

COGGESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

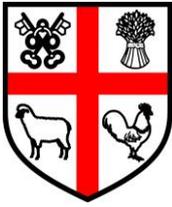
Village Hall, 25 Stoneham Street, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1UH
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MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
held on
Monday 13 March 2023
at 7.30pm

at the Keys Room, Village Hall, 25 Stoneham Street, Coggeshall

Present: Cllr Hagger (Chair), Cllr Alston, Cllr Barry, Cllr Brindley, Cllr Claydon,
Cllr Heaton, Cllr Walsh, Cllr Wilson
9 Members of the Public
Parish Clerk, Philippa Potter
Apologies received from: Cllr Plumb, Cllr Unsworth

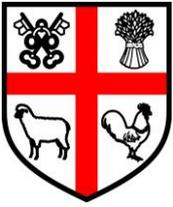
AA23/01	Welcome and Introduction The Chair, Cllr Hagger, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the format of the meeting as per the agenda below.
AA23/02	Minutes of previous Annual Parish Assembly It was Proposed Cllr Alston, Seconded Cllr Claydon and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 16 May 2022, as a true record and they were signed accordingly.
AA23/03	Chair's Report Cllr Hagger, read out his Annual Chair's Report to the meeting, which is appended to the minutes.
AA23/04	County Councillor's Report Cllr Paul Thorogood gave his annual report, which can be summarised as follows and is appended to the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highways: Essex County Council (ECC) need a budget of £77m for roads to effectively stand still, however, the agreed budget for 2023/24 will be £45m, with the following year being around half that again. The budget for paths and street lights should be £52m but will again be half of that, which brings the programmed into managed decline.• Rivenhall Waste Management Facility: Indaver (the developer) are appealing in May to overturn parts of the original decision, to remove the recycling and composting elements of the planning permission. This will be occurring in May. The next Rivenhall Liaison Committee is being held on 16 March.• Flood Alleviation Scheme: A planning application should have been submitted in first quarter of this year, but seems to have slipped. Cllr Brindley and Cllr Thorogood met with the Environment Agency (EA) last month and asked for further public consultation to take place. Previous consultations were around 3-4 years ago and many new residents to the area are not aware of the proposals. However, the EA have declined to put out any further consultations and will be relying on the planning system going forward.



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	<p>One of the main concerns is that the proposed scheme will not protect homes from surface water flooding, which in Coggeshall caused the main flooding problems from Robins Brook. Fluvial flooding from the River Blackwater will be reduced but this will not prevent the majority of those properties which were hit hardest during the last major flood in 2001. Another concern regarding the proposals is the environmental damage caused by the quarrying and the permanent changes to the landscape, in return for little gain in the way of flood management. There are also heritage concerns to Grange Barn and other listed buildings in close proximity to the site.</p> <p>Cllr Jo Brindley explained the hydrology of the sources of flooding in Coggeshall and how this relates to the proposals for the Flood Alleviation Scheme and the dam, on which the EA are working in partnership with Blackwater Aggregates. The planning application for the quarry will put forward the flood alleviation scheme as mitigation. The suggestion for a public meeting to be arranged with representatives from the EA was put forward.</p>
AA23/05	<p>District Councillors' Reports</p> <p>District Cllr Walsh gave his annual report, in which he thanked the Chair of the Parish Council, Ian Hagger, for his excellent chairmanship of the Parish Council, and the Clerk for all the hard work which goes on behind the scenes. Cllr Walsh talked about some of the work which goes on in the District and parish, and focused on the work going on with the doctors' surgery to secure funding for expansion to accommodate the upcoming new residents. Cllr Walsh also thanked Cllr Brindley for the excellent presentation on the Flood Alleviation Scheme and also to Sarah Philips, for all of their hard work around these proposals.</p>
AA23/06	<p>Presentation – Fabian's Play Area Refurbishment Project</p> <p>Cllr Jo Brindley gave a presentation on the project being undertaken by the Parish Council's Recreation Sub-Committee on the refurbishment of the play area at Fabian's Close. A summary of the presentation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area has been a bit lost and forgotten, with the existing play equipment coming to the end of its life.• The Parish Council has access to funding from local development to start the project, to develop a more inclusive space.• Consultation has begun with children from both Honywood and St Peter's schools who will use this new area. The target age group is that who are too old for the 'Big Park' at the Recreation Ground.• The aim is to find a solution to do something for the children who will use it but to not cause problems for the surrounding residents, and we will need to work with the topography of the land, which is a funny shape and is sloped.• Nothing about the consultation today is set in stone, as we are looking for ideas and contributions. The consultations are still focusing on talking to the children but will start to go out to the rest of the community as well.



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- The aim is to include equipment which does not encourage anti-social behaviour (ASB) – more sitting and climbing pieces which can be used imaginatively.
- The Council knows there will be some who are not as keen on the ideas, but they are wishing to work with those people to assist in alleviating concerns as best as can be achieved.

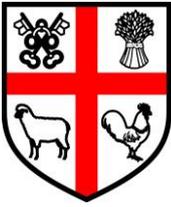
Some ideas were put forward, such as incorporating more adult gym equipment, or dog agility obstacles. Counter-opinions put forward some of the problems with the site such as the amplification of noise due to the site's topography, and the current problems experienced with ASB. Councillors have been looking at the proximity of the area to surrounding houses and are, for example, exploring the possibilities of denser planting at those boundaries, as well as the location of each item of equipment in relation to neighbouring properties. Although it is not possible for the Council to eradicate ASB, the worst of this can often be moved on by the refurbishment and smartening up of an area. This can reverse the 'broken window' effect where a dilapidated and forgotten area which is 'broken' attracts hanging around, graffiti, vandalism etc, which then continues to worsen the area.

Access and problems with parking were raised, and it was put forward that the age group this area will be aimed at are not likely to be taken there by parents in cars, nor is it going to be publicised as a 'destination playground'.

Concerns around large works taking place and causing damage to surrounding buildings was raised, however, the Chair explained that the Council would be working 'with' the land as it is rather than looking at renovations which would require large earthworks. Apart from this not being viable in the space, this kind of refurbishment would cost more money than is available. Cllr Hagger further explained that the area is covenanted to remain as public open space, and the Council therefore has a duty to uphold and be custodians of this going forward.

'Wheeled play' was discussed, and it was confirmed that a skate ramp would not be installed on this site, but that areas could be incorporated into the design which could be used by bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates, such as undulating and shaped paths.

Residents gave their views with regard to the problems that have existed at this area over a number of years, which have on occasion been very distressing. The idea of the site being used as more of a nature reserve was put forward, as there is a healthy population of birds here. Council very much want to encourage birds and insects to the area and will be looking for opportunities to pursue this with the planting of trees, flowers and using insect hotels, for example.



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	However, Council have and will listen to the concerns of local residents throughout this process, and hope to come up with a scheme and design which will enhance the area.
AA22/07	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>Julian Prideaux spoke on behalf the Coggeshall Society and himself, and thanked the Parish Council and Clerk for their work in the parish, especially given the breadth of the remit. He was complimentary about the new Coggeshall news magazine and would like to see articles encouraging residents to look after the area around their houses in relation to litter and keeping things looking nice for all.</p> <p>The Council welcomed this and will be looking to promote these ideas in the next issue, along with any articles local organisations such as the Society would like to put forward.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9pm, with the Chair thanking all for attending.</p>

Signed
Chair

Date