

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors F Craig, S Duncan, J Ladell, G. Mihr (Vice Chair) and Sam Norris (Suffolk Wildlife Trust)
County Councillor J. Spicer, District Councillor A. Smith
5 members of the public
A. Morris (Clerk).

Councillor Mihr, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 7pm.

ACTION

1. **To receive the resignation of the Vice Chair to the Council** - resignation email received from Vice Chair Mihr and duly noted.
2. **To receive nominations for the following:**
 - 2.1. **Chair to the Council** – Cllr Mihr was nominated – proposed by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Craig. Cllr Mihr is duly appointed as Chair to the Council.
 - 2.2. **Vice Chair to the Council** – Cllr Clarke was nominated in absentia– proposed by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Craig. Cllr Clarke is duly appointed as Vice Chair to the Council.
3. **To receive apologies for absence** – apologies received from Cllrs Clarke and Flood due to illness. Both absences and reasons given were accepted by Council
4. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Duncan declared an interest in discussions relating to the Playing Field as he has been appointed as a Trustee.
5. **To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting (17 September 2021)** - the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Friday 17 September 2021 had been previously circulated and were agreed – proposed by Cllr Duncan and seconded by Cllr Craig.
6. **Scheme of public speaking about a particular agenda item** – 1 request to speak at particular agenda items from members of the public was received – at item 10.6.
7. **County Councillor’s report** – Cllr Spicer thanked Cllr Mihr for preparing a schedule of outstanding works (Highways). She has followed up with Area Rights of Ways Officer about the rotten footpath signs which need replacing – this is being followed up. JS

Cllr Spicer confirmed Coney Weston is in the system for major works re flooding – investigation and design work should be completed by this year end. Cllr Duncan to advise Cllr Spicer when autumn leaves have fallen so further jetting and ditch work can be carried out prior to major works commencing. Timing of these works to be advised when known. Cllr Mihr requested a copy of the drains map of the village. JS

County Council have sent out a commercial traffic review survey which Cllr Spicer has requested we complete by end of November. Cllr Mihr to complete with input from 1 member of the public. GM

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

8. **District Councillor's report** – Cllr Smith previously provided Cllr Duncan with a government policy on the placing and planning of solar farms. Cllr Duncan proposes to approach our local MP next on this issue. Cllr Smith advised that the proposed solar farm plans will require a scoping opinion on local biodiversity due to the requirement to place an 8 mile cable connection between the solar farm and the Thetford grid point.
9. **Presentation from Sam Norris, Knettishall Heath Ranger, Suffolk Wildlife Trust** – Ms Norris gave a 30 minute overview on short and longer term plans for the area including parking, anti-social behaviour and wildlife. A fuller presentation will be given when a physical Village meeting can be held.

Cllrs Spicer, Smith and Ms Norris left the meeting at 8pm.

10. Councillor Reports:

- 10.1. Defibrillator, village & volunteers groups – Cllr Craig reported on behalf of Cllr Clarke. Electropads on the defibrillator have been replaced. Defibrillator training interest in the village will be gauged by a leaflet drop. **PC**
- 10.2. New residents, community engagement – Cllr Craig advised that the fridge magnets will be given to new residents only and for prizes at the Jubilee celebration next year. A past copy of the Parish Magazine is suggested to be given instead of a list of useful telephone numbers.
- 10.3. Environmental initiatives, neighbourhood watch – Cllr Duncan will liaise with Sam Norris on installing beehotels around the village. Neighbourhood Watch – there is an open forum with Tim Passmore, Chief Constable – details to be given to Cllr Flood for uploading to our website and Facebook page. **SD**
SD/CF
- 10.4. Website, Facebook page and publicity – website accessibility statement, as previously circulated, was adopted. Proposed by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Mihr and unanimously agreed. To be added to the policy section of the website. **CF**
- 10.5. Planning, monitoring of notice boards – no report.
- 10.6. Highways, hedges and footpaths, speed device – parking on the road during football matches has been an issue. Cllr Duncan reported that during the last match all but 2 cars were parked at the rear of the village pub due to new signage.

Mrs D Stewardson (MoP) reported pothole by Day's Lane to Highways. The issue of heavy goods vehicles passing through the village will be included on the commercial traffic review survey (see item 7 above) – Cllr Mihr to work with Mrs Stewardson on this. **GM**

Cllr Mihr advised that the 3 footpath signs that are rotten has been reported to WSC and that the annual hedge cutting reminder has been posted to Facebook.

Work is still ongoing on trying to have SCC traffic speed devices brought into the village – a request has been submitted.

Cllr Mihr attended the Coney Weston Bowls Club AGM and advised that their membership has increased.

Grit bins have been topped up for winter and consultation events for the new hospital in Bury St Edmunds are scheduled for November – notices to be added to our 3 notice boards to encourage residents to attend one of these events. **JL**




12. Financial Report

12.1. Cllr Mihr proposed to accept previously circulated bank reconciliation and statement dated 26 October 2021. Seconded by Cllr Ladell. Unanimously agreed.

12.2. Cllr Duncan proposed authorising all payments listed on the payment schedule as previously circulated, seconded by Cllr Craig, unanimously voted.

12. **To approve 1 salary increment for the Clerk** – documents as previously circulated confirmed successful completion by the Clerk of ILCA Course dated 11 June. Salary increment proposed by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Duncan and unanimously agreed.

13. **To discuss the options and financial implications of CWPFC land** – Coney Weston Playing Field Committee (CWPFC) – Current status - although the PC has minutes from 4 consecutive meetings in 1978 and 79 indicating that the vesting of the PF land was in process, a reply to an online enquiry to the Official Custodian for Charities states they have no record of the playing field land having been vested. The original Solicitors the PC had dealt with in 1978 has been subsumed into a larger group, and it is their policy to only hold deeds long term. Therefore, all the correspondence from 1978 is no longer available.

SD/GM

Next steps - the PC has committed to work with the CWPFC Trustees to clarify the situation and have the land vested using expert advice from SALC. The PC does not believe at this stage the Trustees need to use a solicitor for this process as the application can be made online, and they are in possession of the required documents. An enquiry with the Charities Commission revealed that the 2 plots of land have not been vested with the Official Custodian – advice on the way forward has been given by Robert Horne (SALC) which will be forwarded to all CWPFC Trustees and Councillors.

Cllr Duncan advised that there is no requirement for CWPC to provide funding for this at this stage.

14. **To discuss arrangements for the Jubilee 2022 Celebrations** – Cllr Craig advised that a Committee has been formed and discussions are ongoing regarding events for the weekend (3 and 4 June 2022). Further updates will be circulated to Councillors and report to residents via social media.

FC

15. **To discuss options for the Annual Village Meeting 2021** – Cllr Mihr raised concerns at the increasing Covid-19 rates locally and suggested that the proposed date of 8 December for this event be replaced by a leaflet drop round the village to canvass ideas, concerns and initiatives from local residents. It was stressed that this solution is a way to keep all our residents, Councillors and visitor speakers safe at this time. Cllrs Mihr and Duncan will work on a draft leaflet to be distributed during the 1st week of December.

GM/SD

16. **To review and approve 2 policy documents:**

16.1. CWPC Employee's Code of Conduct and Grievance

16.2. CWPC Disciplinary Procedure

Both policies, as previously circulated and available on our website, were agreed in their current format with no changes required.

17. **To discuss and agree a working party to review CWPC Standing Orders** – Cllrs Clarke, Flood and Mihr will form this working party and circulate a 1st draft prior to the next PC meeting on 6 January 2022.

PC/CF/
GM

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ACTION

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk



18. **To consider the benefits and financial implications of installing internet facilities at the Village Hall** – Cllr Duncan presented several options for this and agreed to contact Botesdale Parish and Honnington and Sapiston Parish for information on how they achieved this. Report will be given at the next PC meeting. **ACTION SD**

Cllr Mihr, as Chair, advised that the 2 hour duration of the meeting, as per item 3(x) of Standing Orders, had now lapsed. A unanimous vote was taken to extend the meeting for a further 30 minutes.

19. **To discuss and consider the vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council** – Clerk suggested adding this to the leaflet drop being drafted by Cllrs Duncan and Mihr which will be circulated to residents during the 1st week of December. **SD/GM**

20. **To consider any correspondence received and matters for Council's attention since publication of the Agenda** – 1 email query regarding 2 items on the Agenda had been received by the Clerk. This was circulated to Councillors and a response to the MoP given.

21. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 6 January 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

SD/GM

FC

GM/SD

PC/CI
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Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

