



## Congresbury Parish Council

Orchard House  
The Old School Rooms  
Station Road  
Congresbury  
BS49 5DX

Chairman: Councillor Arthur Hacking  
Parish Clerk: Liz Greaves  
RFO: Alicia Fox  
Administrator: Catrin Lewis

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### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm via zoom.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Arthur Hacking Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting and welcomed the 6 people including 2 residents of the Parish of Congresbury. Cllr Hacking introduced himself and outlined the format of the Parish Meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from;

- Cllr's Hathaway and Griffiths.

#### 3. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019, issued to all present prior to the commencement of business, were approved by the meeting as a true record and signed by Cllr Hacking. Cllr Greaves proposed and Cllr Beyfus seconded.

#### 4. Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Arthur Hacking

Cllr Hacking read out his report as below;

2020/21 has been a difficult year for everyone and has provided challenges for the Parish Council in response to the Covid pandemic in ways of working for staff and Councillors and having to hold all meetings remotely and supporting the community.

The Parish Council worked together with Love Congresbury and North Somerset Council initially spent time and resources providing support to the most vulnerable in the parish. Love Congresbury continues with this vital work and many thanks to those who continue to support the food bank.

Members of Parish Council staff have continued to work from the Parish Office and from home to provide the vital services. Parish Council meetings have been via Zoom and through sub committees we have responded to North Somerset Council consultations and continued to deal with planning applications. There have been a few changes with Parish Councillors but through notices we welcomed a new Councillor last week and hope to have full capacity of 12 Councillors in May.

The Council has continued to support the Youth Partnership and Vine Counselling Service through grants. Both of these organisations have been very busy over the past year and have also had to find other ways of working and providing their vital services.

The Old School Rooms has already partially re-opened for children's activities and support groups and we will welcome the next groups from May 17th and hope to completely re open to all in June. We have been loyal to our original groups and have been trying to support them by not increasing our prices but still ensuring that the covid protection measures are in place. We have also through a s106 grant updated the wi-fi in the hall to enable groups to live stream if required.

Moving things forward, the Old School Rooms will have the kitchen refitted and updated. The Library which has been open for click and collect only over the past few months will open again next week for 3 sessions a week. This would not be possible without our volunteers.

The Parish Council is a member of the Parish Councils Airport Association and have written a statement of objection with regard to Bristol Airports planning application 18/P/5118/OUT. Bristol Airport appealed against North Somerset Councils decision to refuse to grant planning permission. The appeal reference is APP/D0121/W/20/3259234. The appeal will be determined on the basis of a public inquiry. The procedure to be followed is set out in the Town and Country Planning Appeals (Determination by Inspectors) (Inquiry Procedure) (England) Rules 2000, as amended. The public inquiry will open on 20 July 2021. Arrangements on location and public access have not yet been outlined.

The Parish Council is reviewing the policies and Community Actions outlined in the Neighbourhood Development Plan including the possibility of applying to North Somerset Council to have 20 mph zones in the village, on-going consideration of protecting the village cross and conservation area, ensuring that the Parish Council responds to the threats of large scale housing planning applications and supports the enhancement of village footpaths and green spaces through grants. This has been especially important for the Millennium Green and Cadbury Hill which have been greatly used and the Parish Council is also keen to work closely with Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group (YACWAG) in the management of the Cobthorn Way reserve.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a concern in some areas of the village which has lead to a multi-agency approach to create possible solutions. Litter has been a major problem across the country but it is a big issue around the village. The Parish Council does employ an orderly but the amount of litter has exceeded capacity for working hours. We understand that many residents carryout litter picking and we thank all those who do litter picking. Due to Covid restrictions we have not managed to carry out the annual village clean-up day but it is hoped that we will be able to re-instate this as soon as possible.

Let us now hope that 2021 will see a more enjoyable time for all members of the Congresbury community’.

**5. Question and Answer Session**

1. Cllr Hacking - asked for confirmation of library opening  
*Margaret Leimdorfer confirmed the opening is from 5<sup>th</sup> May2021.*
2. Tom Leimdorfer asked for an update on the request for 20 mph speed limits in the village. Roads had been identified by the sub-committee but he understands there is a queue of Parishes with applications in. *Cllr Hacking responded that he will ensure it goes on next Agenda and will discuss with Clerk.*
3. Cllr Marsh asked with regards to planning enquiry for the airport in July – does the Parish Council have representation. *Cllr Hacking said we will have made a financial contribution to the appeal fund and that we are entitled to have someone representing and will look to appoint someone at the next meeting. Cllr Greaves confirmed we are members of the Parish Council’s Airport Association who have appointed a barrister to represent all members of the Association.*
4. Cllrs Hacking, Freeman, Clarke and Greaves discussed the Millennium Green and the improvements of moving signs and placing the interpretation signs. The dipping platforms are currently damaged have been checked, they seem weak in places but could possibly be repaired. Cllr Greaves stated meeting on Green would be useful for current and new Councillors, he also stated that the Environment Agency will be looking at removing the fencing from the repaired bank and that there will be a newt and bat survey being undertaken. Cllr Hacking stated that in the Orchard area some trees have survived but unfortunately some have died but the area needs some work. Working parties have been organised so we are moving forward and we have had some help including from Chris Day and Alex Ballard with members of the Scouts and Guides. Cllr Greaves said that the Friends of the Millennium Green have been valuable in keeping this facility going, the trouble last year was a tragedy, need to now reinstate good will.

Cllr Greaves would like to thank the three members we lost this year – Hazel Ballantine, AllyJones and Sarah Sheehan. They were three very valuable members of the Parish Council. And we thank them for their time and energy to Parish Council. Would also like to thank Cllr Hacking, it has been an awful year and he must get our thanks for being so resilient. Thanks also to all our staff Liz, Alicia and Catrin for all their hardwork in difficult circumstances. Cllr Hacking welcomed new members – Guy Marsh and Laurence Freeman.

Cllr Hacking thanked everyone for attended and closed the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 8.05 pm**

Signed: ..... Date: .....