

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Clarke, Flood, Francis, Lock, Mihr (Chair)

6 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 - Apologies received from Cllr Craig (on leave), County Councillor Spicer (medical) and District Councillor Smith (work commitments).	
2. Declarations of interest – declarations received from Cllr Clarke on items relating to the Bowls Club and Cllr Francis on items relating to the Village Hall.	
3. To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting (30 th August 2023) – item 7.3 Cllrs agreed unanimously not to promote local pub events; item 9 outstanding – Cllr Clarke to follow-up; item 13 Clerk to update information on interest bearing accounts. Unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30 th August as a true record – proposed by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Francis.	PC Clerk
4. Scheme of public speaking (public participation about a specific agenda item) – 4 members of the public requested to speak on agenda item 10.	
5. County Councillor’s report – no report submitted.	
6. District Councillor’s report – no report submitted.	
7. Councillor’s Reports	
7.1. Defibrillator, village group liaison and volunteers – Cllr Clarke gave an update on the progress of the installation of a toilet block at the Bowls Club and advised the meeting that Cllr Spicer has pledged a sum of £750 towards the cost of this from her locality budget.	
7.2. New residents, village initiatives – Cllr Craig not present – no report	
7.3. Website, Facebook page and publicity – Cllr Flood reported that 17 local events between now and Christmas are now being publicised on the website. Most popular Facebook post being the pumpkin event at Knettishall. Noticeboards are tidy and updated with PC publications.	

7.4. **Community Development** – Cllr Francis presented the meeting with 2 quotes for matting for the floor of the bus stop where it is proposed to keep sandbags permanently. Quote from Amazon for a total of £30 agreed (quotes with Clerk).

Ideas for the use of the bus stop discussed – work in progress. Cllr Francis outlined the programme of events to be held in the village hall between now and Christmas – see website for full details.

New quotes for the replacement of the village noticeboards required. Cllrs Francis & Clarke to undertake.

BF
PC

Cllr Lock advised the meeting on the success of the local cycling group that met weekly in the evenings in the summer months. As Autumn is now upon us this initiative will cease until next Spring.

7.5. **Playing Field ‘Task & Finish’ group** – Cllr Lock advised the meeting that he is due to meet with the Trustees of the Playing Field Committee next week. Verbal update to be provided by Cllr Lock at the next PC meeting in October.

A contract for the grass cutting of the playing field has been agreed and the first cut has taken place.

Sadly, a Health & Safety inspection has raised moderate risk items in the area – these due to ageing & decay. No news on the sale of the mower.

7.6. **Planning** – Cllr Lock advised no new applications received; further documents have been added to the WSC planning portal for the application by Jaynic at Stanton/Walsham-le-Willows. Council agreed that, as we had not been requested for formally submit comments on this application and that our position has not changed since the original one was submitted, that we would not be commenting further.

7.7. **Highways, hedges and footpaths, speed device** – Cllr Mihr reported that he has received confirmation from CCllr Spicer that she will financially support the installation of picket fences and repainting of white lines and 30mph signs on roads in the village – on the basis that the PC will be responsible for the upkeep of same. Cllr Clarke raised the subject of ‘20’s Plenty’ initiative – Cllr Lock to respond to a county initiative which was circulated earlier this month. No responses received for a new ‘Speed Monitor’ for the village SID devices.

ML

Cllr Mihr reported that he has spoken to a representative at Coney Weston Hall regarding the cutting back of their hedge on The Street – this is scheduled date unknown. One member of the public raised the overgrown hedges at the cattery on Rushford Road (SCC responsibility who have advised that it is not overgrown enough for them to cut – Cllr Mihr to follow up) and at Town House on the bend. Cllr Lock will report the pot holes at the cattery on the SCC portal.

GM
ML

Drains - Cllr Mihr reported that he has been pressing SCC Highways regarding the progress on the drain work that has been scheduled and approved – the SCC Engineer who had been working on this project has been replaced by a new contractor. The hold up on works commencing is due to a legal issue with the landowner of the land to the left of the village hall under whose land the new drainage pipe will be located. The landowner is seeking for financial ‘easement’ for this to take place. Until this can be settled no work will commence.

Cllr Mihr advised that he will purchase a memorial wreath for the forthcoming Remembrance Day in November (this item has been included in the budget).

8. Financial Report

8.1. To review income and expenditure from **1st April 2023 to 21st September 2023** against budget and to confirm that the bank reconciliation agrees with the bank statements and sign off;

8.2. Sign off payment schedule and authorise payments as presented on the payment schedule dated September 2023. Viz:

(a) WSC admin fee for uncontested election held on 4th May 2023, net £81.91, VAT £0.00, total £.91;

(b) Zurich Insurance renewal premium for 2023-24 net £235.71, VAT £28.29, total £264.00

(c) Coney West Village Hall – hall hire for August & September 2023, net £20.00, VAT £0.00, total £20.00

Items 8.1 & 8.2 proposed to accept by Cllr Francis, seconded by Cllr Mihr and voted unanimously.

9. Emergency Plan Updates & Risk Assessment Forms approval (as previously circulated) – updates unanimously approved – proposed by Cllr Mihr, seconded by Cllr Lock. Cllr Francis to send final copy to Clerk for forwarding to WSC and uploading to the website.

BF

10. Summary of discussion and research into dogs being allowed on Coney Weston Playing Field – 4 members of the public spoke on this item with strong views made known both for and against allowing dogs on the playing field area. It was agreed by members of the Council that any discussion, views and suggestions made at this meeting would be forwarded to the Trustees of the Playing Field Committee whose decision as to whether to allow dogs on the area would be final. Precis of the views of the meeting is attached at Appendix 1.

11. To review and discuss agreement regarding frequency and timing of Chapman lorries driving through the village – Cllrs Mihr and Francis have agreed to work together to set a date for conducting a survey in the village on how residents view the Chapman's lorries through the village and also to approach Chapmans by email/telephone to see if they will give access to their transport logs so they can build up some relevant data.

MH
BF

12. Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda –

(a) Discuss the outcomes and suggestions from the Annual Village Meeting held in April

13. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.