



## **1. Chair's introduction**

### **Annual Report 2024/ 2025**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. It has been a busy and productive year for the council.

One of the biggest achievements this year is the pond regeneration which is covered later in this report.

We've also got a new Clerk, Kendle Hanslip who replaced Sandra Thompson who had been Clerk for over 15 years.

## **2. Councillors and Staff Councillors:**

Cllr Robert Langston – Chair – [Robert.langston@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:Robert.langston@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Cllr Naomi Laredo – Vice Chair – [naomi.laredo@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:naomi.laredo@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Cllr Jane Doig – Councillor – [Jane.doig@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:Jane.doig@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Cllr Nicki Gilbert – Councillor – [Nicki.gilbert@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:Nicki.gilbert@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Cllr Clare Hammond – Councillor – [Clare.hammond@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:Clare.hammond@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

## **Parish Staff :**

Miss Kendle Hanslip – Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

We still have two vacancies so if anyone would like to join the council please let the Clerk or one of the Councillors know.

## **3. Meetings and Attendance**

Number of meetings held : 12 Full Council meetings held (second Monday of the month) and 1 Parish Meeting of the Electorate (held this year in May)

## **4. Summary of other activities and achievements**

In addition to appointing a new Clerk, we've also been working on some of our systems, including using Google Docs for managing our documents, and Scribe for our accounting system and asset register. These provide a solid base on which to run the council.

We continue to contract our groundskeeper who maintains our green spaces between March and November.



And we have a regular programme of playground inspections in both Coveney and Wardy Hill, to identify any safety issues which might need dealing with.

---

## 5. Financial Report

- **Total income** - £34,740
  - **Total expenditure** - £27,787
  - **Financial challenges** – unexpected repairs to the mower costing around £2,500
  - **Key budget allocations** – Pond regeneration project and Community Orchard
  - **Grants received/ given** – we donated £120 for the Community Orchard bug hotel, £450 to the VH fireworks and £100 for Cambs Archives
- 

## 6. Planning and development in 2024

The Parish Council reviewed four planning applications, ensuring that proposed developments align with the needs and character of the parish. The council remains committed to carefully considering each application, taking into account the views of residents and the potential impact on the local environment and infrastructure.

We have also provided comments to our neighbouring parish in Witcham on their neighbourhood plan to ensure there are no adverse impacts on our parish.

Going forward, we may be affected by the local government reform which will combine the county and district councils. We are concerned that we don't lose the local knowledge of our councillors, and that we are not adversely affected by any changes to local planning priorities as a result. We are keeping this under review and as a local government body will be providing input to the process.

---

### Orchard

## 7. Environment and Community Initiatives

Planting in the orchard was completed early in 2024 and all the trees are doing well. A maintenance schedule has been followed of pruning and caring for the trees, trimming the hedges, mowing the meadow in spring and autumn and keeping the paths mown through the summer. A "bug hotel day" was held in the summer, when children and adults collaborated to build a bug hotel in a corner of the orchard. Nature worksheets, games and refreshments were provided, and Cambridgeshire Climate Action Network attended with a display.

### Allotments

The allotments are well used and during the year we've managed to let all vacant plots. At the time of writing only one was vacant and is again being used for the community pumpkin patch. The borehole pump has been restored to working order by a kind resident, and a large water



tank has been donated and is being installed to make the water supply more reliable and watering less laborious.

#### **Pond**

A grant of £7,500 from East Cambridgeshire District Council in 2023/24 enabled us to complete the first phase of our Coveney village pond regeneration project. This has involved building a gently sloping path to enable easy access to the pond; clearing weeds and scrub from the bank between road and pond and planting additional shrubs and native herbaceous plants; planting further trees and shrubs behind the pond; dredging the pond to remove excessive reed cover and silt (deposited on the adjacent field by kind permission of the Feoffees); acquiring a disabled-access picnic bench. Phase 2 (subject to further funding) will include installing the bench; repairing the jetty; creating a boardwalk or improving the path around the pond; possible further planting including bulbs.

#### **Coronation oak trees**

East Cambridgeshire District Council awarded us 10 oak saplings to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles in 2023. These were planted in 2024 in various locations around the parish and marked with plaques, forming a “Coronation oaks trail”. A map and guide to the trail is in preparation.

---

## **8. Future Plans and Priorities**

Some of our future plans include:

- Supporting any development of the Village Hall, including providing them with use of the land we purchased alongside the hall in the previous year.
- Making improvements to the MUGA, including renewal of the lighting
- Ongoing repairs to and replacements of play equipment in Wardy Hill and Coveney
- Utilising the new MVAS posts to monitor traffic speed in the parish.

As noted earlier, we will also need to engage with any new local government authority to make sure the needs of the parish continue to be represented.

---

As Chair, I would like to extend my thanks to the Parish Council and our new clerk for their dedication and hard work in keeping our parish functioning as well as it does.

## **9. Acknowledgements and Thanks**

I would also like to thank those who are not councillors but who provide support – including Miles Foster as our tree warden, and Chris Bullen who has been assisting us with the Wardy Hill Social Club.



---

## **10. Contact information**

Your time and commitment do not go unnoticed, and your efforts continue to make a real difference in the community.

Parish Clerk: Miss Kendle Hanslip

Email: [clerk@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Phone: 07840 795438

Website: [www.coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Social Media: Facebook – Coveney and Wardy Hill