



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11 September 2023 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Adams, Cllr L Gannon, Cllr N Laredo (Chairman), Cllr B Matthews, Cllr C Senior, Cllr S Winfield

Also Present: Cllr A Bailey (ECDC), Cllr L Dupré (CCC), 2 members of the public

23/118 Apologies for absence

Apologies were approved from Cllr R Langston

23/119 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None made

22/120 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

– 10 July 2023 – previously approved, now signed

- 14 August 2023 – subject to one amendment, the minutes were approved for signature

23/121 Public Question Time

Mr Whitton, the Groundskeeper, reported on grasscutting, chemical storage, and long term equipment storage. He requested direction on whether to continue to cut in to October and permission to purchase a hand held sprayer for spot spraying. It takes about an hour and a half to cut the orchard area which equates to 20% of overall time worked.

The volunteer group in Wardy Hill have marked out the proposal.

23/123 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Dupré reported on County Council matters. Her report has been circulated.

- * BP A10 roundabout - work is ongoing to identify a solution, funding will then need to be found
- * Weeds – due to a policy change earlier this year to reduce use of chemicals, regular spraying of footpaths and kerbs was stopped. Residents have made many complaints. The policy was always going to be reviewed in December.
- * Verges – report any problems with grasscutting to Lorna
- * Greater Cambridge Partnership – the proposals for congestion charging were amended but do not have support from the member councils and are unlikely to proceed.

Cllr Bailey reported on District Council matters.

- * A consultation is under way regarding proposals for a 20mph speed limit in Ely, residents are encouraged to respond.
- * St Marys Surgery is completely open
- * ECDC has bought gum cleaning machines
- * Cllr Bailey has met with the IDB's looking at a wide range of topics around development implications, resource issues and ability to interact with the planning process. She will be meeting with them quarterly
- * Road sweeping has not happened lately, Cllr Bailey will investigate.



23/124

Reports

- a) Allotments – nothing to report
- b) Coveney Village Hall – It was agreed to grant £350 to the Village Hall for fireworks. Cllr Matthews will pass over the details of the previous supplier.
- c) Wardy Hill Social Club – Cllr Matthews is working on transferring bank account and keys
- d) Friends of Coveney – nothing to report

23/125

Planning

- a) To report approval of the following application:-
23/00418/CLE Commrooks Farm, Straight Drove, Coveney – The keeping of horses for personal (non-commercial) use - noted

23/126

Strategy for engaging with hauliers who operate HGV's through the village

Postponed to a future meeting

23/127

Wild flowers in Wardy Hill

It was agreed to reimburse residents £50 for the cost of planting. Residents have sourced the equipment need to prepare the land. A risk assessment will be prepared by the Clerk in consultation with the residents. The Clerk will prepare a letter of permission.

Due to the late hour the following agenda items in italic were not addressed at this meeting.

23/128

Working Groups

- a) Allotment and Community Green Space
 - Borehole – Cllr Winfield has provided an initial summary of costs. Currently water is not able to be extracted. Cllr Senior has been reseaching hand pumps for back up. Initial costs look like being in the region of £600
 - Community Orchard - Truelink have quoted £800 to cut and clear the mowings from the orchard and it was agreed to accept this quote as, despite many requests, no other quotes have been forthcoming. Two pear trees have not survived, for reasons unknown It was agreed to replace them with one of the same species and one different costing £18 each. Need to order now for delivery and invoicing in January. A mulberry tree will be put in the plan. More tree guards will need to be ordered in due course.
 - Pond – Pride of Place – an initial response tpthe bid has been received. Cllr Senior will respond
 - Bulb and Wild Flower Planting – Cllr Gannon will make an application to the Pride of Place fund.
- b) *Policies and Procedures*
 - *Asset Register/Insurance*
 - *Health and Safety Policy*
 - *Privacy Policy*
 - *Delegation Scheme*
- c) *Website/Communication including training*
- d) *Council Issue Tracking and Archiving*
- e) Assets
 - Grasscutting/Maintenance – It was agreed to continue the grasscutting in to October as the weather is continuing warm and wet so the grass is still growing. It was agreed that the Groundskeeper should purchase the spot spraying equipment (approximately £15) and get reimbursement through his



1460

next invoice. The chemical store will be fixed to the back of the Village Hall (as agreed with the VH Committee). A padlock will be purchased by the Clerk.

- MUGA – the consultation on use of the MUGA was approved
- MUGA – Basketball board and other equipment
- Play Area, Coveney – Climbing frame repair –
- Play Area Wardy Hill – Climbing frame repair
- Wardy Hill – Noticeboard – replacement of perspex

f) Broadband

23/129

Projects

- a) Grazing land in School Lane - the latest correspondence from the Solicitor was discussed. The decision is summarised in the appendix.
- b) Anglian Observatory – Cllr Adams will draft a document summarising the situation as it is now.
- c) Land Adjacent to the Village Hall – The Clerk is hoping to visit ECDC later this week to extract the information required by the solicitor.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan
- e) Climate Action Plan
- f) Tree Planting Strategy

23/130

Finance

- a) Initial Budget Discussion
- b) Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date were provided.

Bank Reconciliation – 31 August 2023

Current Account	2,905.40	Brought Forward	32,066.67
Deposit Account	28,988.13	Income	0
Uncleared payments	(1750,72)	(Expenditure)	(1,923.86)
	30,142.81		30,142.81

- c) The following payments were approved.

Payee	Description	Ref	Amount
Yu Energy	Streetlight energy	DD189	92.14
Yu Energy		DD191	14.98
Yu Energy		DD192	13.72
Right Fuelcard	Fuel for mower	DD193	9.98
Right Fuelcard		DD194	9.90
Right Fuelcard		DD195	12.47
Red Shoes	Payroll Services	196	46.80
Mr P Whitton	Groundskeeper	197	624.48
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk Salary and Expenses	198	529.34
			1,353.81

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Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 9 October 2023, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 22.52