

Congham Parish Council

Congham

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024.

In Attendance: Cllrs: M de Whalley, N. Grief, L. Grange and T Tilbrook. Clerk, Ophelia Donovan.
Public: 0.

1. Welcome.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. No residents were in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Anota and Cllr. Dark.

3. Minutes:

a) It was resolved that there were no matters from the minutes not listed on the agenda.

b) It was resolved to agree & sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 24th January 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting on the 27th February 2024.

Proposer: Cllr. Tilbrook.

Seconded: Cllr. Grange.

4. To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. de Whalley declared an interest as the Borough Council's portfolio holder for the Planning Committee. Cllr. Tilbrook declared an interest in Grimston Cricket Club. Cllr. Grief declared an interest in Hudson Fen.

5. It was noted that Cllr. Clark had resigned from the Parish Council with effect from the 20th March 2024. The Parish Council wished to thank Cllr. Clark for all his hard work and the Council appreciated his views during meetings.

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. No reports were received from Cllr. Dark or Cllr. Anota.

7. There was no public participation.

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

An update was provided on the retrospective application of the infilling of Congham Bridge. As a member of the borough planning committee, Cllr. De Whalley confirmed that he would not vote in any decisions.

8.i The Parish Council's written statement was discussed and agreed.

8. ii It was unanimously agreed that the Council should give authority for the Clerk to speak to the media on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. Defibrillator update.

Following the Council's unsuccessful application for a funded defibrillator, Cllr. de Whalley agreed to speak with the Community grant scheme department to see if they have any information of funded schemes.

10. Update on West Norfolk Local Plan Review.

There was a discussion regarding the Consultation. Cllr. de Whalley confirmed that he had sat in on the discussions. The consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Site is likely to take place in September 2024.

11. Litter Pick Update.

Cllr. Tilbrook who volunteered at the litter pick confirmed that it was a well-attended event. The main items of rubbish collected were beer bottles and takeaway containers.

12. Update on Flooding along St. Andrews Lane and Station Road.

Cllr. Grange confirmed that this road was clear with no puddles at the moment. No further issues to report.

13. Planning Applications: Ref: 24/00376/F.

As a member of the Planning Committee, Cllr. de Whalley did not participate in the discussion or vote. It was agreed by a majority that there were no objections to this planning application, Proposed: Cllr. Tilbrook. Seconded: Cllr. Grange. 3 in favour. 1 Abstention.

Grimston & District Cricket Club Licence Application Ref: JNLMWMCR. This Application was agreed.

14. Finance

- a. The payments and receipts to March 2024 were agreed.
- b. The Clerk's salary & expenses for 2 months pay in the sum of £740.99 was agreed.
- c. St. Andrews Church hire in the sum of £25.00 was agreed.
- d. It was resolved to agree the appointment of the internal auditor.
- e. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Grange and Cllr. Tilbrook should be appointed as additional bank signatories. The appropriate forms were handed to Cllr. Grange and Cllr. Tilbrook who completed them at the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr. Tilbrook.

Seconded: Cllr. Grange.

15. To provide an update on the Noticeboards and Map board/CIL Money.

A discussion took place concerning the graphics received for the map board. It was unanimously agreed that the following amendments should be made:

- a) Which Way box removed.
- b) Remove the word "new" under the Gaywood Valley Circular Village Walks".
- c) Insert "Funded by the Gaywood Valley Project Natural England and Congham Parish Council.
- d) Remove the "Follow us on Twitter".

Proposed: Cllr. Grange. Seconded: Cllr. Tilbrook.

The Clerk advised that there was £623.27 left in the CIL grant fund. The majority of this money had been spent on the new noticeboards. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that this amount could be allocated towards the defibrillator scheme. Proposed: Cllr. Tilbrook. Seconded: Cllr. Grief.

16. To discuss recruitment via Co-option

The Clerk advised that no applications had been received. The post is advertised on the Parish Council website. Cllr. Tilbrook confirmed he had spoken to someone he thought might be interested but they were not. It was agreed that the Clerk should e-mail a resident who had recently contacted the Council, to see if they would be interested. If no interest is received by the next meeting in May, it was agreed that wording should be discussed for leaflets advertising the role.

17. Cycle Stand Initiative.

The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any interest in the cycle stand initiative following the advertisement in the Village Link Magazine. It was agreed that the Church and the Anvil Inn should be asked if they would have any interest in a cycle stand being installed on their property.

18. To discuss the Biodiversity Plan.

Deferred until next meeting.

19. Fuel Allotment Update.

Cllr. de Whalley advised that he will chase up Norfolk Records Office in relation to copies of maps and documents concerning boundaries he found there.

20. Highways and footpaths update.

- a) The update on the lost footpath was deferred as Cllr. Dark was not present at the meeting. Cllr. de Whalley recommended that a footpath officer could be contacted in relation to this.
- b) The update on the step to the post box was deferred as Cllr. Dark was not present.

The Clerk is to e-mail Cllr. Dark for an update.

21. Correspondence

There were two items received. One concerned the debris along St. Andrews Lane which had since been cleared. Another item concerned details about the forthcoming snail race event.

22. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

23. Venue & Date for Next Meeting:

It was resolved that the next meeting (to include the Annual Parish Meeting) would be held on the 22nd May at 7pm at St. Andrews Church.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed Chair, M de Whalley, 22nd May 2024.

