suggested at the annual village meeting. It was agreed that Village Maintenance, Village Groups/Sundries and New equipment could be one item and each aspect have £250 nominally allocated to it, £750 in total. This will result in an increased precept but it should be taken into account that last year's precept did go down. The budget was agreed unanimously. | |




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| 6.4.3 The precept was unanimously agreed at £6080. RS would action completing the precept and sending back to West Suffolk Council. | RS |
| 6.4.4. The Clerk will draft an article about the Budget and the village initiatives it supports. | RS |
| 6.4.5 The internal audit has been booked with SALC but will be more expensive than first expected. Around £220 depending on mileage charged. Councillors noted the costs but that the Audit was required. | |
| 6.4.6 The income and expenditure from 1 April 2019 to 30 November 2019 was agreed. | |
| 6.4.7 The payment schedule was agreed and signed off and cheques signed for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Salary £361.86 • Clerk Expenses £7.32 | |
| 7. There is a vacancy on the Parish Council as Councillor Garman has resigned. Thanks were recorded to Chris for his work especially driving forward the Parish Council policies. Some interest in the vacancy has been expressed. The majority of Councillors felt the vacancy should be advertised. It will be advertised on the noticeboards and website with a deadline of end of January. Cllr Hogg advised the meeting that he would be stepping down as Chair following the next meeting which will cover Co-option, date to be agreed in February. | RS |
| 8. No correspondence received | |
| 9. Date of next meeting Thurs 5 th March with a February meeting to be scheduled. | |


