



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Cllr Langston, Cllr Gilbert, Cllr Hammond, Cllr Doig, Cllr Laredo

Clerk: Miss K Hanslip

Members of the public: 0

Start 7:30pm

MINUTES

25/31 Welcome

25/32 To receive and accept apologies of absence – None

25/33 Councillor's Declarations of Interest

None

25/34 Public and Press Participation Session (15 minutes)

None

25/35 To receive County Councillor & District Councillor Report

Cllr Dupre

The County Council held its annual meeting on Tuesday 20 May. Lucy Nethsingha was re-elected as Leader of the Council, and I am now Deputy Leader of the Council. The meeting appointed Chairs and Vice Chairs of its committees, and representatives to some of its major partners. I am now Vice Chair of the Council's Strategy Resources & Partnership Committee, and the County Council's nominee to the Board of the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Nethsingha drew attention to the 'extraordinary challenges' of the rising number of older people needing social care and of children with special needs and disabilities. She said the new Liberal Democrat administration will 'make sure our council continues to be more caring, better connected and that Cambridgeshire continues to be a wonderful environment for all to thrive'.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Pressures ahead for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) NHS England has published what has been described as a 'draft blueprint of the future model of ICBs'. These local boards are responsible for planning, funding, and commissioning NHS services for their local populations. Spending per head by ICBs, which varies across the country from £49 to just under £21, will be cut to £18.76. Plans on how ICBs will meet this new target should have been submitted by 30 May. There will also be a shift in the functions of ICBs, including to neighbourhood health providers. Boards were told in March they must cut their running costs by around half by October 2025 and to focus on reducing duplication when making cuts. Health minister Karin Smyth recently revealed that no impact assessment had been conducted of the decision to reduce ICB running costs.

T12 Tiger route opens from Sutton to Longstanton P&R

It's something I've been lobbying for since 2017! On Tuesday 27 May the first bus left from outside One Stop at 7:32AM to take me to Longstanton Park & Ride. This

could be a fantastically useful service to local residents—it's basically a shuttle every hour-and-five-minutes. And of course from Longstanton P&R you can get the Guided Bus to Cambridge Regional College, Cambridge Science Park, Cambridge North station, Drummer Street / New Square for the city centre (save a fortune on parking in the Grand Arcade!), Cambridge station for Cambridge Leisure, Addenbrooke's, Trumpington, St Ives, Huntingdon and Hinchbrook.

<https://bustimes.org/services/t12-longstanton-park-ride-sutton>

A142 Mepal bridge closure

I have now been advised that the proposed maintenance works to Mepal bridge for four consecutive weekends will now not start until at least early August due to conflicting roadworks and diversions further afield in the county.

Footpath from Gravel End to Downham Hythe

Work on the long-closed footpath from Gravel End to Downham Hythe, which finally got under way some weeks ago, has been temporarily halted due to the presence of potential water vole activity. Four weeks of monitoring are taking place throughout May to determine whether there is in fact such activity. If not, work can resume. If yes, it will need to be postponed to the optimum working 'window' of September / October.

Cllr Bailey

Motion on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill

A motion was passed to instruct the Leader of the Council to write to Government and the MP outlining the Council's opposition to proposals in the planning and infrastructure bill, citing concerns about setbacks to community led development and the removal of Councillors to choose to debate and vote on specific developments.

The motion cited concerns that with Mayors being handed new powers for strategic planning and the ability to "call in" applications for determination, the prospect of larger more remote Councils in the future due to local government reorganisation, and the fact that Ministers lack the localised knowledge that Councils and Councillors have, the measures represent an erosion of local democracy and accountability.

The motion also called on the Operational Services Committee to do all it can to try to ensure mechanisms continue to exist for Councillors to express views on and determine applications related to their Ward, and to continue to encourage and support Parishes with creating and adopting Neighbourhood Plans.

Community Grants Open for Applications

Community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1,000, offered by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Groups can spend the money on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The Annual Meeting of the CPCA will be held on 4th June, followed by the first Board meeting of the new administration. Included on the Agenda are the development of a new Corporate Plan to recognise the manifesto pledges of the new Mayor, Paul Bristow; an update on the Local Growth Plan; and a paper about the Bus

Network. More details about the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=583>

Here are some of the things Paul has been up to in his first month as Mayor:

- Deleted the target to reduce car journeys by 15% by 2030
- Made the case to Government to upgrade the Ely junction that will connect our market towns and three cities by faster trains
- Asked the Government to take back administration of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub that helps virtually no one in Cambridgeshire
- Attended UKREiiF to promote Cambridgeshire as a place to invest
- Met with Huntingdonshire District Council and Peterborough City Council about free parking
- Launched a campaign to reopen Mill Road Bridge in Cambridge
- Met with partners, businesses, community groups and local residents

The Bereavement Centre at Mepal had been given the go-ahead by the District Council.

Local councils are also investigating three options for reorganising local government, one of which had East Cambs combined with South Cambs and Cambridge, while the other two put East Cambs with Fenland and Peterborough. All three could go forward to Government, which however doesn't have to accept any of them.

If anyone would like a copy of either report please contact the Clerk via email.

25/36 Approval of minutes

- 1 To approve minutes for signature from Monday 13th May 2025 **RESOLVED** accepted and signed minutes
- 2 Matters arising from the minutes – None
- 3 Clerk's report – No issues arising

25/37 Planning applications

- 1 25/00181/FUL - Site To North Of 4 Main Street Wardy Hill Cambridgeshire – 3 bedroom chalet dwelling **RESOLVED** Concern around the turning and parking outside the property

25/38 Progress on Planning Applications (For Information)

None

25/39 Council Administration Matters

- 1 To advise all councillors to update their registration of interest on the ECDC website **RESOLVED**
- 2 Community payback next steps to be discussed **RESOLVED** Clerk to complete paperwork and start the process
- 3 Update on correspondence received – yellow lines at School Lane **RESOLVED** waiting on further information from Local Highways
- 4 To discuss what the Community fund grant could be spent on **RESOLVED** Clerk to apply for grant and possible areas could be MUGA/ play area
- 5 To discuss what CIL money should be spent on **RESOLVED** £1,900 to be spent by June 26, areas to consider Wardy Hill play area new equipment.

25/40 Wardy Hill Social Club

- 1 To update the council on the Social Club status **RESOLVED** Clerk to contact Cambs Acre for advice on the next steps to take ownership of the social club

25/41 Recreational Areas

- 1 Update on Orchard – approve orchard maintenance purchases **RESOLVED** Clerk to find the best trolley to purchase from the Orchard fund
- 2 Update on Tree Wardens report and approve actions **RESOLVED** approved expenses and it would also be good to get Miles to advertise his expertise in the Parish. Clerk to liaise with Miles and get an article to publish. Working on other documents for the Biodiversity and management plan with Cllr Laredo
- 3 Update on Allotment **RESOLVED** Clerk to make contact with Lesley and build a rapport
- 4 Update on pond project **RESOLVED** Weeding needs to be organised. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Laredo on where to put the bench base and get quotes for this and the footpath
- 5 Agree to purchase mower spares **NO MOTION** it was decided not to purchase spares for the mower
- 6 To approve swing seat and bark for play areas **RESOLVED** Clerk to purchase bark but make sure it hasn't been treated and is safe for the play area. Clerk to purchase the swing seat for the Wardy Hill play park
- 7 LHI – to discuss the timetable and possible mirror on blind spot **RESOLVED** Clerk to find out the timetable and present to council

25/42 Finance matters

- 1 To approve June invoices for payment as per schedule **APPROVED**
- 2 To approve the council's financial position up until 31st May 2025 **APPROVED**
- 3 To approve the renewal of ICO membership for end of June **RESOLVED**
- 4 To note that the Clear Councils insurance has now been renewed **RESOLVED**

25/43 Date of Next Meeting

- 1 Monday 21st July 2025 – Full Council meeting

Close of meeting 09:00pm

Chairman: Cllr R Langston

Clerk/RFO – Miss K Hanslip, 60A Cannon Street, Little Downham CB6 2SS.

EMAIL: Clerk@coveneyparishcouncil.co.uk **TEL:** 07840 795438

Signed