



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 13 February 2023 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Present: Juliet Adams, Naomi Laredo, Barry Matthews (Chairman), Steven Winfield

Also Present: Cllr A Bailey (ECDC), Cllr L Dupré, (CCC), Sandra Thompson (Clerk)

23/014 Apologies for absence
Apologies were approved from Lynda Gannon, Robert Langston and Chris Senior

23/015 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda
None made

23/016 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings
The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023 were approved and signed.

23/017 Public Question Time
Nothing raised.

23/018 District and County Councillors' Reports
Cllr Bailey (ECDC) reported on matters at the Combined Authority.

- The DULHC have issued a Best Value Notice.
- There is an improvement plan in place.
- A mayoral precept has been agreed for the coming year.

She also reported on the District Council

- East Cambs are working hard to support residents through the cost of living crisis and are actively engaging with residents who may be having difficulties
- East Cambs Trading Company has repaid the loan from the Combined Authority which enable the Haddenham CLT.
- ECDC are proposing no increase in the council tax and have a balanced budget for the next 2 years.
- There is currently a confirmed land supply of more than a 5 years, but this is open to challenge at any time.
- A Neighbourhood Plan is always going to be the most up to date planning document and there is help available to undertake such a plan.

Cllr Dupré reported on the County Council.

- The CCC budget has been approved.
- Vouchers have been issued to those entitled to free school meal .
- Upholstered furniture collection plans are in place.
- Work is continuing on the aim of Net Zero.
- Applications for 20mph zones will be opening this month.
- Pot holes and other highways defects have been caused by the extremes of recent weather. The level of repairs needed on many of the roads in Cambridgeshire is more than routine maintenance. Residents are urged to continue to report problems.



Both Councillors were updated on the problems with Footpath No 1, where there is an historical obstruction on the definitive path. They were requested to seek a solution.

23/019**Reports**

- a) Allotments – all quiet
- b) Coveney Village Hall - The parish council are still waiting (yet again) for a response from the Sanctuary solicitor. The Parish Council is pressing this issue as much as possible but it is proving to be a long process.
- c) Wardy Hill Social Club – a group of volunteers are working on a way forward. This is again likely to be a lengthy process.
- d) Friends of Coveney – tree planting will take place soon once the trees are delivered. The waymarking project needs a new date as the weather is improving allowing better access. Mr Senior and Mr Langston have been fixing markers to existing posts where possible.

23/020**Internal Audit Report**

A date for the Clerk's appraisal was set. It is to be carried out by Mr Matthews and Mrs Laredo.

23/021**Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 24 April 2023 and needs to be publicised. It was agreed that the meeting will be used to gauge community interest in creating a Neighbourhood Plan and community views on the climate emergency.

23/022**Grit Bins**

It was agreed to install grit bins at Gravel End, Coveney and the bends at the entrance to Wardy Hill. CCC Highways will organise this and charge the Parish Council.

23/023**Working Groups**

- a) Allotment and Community Green Space
 - Borehole – Investigations to get the borehole working again have ascertained that two batteries need to be replaced at £45 each. Dr Winfield has so far incurred expenses £120. The pump is ok. This expenditure was approved.
 - Community Orchard – trees are due to be delivered on 1 March and will be planted the following weekend. The Clerk will prepare a risk assessment. Hedge will also be pruned. 14 trees were pruned on Saturday, all are alive and well thanks to all the volunteers who undertook the watering.
 - Orchard Opening – 22 April - Village Hall is booked. Steering group is meeting later this week.
 - Consultation of moving of trees – ongoing
- b) Policies and Procedures – for comment and approval
 - Dignity at Work/Bullying and Harassment Policy – subject to some changes as discussed, this policy was approved



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- Freedom of Information Publication Scheme - approved
 - Privacy Notice – To be discussed at a later date as discussions on the website wording may have a bearing on this.
 - Health and Safety Policy - approved
 - Communications Protocol – It was agreed that this is not necessary at this time.
 - Equality and Diversity Policy – This version is too complicated. The Clerk will look for a more appropriate wording.
 - Safeguarding Policy – Approved
- c) Website/Communication – Much work has taken place on the new website and it will be ready to go live very soon.
- d) Council Issue Tracking and Archiving -ongoing
- e) Assets
- Grasscutting/Maintenance – grasscutting will restart soon
 - MUGA – Basketball board and other equipment – ongoing
 - Play area – Dr Winfield has made safe the fallen tree but the stump needs grinding. Mr Matthews has started on cutting back the brambles.
 - Pond area regeneration - ongoing
 - Bench for repair on Main Street/School Lane – A resident has kindly taken on the repair. Miss Adams is in touch with him and will thank him and offer for the Parish Council to pay for his materials.
- f) Broadband – ongoing

23/024

Projects

- a) Grazing land in School Lane – It was agreed to follow the advice from Ward Gethin Archer in the letter of 2 February 2023.
- b) Wardy Hill Social Club – covered earlier
- c) Anglian Observatory – ongoing
- d) Land adjacent to Village Hall – still awaiting a response from the Sanctuary solicitor

23/025

Finance

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

Bank Reconciliation – 31 January 2023

Current Account	3,330.50	Brought Forward	33,948.40
Deposit Account	30,894.18	Income	90.00
LESS uncleared cheque	36.00	(Expenditure)	(848.72)
	33,188.68		33,189.68



1435

It was noted that the reconciliation is a pound out, the Clerk will make the necessary correction.

b) The following payments were authorised for payment.

Payee	Description	REF	Amount
Yu Energy	Streetlighting energy	DD113	16.28
Yu Energy	Streetlighting energy	DD114	130.80
Yu Energy	Streetlighting energy	DD115	13.91
Right Fuelcard	Fuelcard	DD116	1.20
Motts Farms	Hedge cutting	117	243.00
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk salary and expenses	118	525.49
			0.00
			930.68

23/026 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 13 March 2023, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting closed at 22.25