

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022 AT 7.00PM
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors P Clarke, F Craig, S Duncan, C Flood, J Ladell, G Mihr
(Chair)

County Councillor J. Spicer, District Councillor A. Smith
2 members of the public
A. Morris (Clerk).

Councillor Mihr, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7pm.

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

1. To receive apologies for absence and approve the reasons given –
District Councillor Smith sent apologies as he will be late.

2. Declarations of interest - none received.

3. To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting (4th
February 2022 – action items from minutes completed. Minutes approved –
proposed by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Flood.

4. Scheme of public speaking (public participation about a specific agenda
item) – none received.

5. County Councillor's report – Cllr Spicer previously circulated an email
regarding an outbreak of Avian Flu at Redgrave and requested that
information be shared with any local resident who keep birds to be aware.
Cllr Duncan pointed out that there are chickens roaming free by the American
war memorial – Cllr Clarke will contact DEFRA to advise them that they are
there.

PC

Cllr Spicer advised that she will use her own budget to replace the broken
signpost at the crossroads just outside the village on Rushford Road.
Cllr Spicer gave the meeting an update on the works planned for the A143 at
Stanton – which include the lowering of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph
on the central stretch with a 40mph buffer zone by the end of March 2022
and will involve some road closures and a planning application by Jaynic on
Shepherds Grove East industrial estate for a car recycling company Copart to
build a new depot along with a new relief road.

Cllr Ladell raised the dangerous state of the road surface between Coney
Weston and Barningham – Clerk to ascertain if this has been reported on the
WSC highways website.

Clerk

6. District Councillor's report – Cllr Smith recently attended the local plan
working group (WSC) and advised that there are no plans as yet to develop
in the Coney Weston parish.

A grant of £300 has been approved by Cllr Smith for our Jubilee Celebrations
in June.

Cllr Smith advised that the sweeping of leaves on footpaths and verges is not
a district responsibility.

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Discussion took place regarding the potential to use a plot of land at Rushford

Geoff Mihr, Chair




Andrea Morris, Clerk

Road for a 'Healing Wood' – Cllr Smith advised that that piece of land belongs to West Suffolk and is waiting for a response from WSC Estates department as to whether it can be used for a Healing Wood. Cllr Spicer advised that 'Healing Woods' is an initiative by Suffolk County Council (SCC) for which there is a specific budget. 1 member of the public is making enquiries with SCC to see if one can be developed at Coney Weston - a piece of land needs to be identified for this – preferably one that is donated or 'gifted'. Cllr Mihr to draft letter to local landowners to ask for this.

AS

GM

Cllr Smith advised that WSC have now set their precept at 3% - part of the budget is being used for green initiatives. No planning application as yet from the Firsfield Solar Farm site.

Cllr Smith left the meeting at 8.30pm

7. Councillor's Reports

7.1 Defibrillator, village and volunteer groups – Cllr Clarke advised that he is working on organising defibrillator training sessions (1 afternoon and 1 evening) and will advertise them on village notice boards and website. Village Hall is now operating normally and the volunteer groups have been clearing brambles etc and will work with Cllr Mihr to sort out dates for clearing at the Playing Field.

PC

PC/GM

No news yet on the Bowls Club planning application.

7.2 New residents, community engagement – Jubilee event organising update to be given at item 11.

Heath Farm, Thames Cottage and 19 Thetford Road now sold – Cllr Craig will approach to give new residents village information.

FC

7.3 Environmental initiatives, neighbourhood watch liaison – Cllr Duncan advised that he is in communication with Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding environmental initiatives – these include hedgehog houses, bird and owl boxes. He will work on a proposal as to how to implement these ideas. No updates on neighbourhood watch.

SD

7.4 Website, Facebook page and publicity – Cllr Flood reported that work has been carried out in conjunction with the Clerk on streamlining the website information, particularly in relation to ease of access to Financial information. Work on Village Hall and Church pages of website ongoing. Information on upcoming events in the village requested – Cllr Mihr will liaise with Village Hall committee to see if their events can be posted on our website.

CF

GM

Most popular post on Facebook recently was speeding.

7.5 Planning, monitoring of notice boards – no news on Bowls Club planning application and no other applications received to date. Cllr Ladell advised that a group called 'Green Ixworth' have approached the Council regarding planning applications for development that would impact on traffic on the A143 – Cllrs Ladell and Mihr will draft and send to Clerk.

JL/GM

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7.6 Highways, hedges and footpaths, speed device – recent flooding at 3ways and The Street now dissipated. Cllr Spicer reiterated that Coney

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

Weston is on the priority list for highway works – date for start of works TBA – Julian King now our main Engineering contact for these works.

Cllr Mihr advised that correspondence has been sent twice to the owner of Coney Weston Hall regarding the cutting back of the hedge alongside the footpath – no action has yet been taken. A report had been submitted on the online reporting tool so WSC already aware of the issue.

Cllr Spicer asked Cllr Ladell to report online the verge by the cattery which needs cutting back and is not the responsibility of the property owner.

Cllr Mihr gave the meeting an update on latest speed data which has been sent to our Community Engagement Officer.

Discussion on volunteers for speed watch – Cllr Mihr will draft an advert for website and Facebook page.

JL

GM

8.1 Financial Report - To review income and expenditure from 1 April 2021 to 24 February 2022 against budget and to confirm that the bank reconciliation agrees with the bank statements and sign off – proposed as accepted by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Flood. Voted unanimously.

8.2 Sign off payment schedule and authorise payments:

SALC training for Clerk – module 3, Finance – £25.00, VAT £5.00, total £30.00;

Clerk - salary for the months of November and December 2021 – previously circulated;

HMRC - personal tax payment for Clerk for the above months – previously circulated;

ICO – Information Commissioner's Office – total £35.00 by direct debit.

Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Flood and voted unanimously.

9. To review and adopt Coney Weston Parish Council Internal Controls Statement for year ending March 2022 as previously circulated – amendment to the date of Risk Assessment check – after which the draft Internal Controls document for 2022 was accepted unanimously. Cllr Clarke, as a non bank signatory, agreed to liaise with the Clerk to sign off the checklist of actions.

PC

10. To review Asset Register for the year 2022-23 – as previously circulated was proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Flood and voted unanimously.

11. Jubilee Celebrations – Cllr Craig updated the meeting on progress for the events and advised that Cllr Smith has agreed a £300 grant from his locality budget. The current owners of the Swan pub have signed a new 5 year lease so their land and facilities will be used for the events. A full itinerary will be published on our website shortly.

12. Village Hall Internet Connection – Cllr Duncan is liaising with Botesdale PC and has asked to borrow their internet equipment to trail in our village hall before making a recommendation to purchase. Report at next meeting.

SD

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13. To consider any correspondence received and matters for Council's attention since publication of the agenda – Clerk advised that the invoice from SALC for 6 months payroll services was received on 1st March - £22.50,

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

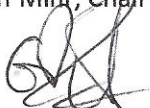
VAT £4.50 total £27.00. Proposed by Cllr Craig, seconded by Cllr Ladell and voted unanimously.

14. Date of next meeting – Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

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Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk