



Congresbury Parish Council

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

Chairman: Councillor Guy March
Parish Clerk: Nicky Andrews
RFO: Gemma Palmer
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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Old School Rooms, Station Road, Congresbury.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Guy March, Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting and welcomed the 16 people including 8 residents of the Parish of Congresbury. Cllr March introduced himself as the newly elected Chair of the Parish Council and asked each member of the Council to introduce themselves. He outlined the format of the Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hathaway sent her apologies

3. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 26th May 2022

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26th May 2022, issued to all present prior to the commencement of business, were approved by the meeting as a true record and signed by Cllr March.

4. Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Guy March

Cllr March thanked the Councillors who had left the Council in 2022/2023 Cllrs Hacking, Burd, Freeman and Sampson.

The Parish Office is fully staffed and is working through the backlog.

An election will be held on Thursday 4th May 2023 hopefully there will be a few more Councillors after the election.

Grants have been given to Congresbury Youth Partnership, Millennium Green, Community Library, CRAG and the Football Club. Contributions have been made to the Strawberry Line and Cadbury Hill.

The kitchen has been refurbished in the Old School Rooms and a new heater has been installed in St Congar's room. The parking restrictions have been completed in Broad Street and along with the District Council Phil Neve, the Council have been communicating with North Somerset Council regarding the amount of housing developments in Congresbury. New stands pipes and taps have been fitted at the allotments and new play equipment has been installed in the King George V with matched funding from North Somerset Council.

The Council is still looking into a number of projects including 20mph zones, bike stands for Broad Street and new windows and a maintenance schedule for the Old School Rooms.

5. Question and Answer Session

A resident thanked the Parish Council for their continuing work. He has concerns regarding the Environmental Agency's plans for the flood defences, removing of trees and memorials and a general lack of communication. Notification of the consultation was very late and it only mentioned Gooseum Rhyne and not the Millennium Green. The consultation process did not answer the question as to why the work was necessary and they had not considered the historical significance to of the green to Congresbury.

A member of the Millennium Green Trustees stated her concerned that the Environmental Agency taking some of the Green for the flood defence and it will change the way it looks and it is against the charity trusts regulations. It would be advantageous to keep the Millennium Green as a charity whilst the work it being carried out. The trust has contacted the Environmental Agency but has not received a reply. The history of the Green needs to be collated and they will need to access the records stored at the parish office.

A member of the public stated that Wrington Lane was chaotic due to the road works that having been going on since late 2022. North Somerset Council would not allow traffic lights for the National Grid works which has led to confusion. She commented that the new footpath was inadequate but it was explained the footpath was not finished as it was stopped to allow National Grid to carry out their cable laying. Cllr March sympathised and asked the Clerk to contact North Somerset Council.

A resident was saddened at the state of the Old School Rooms and asked was there a maintenance plan in place. She asked why supporting documentation had not been posted on the website and the Clerk explained that the website was limited but a new one was being made ready for the middle of 2023. Another resident asked had we checked if there were any S106 monies available or airport grants. The 20mph zone was started some time ago had any progress been made. Cllr March stated that it needed to be revisited as a priority.

20.07 Cllr G Underwood left the meeting

The new doctor's surgery was discussed regarding the funding issues and whether Smallway is an appropriate location for it. Bushes at the end of Silver Street need to be trimmed these were done by volunteers in the past.

A member of the Community Library reported that talks, bridge, reading group and the honesty library being well attended. Four new volunteers having been added to the rota and the IT system from North Somerset is prone to faults. The honesty library has good footfall although there is no official figures but the record of books being borrowed from the Community Library as fallen. Plans have been drawn up for a new kitchen.

Cllr March thanked everyone for attended and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed: Date: