

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

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

County Councillor J. Spicer, District Councillor A. Smith
1 member 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 – none received.	
2. Declarations of interest – Councillors Clarke & Craig in relation to the Coney Weston Swan Bowls Club. Noted.	
3. To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting - the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 3 rd November 2022 had been previously circulated and were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Craig and unanimously agreed.	
4. Scheme of public speaking (public participation about a specific agenda item) – none received.	
5. County Councillor's report – Cllr Spicer advised that she has received a report from SCC regarding programmed flood and drain works for 2023/24 and that, whilst Coney Weston's scheme has been agreed, it has not yet been scheduled – outcome to be advised once enquiries made. It was agreed that Cllrs Clarke & Mihr will send a letter to SCC highways, seeking clarification on reasons for the unexpected delay and highlighting recent dates of flooding concerns. The signpost at the crossroads to Knettishall has been costed (£1,114.77) which Cllr Spicer will cover from her locality budget. Cllrs requested that the brown 'nature reserve' sign pointing to Knettishall be heightened at the time the new sign is erected. Cllr Craig will send a photo of the current sign to Cllr Spicer. Cllr Mihr raised the issue of an overgrown hedge near the cattery and queried the ownership of the hedge for maintenance purposes. Cllr Spicer will look into who owns the hedge. Speed awareness stickers on wheelie bins – Cllrs Spicer & Smith agreed to cover the cost of this initiative – Cllr Smith will send options to Clerk.	PC/GM FC JS AS



Geoff Mihr, Chair

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Andrea Morris, Clerk

Cllr Macdonald outlined the status of the community speedwatch initiative that he is overseeing. DBS checks, which are required for each volunteer, has begun. Cllr Spicer offered support for the scheme. Of particular concern are the Chapman lorries which drive through the village – Cllr Flood agreed to source the original planning consent form which may detail the exact number of lorries which are permitted to drive through the village and advise accordingly.

CF

6. **District Councillor's report** – on the opposite side of the road from the cattery in Rushford Road, land which is owned by WSC – Cllr Smith will ask for the hedge to be maintained. Conveyancing for the playing field land – Cllr Mihr advised that papers were submitted to the Land Registry on 2nd December 2022 – registration underway. Cllr Spicer asked PC to ascertain what happened to the £1,000 she gave to the PFC (playing field committee) for the purchase of bark chippings in February 2020 – Cllr Clarke to find out. Cllr Smith has passed a list of those organisations who may consider an application for a grant for the playing field to Cllr Craig. No further updated on the proposed solar farm at Firsfield – this may go to a 'development control committee' but not yet confirmed. Planning consent for new hospital at West Suffolk has been approved.

AS

PC

7. Councillor's Reports

- 7.1. **Defibrillator, village group liaison and volunteers** – Cllr Clarke advised that whilst the transformer in the defibrillator cabinet has been replaced and is now working, that the heating element is now not working – enquiries ongoing with manufacturer. Work progressing on the bowls club car park and cycle rack with work underway on the installation of an irrigation system which has been paid for by a club member donation of £10,000.
- 7.2. **New residents, village initiatives** - Cllr Craig reported continuing to contact and welcome new residents to the village. First Coronation event Committee meeting being held at the Swan pub on Tuesday 10th January 2023. The new landlord of the pub is keen to be involved. Further update at next meeting.
- 7.3. **Website, Facebook page and publicity** – Cllr Flood reported social media being fairly quiet over the festive period – popular posts being the carol singing and church service, the village hall festive tea and the bin schedule. Neighbourhood watch page updated on the website and village hall events publicised up to April 2023. Cllr Flood advised that Cllr Francis is being set up as an administrator on our Facebook page.
- 7.4. **Community Development** – Cllr Francis advised village hall now has new chairs and the overhead heaters are being replaced with new ones similar to the current wall ones. Warm rooms initiative - village hall will be holding a 'soup, tea & cakes' event on 9th February. Headway charity have offered to set up a mobile shop in the village – further details have been requested. Suggestion made to advertise on social media for a water butt for the bus shelter – Cllr Flood will do this.

CF



Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

7.5. **Planning, monitoring of notice boards** – no planning applications have been submitted since the last meeting. Our 2 noticeboards are in need of repair or replacement – Cllr Flood agreed to place a notice on social media asking for help from local residents with this. 3 quotes will be required – Cllr Ladell to oversee and advise PC accordingly. Cllr Spicer offered some financial help with this.

CF

JL

7.6. **Neighbourhood watch, ecology and Speedwatch coordinator** – speedwatch covered in item 6; additionally Cllr Macdonald, who has given feedback on this initiative nationally and to West Suffolk, will give report to Cllr Flood for inclusion on website. Ecology – discussion took place on the solar farm planning application for Cambridge by Sunnica and on the viability of electricity network loads in relation to any new solar panel planning applications that may be received by this PC. Cllr Smith advised that if this is a concern to the PC then that should be reflected in the response to each application received and submitted to WSC accordingly.

7.7. **Highways, hedges and footpaths, speed device** – Cllr Mihr agreed to write to owners of the Old Parsonage regarding the overhanging hedge. Cllr Flood raised the issue of leaves on footpaths – Cllr Smith agreed to ask District if this is a responsibility of WSC.

GM

AS

8. Financial Report

8.1. & 8.2 - To review income and expenditure from 1st April 2022 to 27th December 2022 against budget and to confirm that the bank reconciliation agrees with the bank statements and sign off and to agree payment schedule for January 2023 as previously circulated – all agreed. Proposed by Cllr Francis, seconded by Cllr Flood and voted unanimously.

9. **To approve 2023-24 draft budget and precept as previously circulated** – discussion took place on the draft budget and it was proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Mihr to adopt the 2023-24 budget as previously circulated. The vote was unanimous; Clerk to complete the 2023-24 precept application.

Clerk

10. To note the Clerk's use of Delegated Powers for the following purchases:

- 10.1. Serjeant & Sons Solicitor fees for conveyancing for registration of playing field land (£180.00)
 - 10.2. Floral wreath for Remembrance day service £40
 - 10.3. Registration & searches by Land Registry in connection with the registration of the playing field land (£53.00)
 - 10.4. Defibrillator power pack (£35.40)
 - 10.5. Honorarium for facilitator for defibrillator training (£23.50)
- These purchases were noted – relevant audit trails received and available for inspection.

Geoff Mihr, Chair

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Andrea Morris, Clerk

11. **To discuss implications of cyber security and awareness in relation to the Parish Council and action to be taken** - Cllr Macdonald outlined his recommendations on the publication of Councillor mobile phone numbers on our website. It was agreed for these to be removed and replaced with landline numbers where individual Councillors agreed. Cllr Flood to action.

CF

12. **To consider any correspondence received and matters for Council's attention since publication of the agenda** – Cllr Mihr advised that a report from the PFC requesting financial assistance had been received that evening. Cllrs Clarke & Francis agreed to contact the PFC to set up a meeting to discuss the report – feedback to be received. Cllr Clarke advised the meeting that the PC should seek to lend assistance to the PFC on the understanding that the PC grant awarding policy be followed and adhered to.

PC/BF

13. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Cllr Mihr, as Chair, closed the meeting at 8.55pm.



Geoff Mihr, Chair

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Andrea Morris, Clerk