



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Doig, Cllr N Gilbert, Cllr C Hammond, Cllr R Langston (Chairman), Cllr N Laredo

25/001 Apologies for absence
None.

25/002 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda
None.

25/003 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

25/004 Public Question Time
Nothing raised.

25/005 District and County Councillors' Reports

- Priors Field GP surgery now has a permanent provider, NHS has purchased the building and St Mary's will run the surgery.
- Chain Causeway, Sutton to Earith: Signage now corrected, confirmed closure 24/7 until early March.
- Bus tendering: Stagecoach decided to withdraw from 7 routes due to NI rise. Re-tendering ready for Spring.
- Tiger on Demand Buses now live providing a collection service within 30 mins from Sat 11th Jan (1st 2 weeks FOC) and available for Coveney. Wardy Hill and Way Head are also served by virtual stops. Please promote and give feedback on collection times, service etc. They will make provision for mobility users. **Action:** Advertise on Parish Council Website.

- Local Government reorganisation to create unity authorities of minimum 500,000 people, governed by a Mayor, as opposed to County/District tiers. Strategic planning will fall to the new Mayors. Peterborough and Cambridgeshire could be combined, circa 900,000 people. Huntingdon and Peterborough alone equate to 500,000 and Cambs 400,000. Consultations to be led by local authority.

Suffolk requesting to be a single unitary authority but very unlikely.

Cambs part of second phase, ideally for the 5 councils to reach an agreement by March for outcome in Autumn. Parish Councils will not be consulted yet.

Confirmed County Council elections will be held in May.

Drive from area to group East Cambs and Greater Cambridge together, which could result in new housing and solar farms etc falling into East Cambs area,



25/006

Update on Replacement/Locum Clerk

- A locum for 5 hours a week at £30 per hour in the interim will be arranged,
- Little Downham Clerk does not have capacity to help but her deputy may be interested with support. Cllr Langston will talk to the deputy and advertise the post to keep options open.
- Mrs Thompson has handed lots of paperwork over to the Chair who is currently storing, Incoming clerk to go through paperwork and ascertain what needs filing and what can go to the Cambs archives. Pre 2005 records are already held at the archives.
- Mrs Thompson still has papers that predate her employment. Need collecting, sorting and archiving.
- Mobile phone contract has been transferred over to PC at £8 per month. Postal address is still Mrs Thompson's but will transfer over to new clerk. Cllr Langston to be Responsible Financial Officer in the interim.

25/007

Correspondence received

- Maintenance company will come out on Friday to fix Streetlight PC3.
- 26 Main Street, back of cottage has collapsed and asbestos roof now exposed. Chair raised with Building Control. They have been out to inspect and advised owner must either remove asbestos or fence off area within 28 days.
- Witcham Neighbourhood Plan has been received for comments. **Action:** It was agreed that Cllr Gilbert would draft a response outlining the council's concern that there are limited development opportunities on the future plan, and the impact this might have on Coveney parish.

25/008

Update on actions from previous meetings (for information only)

- Tree warden's report received. **Decision:** Agreed to delay planting silver birch tree on Wardy Hill Green until April. **Action:** Add to March agenda to discuss funding.
- **Wardy Hill Social Club** - Chris Bullen to look at Parish Council minutes in the Cambridgeshire Archives to see if there is anything noted. Leaflet drop done in Wardy Hill. Still being advertised so hopefully will get correspondence.

25/009

Anglian Observatory

Communication sent advising agreement to support, subject to conditions agreed at previous meeting. Peter Ingram was ill over Christmas and stood down as Chair,. Peter Townrow is stepping down as Treasurer. Currently all on hold until we hear further. No further action.

25/010

Orchard

- Water tank: Cllr Laredo is meeting Phil Wenn on Wednesday to agree placement and how it will be sited. Volunteers to be sought for planting.
- Cllr Laredo advised low water in the pond, excess water should be feeding into the pond. She will discuss with Phil and check with Jamie Lowrie re electronics.
- Tree labels - £70 plus VAT (£84) to be paid from Orchard fund (covered by tree sponsors' donations. **Decision:** Approved.
- Chris Senior has offered to cut the hedges. Cllr Laredo will organise a volunteer day to 'come and learn to prune the trees' (Environment Agency have a volunteer day: we may get more volunteers). **Action:** Advertise date for volunteers.



25/110

Pond Project – update on plans and approval of expenditure

- **Decision:** Agreed to go ahead with pond dredging on basis of quoted costs. A further quote is required for monitoring of newts after work is carried out. Green Willows As-socs have offered to monitor the planting for free at a weekend.
- Licences – Conservation licences are free; application form requires completion. **Action:** Cllr Laredo to complete and forward to ecologies. Written approval for dumping of spoil is required from Feoffees, who will liaise with tenant.
- **Action:** Chair to check amount remaining in the CIL fund to confirm if there is sufficient to cover shortfall.
- Work on pathway to start w/c 20th Jan.

25/111

Planning

For information only.

24/01318/CLP - The Old Rectory 39 Main Street Coveney Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2DJ- Rear and side extension to a detached dwelling. No comment required: part of permitted development,

New application for comment:

24/00841/FUL – 8 Straight Drove, Coveney - ~Single storey extension to rear, porch canopy to front, replacement treatment system and associated works. Parish Council agreed to make no comment.

25/112

Finance

Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date.

- a) Payments for approval – Cllr Laredo's expenses have been categorised as Orchard when they are mostly for maintenance of playground. New clerk to review and rectify accordingly.
- b) Salary payments higher than usual due to Mrs Thompson's leaving pay

Decision: Payments approved.

a)

Meeting Ended: 20:32

25/114

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 10 February 2025, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall