

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF  
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM  
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors P Clarke, F Craig, S Duncan, C Flood, J Ladell, G. Mihr (Chair)  
4 members of the public

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

**AGENDA ITEM**

**ACTION**

**1. To receive apologies for absence** – apologies received from A Morris (Clerk) who is on leave.

**2. Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Clarke declared an interest in the agenda items relating to the Bowls Club. He had submitted a request to the Chair for a dispensation, in order that he could remain in the hall to take the minutes in the Clerk's absence. The dispensation was duly approved. Cllr Ladell pointed out that she was still shown on the West Suffolk Register as having an interest in the Playing Field. This was well out of date and would be followed up by the Clerk the following week. Cllr Duncan declared an interest in any discussions relating to the Playing Field as he has been appointed as a Trustee. He highlighted item 5 in this regard.

**AM**

**3. To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting (6<sup>th</sup> January 2022)** - the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 had been previously circulated and were agreed – proposed by Cllr Mihr and seconded by Cllr Flood.

**4. Scheme of public speaking about a particular agenda item** – 2 members of the public requested to speak on items 5 & 6.

**5. Planning Application DC/22/0011/FUL – at the Bowling Green, Thetford Road, Coney Weston, IP31 1DN:**

**5.1 Creation of access to the Bowls Club and parking area.**

A member of the public gave the background to the project, highlighting the pressing need for the club's own vehicular access now that the Pub was being sold. He outlined the main features of the project.

Another member of the public raised a number of reasons he objected to the proposal – these focused mainly on matters which affected the environment and climate-change, for example; the removal of 2 trees – no mention of them being replaced; lowering the height of the front hedge –

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adversely affecting their natural habitat; gravel from new road spilling onto the highway;

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Peter Clarke (Cllr), Minute Taker



No charging point for an electric car; noise pollution from cars on gravel.

Additionally, he mentioned; current position of carpark, an eyesore for neighbours; expressed doubts about the drawn layout of the carpark; no disabled parking bay; difficulty for wheelchairs on gravel and grassed pedestrian path; the narrow road would force cars, while queuing, to spill out onto road; not enough detail on the plan.

The ensuing discussion among Councillors raised an additional anomaly, namely the uneven layout of the splay. The 3 remaining eligible Councillors voted unanimously to approve the application with the following caveats:-

- a) Any removed trees should be replaced;
- b) Details of the fence and its location should be included;
- c) Design of cycle rack should be included;
- d) Disabled bay included;
- e) Clarification of the splay's design.

Proposed by Cllr Mihr and seconded by Cllr Flood.

Cllr Duncan abstained because of the possible link with the Playing Field.

**6. To approve the letter of support for the Swan Bowls Club - request for funding from the National Lottery, previously circulated.**

A member of the public highlighted the need for external financial support for the project and stated that supporting letters had been received from the Chair of the Playing Field Committee and the Chair of the Thetford Wanderers Football Club.

Another member of the public stated that he felt it was inappropriate for the Parish Council to financially support what was, in effect, a private club, especially as little regard was being paid to environmental issues.

Proposed by Cllr Ladell, Seconded by Cllr Mihr

Vote was unanimous with two abstentions

**7. To approve the reviewed policy "Code of Conduct"**

No amendments were needed – the policy was approved in its current format.

Proposed by Cllr Flood, Seconded by Cllr Mihr - Voted unanimously

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**8. To approve the Clerk's salary increment following a successful annual review and appraisal by Cllrs Clarke and Mihr.**

Proposed by Cllr Mihr and seconded by Cllr Stewart – Voted unanimously

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Peter Clarke (Cllr), Minute Taker



**9. To consider any correspondence received and matters for Council's attention since publication of the agenda.**

There was a discussion on a planning application for a new development of 45 houses, and a community building on agricultural land beside Sandy Lane in Barningham, received in the last 24 hours. Planning reference DC-21-2478-HYB. All councillors agreed to send a letter from the council objecting to this development to the case officer Gary Hancox at West Suffolk. Cllr Mihr agreed to draft the letter and circulate before sending it to Mr Hancox. There were four reasons for the objection, flooding, inadequate sewage system, traffic increase on local lanes, and potential lack of school places in Barningham for Coney Weston children.

**GM**

**10. Date of next meeting** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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Geoff Mihr, Chair



Peter Clarke (Cllr), Minute Taker

