

Congham Parish Council

Congham

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 24 May 2023

In Attendance: Cllrs M de Whalley, G Clark, T Tilbrook, L Grange, G Stratton.

1. The Chair welcomed members and residents to the meeting.

2. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

2.1 It was unanimously agreed that Michael de Whalley would stand as Chair.

Proposer: Cllr. Tilbrook

Seconded: Cllr. Grange.

2.2 It was agreed that the appointment of Vice Chair would be deferred to the next meeting.

3. Declarations of Acceptance and Declarations of Interest.

All councillors present signed their Declarations of Acceptance of office and Declarations of Interest.

4. To receive and accept apologies for Absence.

Cllr. N. Grief was absent. Andrew Page decided not to stand as a councillor.

5. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22 March 2023

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the Parish meeting held on 22 March 2023.

6. To sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 23rd March 2022

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 23rd March 2022

7. To receive Declarations of Interest.

No Declarations were received.

8. To receive written reports from the County Councillor and the Borough Councillor

Borough Cllr M de Whalley gave an update on recent borough activity. County Councillor Baljinder Aota sent his apologies. There was no response or report from County Cllr S Dark.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 2017-2036, Consultation period ends 30th June 2023.

It was agreed that anyone could make any comment that they felt was appropriate.

10. Public Participation

10.1 Karl Anthony attended the meeting and provided information to promote the Bridge for Heroes Charity.

10.2 Mary & Brian Roper attended the meeting. Mrs. Roper provided an update on the installation of playground equipment by Hudson Fen.

11. Clerks Report

The Clerks Report was discussed.

12. Finance

i. It was resolved to agree the payments and receipts to date.

ii. The Internal Auditor's Report was agreed.

iii. The Agar financial document and Certificate of Exemption was received, approved and signed.

iv. The CIL report was agreed and signed.

v. It was confirmed that the Precept payment was received on the 5/4/2023.

13. To discuss insurance cover renewal due 13/7/23.

was resolved to renew the insurance cover with Zurich Municipal.

Proposer Cllr. Stratton

Seconded Cllr. Tilbrook.

14. To discuss any news from Congham Parish Council for the Village Link Magazine.

It was agreed that the Bridge for Heroes Charity and a new councillor vacancy by co-option, should be advertised as news items for Congham Parish Council in the Village Link Magazine.

15. Fuel Allotment update.

An update on the fuel allotment was given.

16. Highways and footpaths update.

16.1 Infilling of disused Railway Bridge.

As a member of the borough planning committee, Cllr. De Whalley declared he would not participate in this discussion or vote in any decision. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to National Highways retrospective planning application on the grounds that the bridge structural was safe without infill, infill prevents use as a potential green way and blocks a corridor for wildlife. It was further agreed that these objections should be made on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the live planning application.

16.2 Mud & Hedges on St. Andrews Lane.

Correspondence had been received from a resident in respect of the overhanging holly hedges and a pedestrian path towards Church Hill. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the homeowners to ask for their help with the overhanging holly hedges.

Cllr. Stratton provided an update on the lost footpath along from Congham Lodge to Lynn Road, Hillington. Cllr. Stratton said that he had heard that this was in a consultation stage and archived research was being investigated.

17. Litter Pick Update.

The Clerk provided an update on Congham Parish Council being included in future litter picks.

Pippa Winson from Roydon Parish Council confirmed that Congham could be included in future litter picks.

18. Update on Hudson Fen funding.

The Clerk had been in contact with Mrs. Roper from Hudson Fen. It was agreed that a cheque in the sum of £200 and a letter of support will be given to Hudson Fen before July 2023.

19. Coronation of King Charles III celebrations-update on postponement.

Cllr. Grange provided an update on the King's Coronation belated celebrations. When the Church re-opens, Cllr. Grange will ask whether the church can host the King's Coronation celebrations.

20. Correspondence-Congham Snail Race.

An update was provided by the Clerk concerning Congham Snail Race. The Parish Council are happy to support this event however, it was unanimously agreed that it was very important for the snail race to be a part of Congham and in particular, Congham Fete. It was agreed that Congham was the snail race's cultural home and that the Clerk is to write to the organiser to confirm this.

21. Discuss whether to repair or replace map situated next to telephone box.

Mr. Roper kindly agreed to inspect the map next to the telephone box and to provide a quote to the council to restore it. Cllr. De Whalley stated that he may be able to obtain graphics to help with the restoration.

22. Discuss whether to repair or replace noticeboards.

It was agreed that Mr. Roper would inspect the noticeboards and provide the Parish Council with a quote.

Proposed: Cllr. Tilbrook

Seconded: Cllr. Clark.

23. Defibrillator Update.

The Clerk confirmed that The Anvil Inn had kindly agreed to host the defibrillator. They did have some questions about the cost of installing the defibrillator and the running costs. It was agreed that the Clerk would undergo research in order to answer these questions. It was suggested that it would cost a nominal amount to run it.

Proposer: Cllr. Grange.

Seconded: Cllr. Tilbrook.

24. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

The next meeting will be held at the Anvil Inn, Congham on 19th July 2023 at 7pm.

Signed Chair M de Whalley, 19th July 2023

Michael de Whalley, Chairman
Ophelia Donovan, Parish Clerk
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