

Congham Parish Council

Congham

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2023

In Attendance: Cllrs: M de Whalley, G Clark, T Tilbrook, L Grange, N. Grief and County Councillor S. Dark.

1. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. No residents were in attendance.

2. Nominations for Vice Chair.

2.1 It was unanimously agreed that Norman Grief would stand as Vice-Chair.

Proposer: Cllr. Tilbrook

Seconded: Cllr. Clark.

3. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Stratton.

4. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 24 May 2023.

It was resolved to agree & sign the minutes of the Parish meeting held on 24 May 2023.

Proposer: Cllr. Clark

Seconded: Cllr. Tilbrook

5. To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Tilbrook declared an interest in Grimston Cricket Club.

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

Borough Cllr M de Whalley gave an update on recent borough activity. Borough Councillor Baljinder Anot sent a report which was read by the Chair. County Cllr S Dark provided a report on recent county activities.

7. Helene Rossiter from National Highways

Helene Rossiter from National Highways attended via video call. Cllr. De Whalley confirmed that he was a member of the borough planning committee and would therefore not participate on voting in relation to this issue. Helene Rossiter stated that the bridge did have cracks and structural problems which were deemed unsafe. Helene Rossiter also confirmed that National Highways did not go back to the Authority to receive written consent before works commenced on the bridge. She also confirmed that Congham Parish Council were not consulted or informed prior to the infilling of the bridge. It was admitted that mistakes were made. Helene Rossiter apologised for the mistakes made by the Highways Authority.

8. The retrospective application of the infilling of Congham Bridge.

A discussion took place concerning the retrospective application of the infilling of Congham Bridge. As a member of the borough planning committee, Cllr. De Whalley declared that he would not participate in this discussion or vote in any decision. It was agreed that the Parish Council's objection should be maintained.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 2017-2036, consultation period ends 18th August 2023.

Cllr. de Whalley requested that there be an extension of the deadline so that further representations could be made. It was agreed that anyone could make any comment that they felt was appropriate.

10. Clerks Report.

No issues to report.

11. Planning Applications

a. 23/00034/TPO/ Grimston Club Oak Tree.

Cllr. Tilbrook confirmed that the application refers to removal of some low branches for safety as players run into them and for some of the whole tree to be reduced. No objections.

Proposer: Cllr. Tilbrook.

Seconded: Cllr. Grange. Cllr. de Whalley abstained from voting.

b. 23/00051/TPO Removal of Beech Tree.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this planning application until further information, such as a report from a tree surgeon, is provided.

Proposer: Cllr. Tilbrook.

Seconded: Cllr. Grange.

Cllr. de Whalley abstained from voting.

12. Finance

The payments and receipts to July 2023 were agreed.

13. To provide an update on the Noticeboards and Maps.

A resident, who has knowledge in carpentry, confirmed that the Noticeboards and Walk map were rotten and could not be restored. He could not provide a quote as the job was too big. The clerk confirmed that The Acorn Workshop advertised Noticeboards. It was agreed that the CIL money should be spent on the Noticeboards.

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

It was agreed that the new councillor vacancy by co-option, should be advertised in the Village Link Magazine.

15. To discuss recruitment via Co-option/Co-option policy.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would recruit via Co-option. The clerk advised that a Co-option policy should be drafted. It was unanimously agreed that a Co-Option policy should be incorporated.

16. To discuss approval of an Anti-Bullying Policy.

Deferred until next meeting.

17. Fuel Allotment update.

An update on the fuel allotment was given. Discussion/decision deferred until next meeting.

18. CIL Fund.

Noticeboards: The Parish Councils noticeboards need to be replaced. It was agreed that the CIL money could be used to replace these. Any money that was not needed to purchase the noticeboards could be put towards the walk map.

Congham walk map needs replacing as the wood is rotten and the graphics are faded. It was agreed that the Parish Council would apply for CIL funding to replace this. Cllr. Dark advised that as a walk map this would come under infrastructure and that there may be scope for match funding at 45%. The clerk is to obtain quotes in order to progress this matter.

Cllr. Stratton via e-mail, suggested there may be a need for a step in front of the post box on St Andrew's Lane. Cllr. Stratton stated that the post box is quite high on the bank and when it is wet Parishioners have to climb the lower part of a muddy bank to use. Cllr. Dark said that he would look into this.

19. Highways and footpaths update.

19.1 Update on lost footpath.

Cllr. Stratton provided an update via e-mail on the lost footpath along from Congham Lodge to Lynn Road, Hillington. Cllr. Stratton said that this matter was awaiting a decision.

19.2 Update on overhanging holly hedges on the path St. Andrews Lane.

Correspondence had been received from a resident in respect of the overhanging holly hedges. The clerk had sent a letter to the homeowners to ask for their help with the overhanging holly hedges. The clerk confirmed that the homeowners had been waiting for fledging birds to vacate the bushes before trimming them. The homeowners had confirmed that the hedges have now been trimmed back.

20. Litter Pick Update.

The Clerk provided an update on Congham Parish Council being included in the next litter pick on the 30th September 2023. Cllr. Tilbrook and County Cllr. Dark said that they may be able to volunteer.

21. Coronation of King Charles III celebrations-update.

The King's Coronation belated celebrations were discussed. When the Church re-opens, Cllr. Grange will be able to provide an update.

22. Correspondence

a. Defibrillator Funding Scheme.

Deferred until next meeting.

b. Grimston CC CIL Finding.

The clerk received an e-mail from Grimston Cricket Club requesting funding for nets.

Cllr.Tilbrook confirmed that no further action from the clerk was necessary.

23. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 9:39pm

The next meeting will be held at the Anvil Inn, Congham on 27th September 2023 at 7pm.

Signed Chair M de Whalley, 27th September 2023

Michael de Whalley, Chairman
Ophelia Donovan, Parish Clerk
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