

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM  
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Clark (Vice Chair), Craig, Flood, Francis, Ladell, Macdonald & Mihr (Chair)

District Councillor A. Smith  
4 members of the public  
A. Morris (Clerk)

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

- | <b>AGENDA ITEM</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| 1. <b>To receive apologies for absence and approve the reasons given</b> – apologies received from County Councillor Spicer due to work commitments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |               |
| 2. <b>Declarations of interest</b> – declarations received from Cllrs Craig and Clarke for items relating to the Swan Bowls Club, and Cllr Francis for items relating to the Village Hall. Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |
| 3. <b>To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting</b> - the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 which had been previously circulated were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Flood, seconded by Cllr Ladell and unanimously agreed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |               |
| 4. <b>Scheme of public speaking</b> (public participation about a specific agenda item) – 3 members of the public requested to speak on item 10 of the Agenda (Playing Field).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |
| 5. <b>County Councillor's report</b> – no report received in Cllr Spicer's absence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |               |
| 6. <b>District Councillor's report</b> – Cllr Smith advised that he has been in contact with Damien Parker at WSC regarding the cutting back of the hedge at 2/3 Rushford Road and this has been completed. Clearing of leaves on footpaths is not carried out in villages. Cllr Smith advised that he has received information about the Energy Bill Support Scheme ( <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ebss-alt-funding">www.gov.uk/ebss-alt-funding</a> ) regarding help with energy bills for those on alternative sources than electricity or gas and off grid households. When this information is received by the Clerk it will be forwarded to all Councillors and posted to our website for residents' information.<br>Council tax Band D now set at £192.06 – a 2.65% increase on 2022/23.<br>Cllr Smith reminded the meeting about the requirement for photo ID for the upcoming elections in May. |               |



Geoff Mihr, Chair

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Andrea Morris, Clerk

An update on the proposed solar farm at Firsfield – has not yet been decided by WSC – some consultees i.e. Natural England, SCC and NCC have submitted responses which need clarification or have not responded and this is holding up the decision process. WSC have elevated the Habitat Regulation Assessment to a more senior level to try to get some feedback on what is delaying a response. CWPC submitted an objection to the planning application, Bardwell supported it – Cllr Smith feels the application may go to a Delegation Panel and from there to a full Planning Committee for a final decision. Decision to take it to Delegation won't be until after the coronation in May.

7.

**7.1. Defibrillator, village group liaison and volunteers** – Cllr Clarke reported that the new defibrillator cabinet has been installed and is working well. The equipment itself has not been used since then. Phase 3 of the Bowls Club renovation (installation of an irrigation system) is almost complete. Phase 4 (toilets) – a planning application for this has been submitted to WSC.

A meeting for new volunteers for the playing field is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March. Further information on this at item 10.

GM

**7.2. New residents, village initiatives** – Cllr Craig reported that the welcoming of new residents to the village is up to date.

A meeting of the coronation events committee will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March to develop planning for the event on 6<sup>th</sup> May with lots of local enthusiasm from residents. Final planning meeting will be held in April.

**7.3. Website, Facebook page and publicity** – Cllr Flood reported that she has done a lot of work on updating the website with new links for local road closures and bus timetables. Facebook now has 234 followers with information on roadworks, local community events, PC agenda, valentine's disco, voter ID and speedwatch being popular postings. Cllr Mihr will send Cllr Flood information on speed data for the website.

GM

**7.4. Community Development** – Cllr Francis reported that work has been carried out on clearing up the bus stop – the felt under the roof is damaged but the tiles are holding. Ideas welcome on what else the bus stop could be used for.

A lot of events have been held and are being planned for the village hall (which now has internet access) – quilt exhibition, soup lunch, pasta night and mini craft fair. The books available to borrow will be moved to the lobby of the hall for easier access. New lights and heaters are also due to be installed.

Cllr Francis advised that she is 'stand in' Chair for the Village Hall committee as Dee Stewardson has stepped down from that role. Thanks were expressed for all the hard work that Dee has done over the years as Chair.

**7.5. Planning, monitoring of notice boards** – a planning application which was received after the Agenda for this meeting went out will be discussed at this meeting under item 15.

**7.6. Neighbourhood watch, ecology and Speedwatch coordinator** – Cllr Macdonald reported that Neighbourhood Watch (NW)



Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk



workshops will take place week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> March to garner ideas on how to develop the initiative. One of the items for discussion is online registration for residents who have video doorbells installed at their properties – police would like to have a database of those who have this in order to be able to call on that data if there is a local incident. Cllr Macdonald will identify locations for NW signs in the village.

Cllr Macdonald has spoken to Octopus Energy regarding distribution networks for solar panels – whilst they are concerned about this nothing can be done presently as solar panels are within permitted development laws.

Cllr Macdonald recommends all residents in the village check their electricity account to see if they have been credited with the government's £200 alternative fuel payment and, if not, to follow up with their supplier.

2 forms have gone to police to register for speedwatch volunteering – they need all forms in together. Norfolk constabulary suggest we join up with another parish – Cllr Macdonald will follow up. It was suggested sending a letter to individuals in the village who are identified as speeding. Cllr Clarke will check with WSC legal department first.

NM

NM/PC

- 7.7. **Highways, hedges and footpaths, speed device** – Cllr Mihr reported that speeding continues to be an issue in the village with some speeds recorded at over 60mph. ANPR equipment was loaned to the village in the first week of February – awaiting feedback from WSC on the levels of speeding detected and if any letters were issued.

The hedge by the cattery on Rushford Road – SCC Highways have confirmed that they are responsible for this but advised that it is not overgrown enough yet to cut back.

## 8. Financial Report

- 8.1. & 8.2 To review income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 against budget and to confirm that the bank reconciliation agrees with the bank statements and sign off and to agree payments schedule for March 2023 as previously circulated and uploaded to website – all agreed. Proposed by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Francis and unanimously agreed.

9. **To note the use of the Clerk's delegated powers to purchase item 8.2.1 on Agenda** – email approval trail held by Clerk - noted.

10. **To receive an update on the Coney Weston Playing Field land registration, grant request form received from Trustees and suggested ideas for future development** Cllr Mihr advised that he now has 'possessory title' (when a registration of a title has been applied for and where the applicant did not have the original deeds to satisfy the threshold for the absolute title) of the Coney Weston Playing Field. The deeds have now been located by solicitors in Bury St Edmunds; these are being submitted to Land Registry for absolute title.



Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk



1 member of the public, on behalf of the Playground Trustees, thanked the Parish Council for their continued efforts to have this land properly registered in the name of the Parish Council.

Another member of the public outlined concerns regarding the governance of the facility and the anti social use of the playing field. Cllr Mihr advised that whilst the PF trustees and PC work closely together on the facility, that all queries of this nature should be directed to the Trustees of the Playing Field as the charitable organisation who manage the facility.

Tony Leslie, the treasurer of the PF trustees, advised that at the beginning of April 2023 the organisation will be down to 2 voluntary members on the Trust and that more volunteers and helpers are needed in order to continue to offer the facility to local residents.

Cllr Clarke pointed out that, according to the wording of the registration of the land, the area must be used for recreational purposes.

Cllr Mihr stated that the PC has received a grant request from the Trustees of the PF for the sum of £1,300 to meet essential work as laid out in the grant request (available on website). On the basis that the funds would be used only for those items detailed in the grant request, it was agreed that the request is not unreasonable. Proposed to grant this sum to PF Trust by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Flood and unanimously voted.

**11. To consider a request from Walsham le Willows PC for funds towards the cost of a report commissioned with regards to the Copart development at Stanton** – a request has been received from Walsham le Willows PC for the sum of £20 as a donation towards the cost of a planning report which they commissioned regarding the planning application from Jaynic to develop land at Walsham/Stanton for Copart and associated facilities. Proposed to support by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Francis. 5 voted in favour, 2 against. Motion carried.

**12. To note that an ANPR SID was on loan to the village for one week beginning 31st January 2023** – this item covered at item 7.6.

**13. To consider and approve the purchase of speed indicator stickers for refuse bins** – discussion took place on the viability and usefulness of these items. It was discussed to purchase 100 stickers for the cost of £99 - Cllr Macdonald to organise. Proposed by Cllr Macdonald, seconded by Cllr Francis. 5 voted in favour, 2 against. Motion carried.

NM

**14. To update and inform on procedures for May 2023 elections** – the Clerk informed all Councillors on the procedure and timing of submitting of nomination forms for the elections in May 2023.

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

15.1. **Planning Application DC/23/0297/FUL** (received 27<sup>th</sup> February) – single storey flat roof extension shared between numbers 1 and 2 Crow Street  
Location 1 And 2 Crow Street Coney Weston Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 1DL

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Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

No objections were received on this planning application. Clerk to report application as 'approved' by PC on WSC planning portal.

Clerk

15.2 It was agreed to extend a formal letter of thanks to Mrs Dee Stewardson who has recently stepped down as Village Hall Chair on the years of hard work and dedication she has given to the facility and the village. Cllr Mihr to draft and send to Clerk.

GM/Clerk

**16. Date of next meetings:**

- 16.1. Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Annual Village Meeting) at 7pm in the Village Hall.
- 16.2. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Annual Meeting of the Council) at 7pm in the Village Hall

Cllr Mihr, Chair, closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Andrea Morris  
Clerk/RFO  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk