



## Congresbury Parish Council

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

Chair: Councillor Jane Clarke  
Parish Clerk: Nicky Andrews  
RFO: Gemma Palmer  
Administrator: Catrin Lewis

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### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Old School Rooms, Station Road, Congresbury.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and introductions.

Cllr Jane Clarke, Chair of the Parish Council opened the meeting and welcomed the sixteen people including six residents of the Parish of Congresbury and District Councillor Dan Thomas. Cllr Clarke introduced herself as the Chair of the Parish Council and asked each member of the Council and Staff to introduce themselves.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr E Burd and T Griffiths sent their apologies.

#### 3. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, issued to all present prior to the commencement of business, were approved by the meeting as a true record and signed by Cllr J Clarke.

#### 4. Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Jane Clarke

Cllr Clarke thanked the Councillors who had left the Council in 2023/2024 Cllrs Underwood, Beyfus, and Doolan.

North Somerset Council refurbished Broad Street and community volunteers have put the community orchard and paddock in order.

Cllr J Clarke thanked Cllr T Daw and his brother for replacing the planters, by the cross, into the correct position.

She thanked Blooming Congresbury for maintaining the planters around the village and reminded everyone that a village litter pick up was being held on Saturday at 10am starting at the Youth club.

North Somerset Council has started the Bus Service Improvement Scheme at Woodhill but Smallway has been put on hold.

The car park at the Old School Rooms is having issues with unauthorised parking which is causing problems for the users who are not able to park. The luncheon club has had to use chairs to make sure there is space for the minibuses to drop off.

The Parish Council is looking to renovate the Old School Rooms work is required to replace the windows and doors, the floor in St Andrews and the fascia boards and guttering need attention.

The Millennium Green Bridge will also need to be renovated. On a brighter note and after months of discussion the Environment Agency has agreed to de-regulate the Millennium Green from a reservoir. This means there will no loss of trees, the stones will not move and the construction time will be four weeks instead of eighteen months.

## **5. Question and Answer Session**

A volunteer from Congresbury Library asked had we received any CIL monies from recent planning consent. The Clerk and RFO responded that three amounts had been received (totalling about £5000) but the majority, because of when the plans were first approved, are still under S106 legislation which has more rigid rules.

A representative of the Youth Club spoke about the litter and dog bins not being emptied. The Clerk explained that our usual contractor had gone on long term sick leave and the temporary replacement was only collecting the bins once a week, due to a higher cost. She asked for a copy of the siting of a dog and litter bins owned by Congresbury Parish Council.

A former District Councillor suggested that a regular column in the new Congresbury Life may raise the profile of the Council.

A resident thought that the Council should give more notice of tonight's meeting. She mentioned the need for a bench on the Kent Road Green for shoppers, bus users and neighbours to meet, stating it would be an asset for the village character and that the police should increase patrols and all problems with the bench should be reported to the police on 101. The Chair explained that she still needed to speak to the residents and monitor the number of people who walked through the green before a decision could be made.

It was noted that the shelter on Riverside, put there for a meeting place was not used and that Congresbury never got a skate park like the surrounding villages where young people could meet.

If our usual contractor is on long term sick leave who will reinstate her husband's bench on the Millennium Green. The Clerk to find a new contractor as we have a couple of benches that need to be sited.

The former District Councillor added that our usual contractor does such an excellent job that the Council should send him a letter of appreciation and wish him a speedy recovery.

It was suggested that the Council ask for lottery funding to assist with the cost of the new windows in the Old School Rooms.

With the loss of the leased spaces in the Congresbury Arms can we still get through to the paddock for maintenance and was the right of way sold to the new houses off Mill Lane. The Clerk stated that pedestrian access was allowed to the paddock from the Car Park but she would need to speak to North Somerset Council regarding the other access. A Councillor informed the meeting that a new discussion group would be starting in September in the Methodist Hall.

Wendy Holland thanked Jane Clarke for stepping into the breach when no one else wished to become Chair of the Parish Council last May.

A new connection to the Strawberry Line will run from Congresbury to Blagdon via Wrington hopefully with funding within the next four years.  
It was reported that North Somerset Council had kept Bristol Airport in the green belt.

Cllr Clarke thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 8.00pm.**

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