

COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.30pm

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

Also Present: 1 member of the public, Cllr A Bailey (ECDC), Mrs S Thompson (Clerk)

21/029 Apologies for absence

All present.

21/030 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None declared

21/031 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- i) 8 February 2021 – the minutes were approved for signature
- ii) 22 February 2021 – the minutes were approved for signature

21/032 Public Question Time

Mr Winfield reported on fibre broadband. Wayhead and Wardy Hill are already enabled, which leaves about 100 residences in Coveney. Information has been submitted to OpenReach who will give costs in the next few days. There is already a lot of interest from the eligible households.

21/033 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Bailey reported that ECDC had the budget meeting, there will be no increase to the ECDC element and are planning a balanced budget for the next 2 financial years. ECDC also considered the Fens Biosphere project, the project was welcomed but further information was requested. The housing delivery test has been met, measured on housing that has been completed. Four legal planning battles have taken place in Witchford and all have been won. Cllr Bailey responded to questions on affordable housing at the Princess of Wales hospital site and highway repairs.

21/034 Matters to report

- Vacancy for Councillor – no poll has been called, so it is now possible to fill the vacancy by co-option. Notices have been posted and it is hoped fill the vacancy at the 12 April meeting. All enquiries should be directed to the Clerk.
- Planning Enforcement Cases – reports have been made about the height of the houses at 2 Gravel End and parking obstructing the highway outside the yard adjacent to 41 Main Street. Both have been acknowledged.
- Opus Energy – This is ongoing. The Clerk has agreed to pay an uncontested amount of £100 per month (payable by 4th of the month) and Opus have agreed not to pursue collection of the outstanding bills pending the correction of the amount billed. £200 has been paid to cover January and February.
- Sanctuary Housing – Mr Senior has had a response from Sanctuary. They may be willing to dispose of the area, but in any case the brambles need to be cut and controlled.

21/035 Planning

The following is a new application for consideration and comment:

21/00286/FUL – Site East of 9 Main Street, Wardy Hill – The construction of a three bedroom, two storey detached dwelling, remodelled access and associated works

It was agreed to recommend refusal on the grounds that the rear part of the house is very close to the boundary and is therefore very overbearing to the neighbouring property.

21/036 Working Groups – Reports and decisions on actions

- a) Allotments
 - Boundary – The Clerk has written twice to the landowner since the last meeting. The fencing contractor will be on site at the end of March.
 - S106 grant application – Emma Grima and Anna Bailey have offered dates for a meeting. It was agreed to meet on Thursday 11 March 2021 at 6pm, online
 - It was agreed to proceed in principle with the borehole, the position and timing are still to be finalized.
 - FWAG – Mrs Laredo and Mr Senior met the pond adviser who will be providing feedback in the next few days.
- b) Policies and Procedures –
 - Safeguarding Policy – the policy was not approved. Further research is required to provide a meaningful policy and may require some training.
 - Complaints Policy and Procedure – was approved
- c) Website – the Clerk still needs to be able to upload documents. Other updates have been completed
- d) Assets
 - Grasscutting/Maintenance– equipment due to be delivered mid/end March, Mr Whitton will be able to get going properly in April. Storage of equipment still needs to be resolved.
 - MUGA – £1,787.29 residual funds has been received from the group who were originally responsible for raising funds for the MUGA. The amount has been given to the parish council with the restriction that it must be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the MUGA.
 - MUGA - it was agreed to replace the sign which has outdated information. It was also noted that a resident is renovating the basketball backboard.
 - Play equipment (Coveney) – the order has been placed with Wicksteed Leisure for a total of £4,286.58 plus VAT
 - Removal of old equipment (Coveney) – Mr Ingham will organise the removal of the old equipment
 - Purchase of more playbark – It was agreed to purchase 4 bags quoted at £94.50 each from Madingley Mulch.
- e) Village Hall update – Village Hall Trustees are meeting next week

21/037 Friends of Coveney

- There are a growing band of volunteers.
- It was agreed to purchase further litter picking equipment. It was agreed to purchase 6 pickers (approx. cost £15 each plus VAT) and 4 bag rings (approx. cost £10 each plus VAT)
- Planning is under way for a working party for post lockdown – potential projects are a litter picking day, bulb planting, clearing the bank by the pond – events will be planned as allowed by lockdown restrictions.

21/038 Public Footpaths and Rights of Way

It was previously agreed to engage with the rights of way team at CCC to see if way markers can be replaced and improved around the parish. The Clerk has made contact with the team again and is awaiting a response. Coincidentally, one of the team has been in contact about there being a pond on Byway 17 (Grudges Bank). He understands that it was once maintained by the parish. This may be of interest along with the other work on ponds in the parish.

21/039 Finance

- i) Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date were presented

Bank Reconciliation – 28 February 2021

Current Account	15,492.80	Brought Forward	35,262.57
Deposit Account	21,147.92	Income	1,937.29
Uncleared Cheques	-	(Expenditure)	(559.14)
	36,640.72		36,640.72

ii) Payments for approval – the schedule of payments was authorised.

Payee	Detail	Method	Total Amount inc VAT
Opus Energy	Undisputed payment – Jan and Feb	Already paid	200.00
Red Shoes	Payroll services	Internet	45.00
CAPALC	Subscription	Internet	296.39
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk salary	Internet	306.33
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk expenses	Internet	98.43
			946.70
Opus Energy	Undisputed payment - Mar	Due by 4 April	100.00

The payments of £200 to Opus Energy was approved retrospectively.

21/040 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 12 April 2021, online (to be confirmed)

Meeting closed at 22.05