

COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Zoom on Monday 8 February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr A Bensted, Mr V Ingham, Mrs N Laredo, Mr B Matthews (Chairman), Mr C Senior, Mr A Stygal

Also Present: Cllr L Dupré (CCC), Cllr A Bailey (ECDC), Emma Grima (ECDC), Peter Doktor (Environment Agency), Jonathan Taylor (RSPB), Mrs S Thompson (Clerk)

Peter Doktor from the Environment Agency gave an update on the Ouse Washes Habitat Creation Project, which addresses the decline of certain bird species of international importance by creating new habitats. The Coveney site obtained planning permission in 2013 for the built structures required for the overall scheme. In 2014/15 phase 1 was constructed comprising of 93 hectares including the water storage lake and the RSPB was appointed to manage the site. Subsequent work depended on land acquisition, one more acquisition is still required. The last 40 hectares is near Wayhead and will require the diversion of the existing IDB drain

Jonathan Taylor, RSPB, has been site manager for 6 years. Livestock graze during the summer after the spring ground nesting of the birds has been completed. The site is still in infancy, it can take 10-15 years to develop. Snipe and black tailed godwit are amongst the bird species which will benefit. Most walkers go towards the lake, which is outside the area of the main focus for the breeding birds. The requirement for the current planning application is because the diversion was missed from the original application. The IDB have been consulted and have agreed in principle.

Mr Doktor and Mr Taylor were thanked for attending the meeting.

Emma Grima, ECDC, explained that transfer of CIL money happens in April and October. The specific email cil@eastcambis will respond to queries. All new builds are subject to paying CIL unless they qualify for one of the exemptions eg. Self build. Redevelopment sites must have had buildings in lawful use prior to the redevelopment. Ms Grima will clarify the relevant time periods.

21/011 Apologies for absence

None, all present

21/012 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None declared.

21/013 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- i) The minutes of 14 December 2020 were approved for signature
- ii) The minutes of 11 January 2021 were approved for signature

21/014 Public Question Time

None present

21/015 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Bailey – ECDC full budget meeting will take place on 23 Feb. Parking enforcement work is progressing with a view to being able to issue tickets. Market Town plans are being developed with funding from the Combined Authority focusing on Covid recovery and economic improvement. Cllr Bailey has been representing ECDC in meetings with CCC to deal with the recent issues resulting from heavy rainfall and flooding. CCC would be pleased to receive a local report of hot spots for flooding or blocked drains etc.

Cllr Dupré agreed that flooding has been a problem and awareness has been raised amongst all organisations that have responsibilities, including the Littleport and Downham IDB who met

this afternoon. CCC are involved in creating a strategic plan to deal with flooding. Parish Councils are to be encouraged to have a local flood plan. Cllr Dupré has sent her report which has been circulated.

21/016 Traffic issues due to roadworks at BP Roundabout (A10/A142 junction)

Work has started on improvements at the Lancaster Way roundabout. It is likely that this will increase traffic through Coveney.

21/017 Planning

- i) The following application has been approved

20/01593/FUL – Wolvey House, Wentworth Road, Coveney – Erection of residential annex and garage
- ii) The following new applications have been received for comment:-

21/00032/FUL – Ebenezer Farm, West Fen Road, Coveney – Garage conversion and insertion of four new roof lights – no papers are on the website so it is not possible to comment

21/00033/FUM – Land at Coveney Byall Fen, Old Lynn Drove, Coveney – To divert existing Internal Drainage Board main drain to create a coherent contiguous block of lowland wet grassland to add on to the already created habitat at Coveney Byall Fen under the auspices of the Ouse Washes Habitat Creation Project – it was agreed to recommend approval

21/018 Working Groups

- a) Allotments
 - Boundary – It was agreed to write to the adjacent landowner informing them of the intention to fence the boundary unless we do hear from you about the boundary. The Clerk has been told that the entrance area will be repaired when the weather allows and there is an intention to install a gate that will have padlock codes to allow access to our allotment holders.
 - S106 grant application – the application has been submitted. Emma Grima gave some feedback on the application and it was agreed to forward her the email trail that has preceded the application.
- b) Policies and Procedures – complaints and safeguarding policies will be next.
- c) Website – there is a glitch which needs to be sorted to enable the Clerk to post documents
- d) Assets
 - Grasscutting – it was agreed that Mr Matthews and Mr Senior will organise the shortlisting process of those interested and bring a recommendation to the meeting on 22 February when an appointment will be made. Ernest Doe have been very helpful in identifying equipment but are unable to offer hire. They are however offering favourable terms should it be necessary to return anything. Prices have been compared with other suppliers and it was agreed to place the order with Ernest Doe..
 - MUGA – will be sprayed and lines painting in April (date to be confirmed)
 - Play equipment – Mr Senior has obtained quotes for a replacement and it was agreed to accept the quote from Wicksteed for £4,286.58 + VAT.
- e) Village Hall update – Clerk to write to Sanctuary about the drive and garage area. The newsletter has included a request for volunteers and there has been a request to purchase more litter picking equipment.

21/019 Correspondence

Coveney Byall Fen Habitat scheme – plans for the final phase were noted

21/020 Finance

- i) Internet banking – Mrs Laredo, Mr Bensted and Mr Stygal are all now set up for internet banking
- ii) Community Infrastructure Levy – see above
- iii) To receive monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date. Include a projection of funds already committed

Bank Reconciliation – 31 January 2021

Current Account	14,114.65	Brought Forward	35,647.34
Deposit Account	21,147.92	Income	-
Uncleared Cheques	-	(Expenditure)	(384.77)
	35,262.57		35,262.57

- iv) Payments for approval – as per schedule

Payee	Detail	Method	Total Amount inc VAT
Cambs County Council	Streetlight energy - final	Internet	214.37
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk salary	Internet	306.33
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk expenses	Internet	38.44
Opus Energy 680	Streetlighting	DD	57.94
Opus Energy 685	Streetlighting	DD	64.09
Opus Energy 686	Streetlighting	DD	1,058.93
			1,740.10

It was agreed to authorize the payments by internet. Opus energy have issued the first invoices for the streetlighting, they are clearly incorrect and it was agreed to cancel the direct debit until amendments and corrections are made.

21/021 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 8 March 2021, online (to be confirmed)

Meeting closed at 22.50