**Minutes of the Meeting of Conington Parish Council**

**31 October 2023 – Holme Village Hall**

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| Present: Cllrs Cooper, Johnson, Bennett, and the Clerk & County Councillor Simon Bywater.  Members of the public: One | | |
|  | Chairman’s welcome | Cllr Cooper welcomed Councillors to the meeting. |
|  | To receive apologies and reasons for absence | Cllr J Buchanan, Cllr M Braid, District Cllr T Alban |
|  | Members declaration of Interests | None |
|  | Public and press participation session | Mr C Stretton, Chair of Glatton Parish Council (GPC) attended. |
|  | District and County Councillor reports | District Councillor Tim Alban had sent a report referring to the green bins and a future charge – to be publicised nearer the time. Cllr Bywater referred to the weed treatment issue which will be discussed again in January at CCC. |
|  | To sign and approve minutes dated 20 July 2023 | The minutes were unanimouslyapproved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Johnson, all agreed. |
|  | Glatton Neighbourhood Plan | Mr C Stretton put forward the proposal that part of Conington Parish (west of the A1M) should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan that Glatton were writing. He explained why he and his committee felt this was desirable and took questions from Councillors. As two Councillors were missing from the meeting, Clerk was instructed to call an extraordinary meeting in November convenient to all to discuss in detail and undertook to provide a reply and decision to Mr Stretton by the end of November. |
|  | Matters Arising | 1. Bid for Gateways and 2 solar powered SIDs had been made under LHI scheme. Failed to score highly enough (needed 2 more points). The new scheme has just opened and the Clerk was instructed to review and resubmit the existing proposal for Speed sign and traffic calming. 2. Speedwatch group –-This has successfully started and Clerk requested a copy of the results to inform the LHI application. Chair to facilitate. 3. Next litter pick to be held 25 November. |
|  | Land Management | Meeting with HDC staff re flower planting & bridge – Cllr Johnson reported. Clerk to find out what is happening about the bridge. Cllr Johnson to follow up with HDC. |
|  | The Green | Clerk had received and circulated information from Land Agent concerning the potential sale of lands owned by the Rochester Bridge Trust including parts of the Green. Clerk to refresh this with agent for general information. |
|  | Trees/Tree management | Clerk to try to find out the situation with CCC and the trees at Conington Lane/B1043 junction |
|  | Green Bins | Clerk had attended engagement session run by HDC addressing the areas of concern following the decision to introduce a charge for all green bins. To be publicised nearer the time. |
|  | Financial Matters | 1. **Payments**: Clerk wages July £158.67, August £154.18, September £154.38 and October £154.18. HMRC PAYE £4; SLCC £73; Chess ICT £11.99 (to be refunded); Royal British Legion (Wreath) £30; Conington Park Farms £714. 2. **Receipts**: Contribution towards grass cutting, All Saints Church £297.50   All the above proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Johnson, all in favour. |
|  | Planning | 1. No new applications or outstanding applications. 2. Planning training 7 November |
|  | Correspondence & Reports  Items for next meeting | 1. Hedgehog highway – not pursued 2. Community Gritting – Clerk to put on Facebook 3. HDC Climate meeting. 17 November and Climate action Guide. Discussed, no action. 4. Paths and Weeds – to await CCC decision in January 5. Request for dog exercise area – Cllr Cooper to advise applicant that PC does not own any land. 6. Trespassing and sheep worrying – Clerk instructed to write setting out the dog control rules. 7. Drones – Noted, no action. CAA Guidelines circulated. 8. Car racing- Police to be informed at the time. 9. Virgin Money –Debit card. Defer to next meeting 10. Next meeting – Events on the Green 2024; 20mph speed limit. |
|  | Budget and Precept | 1. Budget for current year and coming year reviewed and agreed. 2. The precept to be requested from HDC for 2024-25 to be raised to £3000 in consideration of increased costs and potential contribution to LHI scheme improvements.   Proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Johnson, all in favour. |
|  | Next meeting | Monday 15 January 2024 at The Studio, 2 Conington Green |

Prepared by J Osborn, Clerk to the Council, 13 November 2023

SIGNED: ………………………………………………………………………………………………..DATE…………………………………................