



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 11 March 2024 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Adams, Cllr R Langston, Cllr N Laredo (Chairman), Cllr B Matthews, Cllr C Senior

Also present: 5 members of the public, Mrs S Thompson (The Clerk)

24/026 Apologies for absence

None, all present.

24/027 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None made.

24/028 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 12 February 2024 were approved for signature subject to the addition in 24/017 "Two residents interested in renting the grazing land attended to ask questions."

24/029 Public Question Time

The Groundskeeper reported on current conditions. Grasscutting is normally due to start this month. He has so far walked around to assess conditions. Wardy Hill Green is too wet to mow, it is also not dry enough to do any spraying. It is the same issues for Coveney, pond area is wet with deck underwater so will be some time before that dries out enough for mowing. Orchard usually has an initial cut all. Paths will be cut in due course. Spraying of the hemlock on the mound and brambles will be done when conditions allow. He noted that the mower does work very hard, probably towards the limits of its capabilities. It is not surprising that it requires work.

Mr Ingram (Anglian Observatory) reported that he has quotes for much of the equipment and concrete pads. Fencing is not required by the observatory. He requested that the Parish Council reconsider the issue of rent and asked if the grass cutting could be included in village maintenance.

It was reported that the barrier at the RSPB site in Wardy Hill is not working and is causing issues. The Clerk will report it to Mr Doktor at the Environment Agency.

24/030 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Dupré (CCC) and Cllr Bailey (ECDC) send apologies. Both have alternative commitments.

24/031 Reports

- a) Allotments – nothing reported
- b) Coveney Village Hall – Sue Scholey attended and introduced herself as the contact for the Village Hall Committee.
- c) Wardy Hill Social Club – Mr Border handed over the keys and all information for the Social Club. It was agreed that the Social Club is for the villagers of Wardy Hill and the aim is for it to continue for the residents of Wardy Hill. Mr Border



1482

would like all the banking and utilities be changed to the Parish Council as soon as is practically possible.

- d) Friends of Coveney – nothing to report.
- e) Connexions Newsletter – Items to be included in the next issue were agreed, including further consultation on the pond project. It was agreed to contribute the proportionate cost of the extra printing.
- f) Tree Warden including Christmas Tree and oak trees –
 - Mr Foster (Tree Warden) reported that there is a tree in the play area covered in ivy, he will cut back the ivy by half at the appropriate time to maintain the habitat value.
 - Cllr Laredo and Mr Foster have met with representatives from the Witchford Open Spaces Groups for a useful exchange of ideas.
 - It was agreed not to take forward the idea of planting a permanent Christmas tree.
 - Proposal - for an oak grove of min 6 max 10 oak trees, sited on the Bottom Field near the MUGA, as a coronation memorial to be planted now – voted against. Therefore, alternative sites for planting oak trees will be sought.
 - Mr Foster will draft a tree strategy in due course.

24/032

Planning

- a) To report refusal of the following application:- noted
23/00920/FUL – Commrocks Farm, Straight Drove, Coveney

Change of use of land for tourism including siting of railway carriage for use as 2no. holiday lets - Retrospective
- b) Local Heritage List – update – East Cambs have been working on this list and will be consulting the parish council before it is published.

24/033

Annual Parish Meeting

It was confirmed that the meeting will take place on 29 April 2024, 7.30pm, Coveney Village Hall. Speakers from Witchford Open Spaces Group. Clerk to invite all village groups and liaise with councillors on who else might be invited.

24/034

Vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors

There have been no applications.

24/035

Working Groups

- a) Allotment and Community Green Space
 - Borehole
 - o Pump – Cllr Senior has met with Stuart Hancocks on site and has received a quote for a pump solution .
 - o interim arrangements – efforts ongoing
 - Community Orchard
 - o Easter trail activity will take place
 - o Weeding – The Groundskeeper is aware that the hemlock will need to be sprayed.
 - Pond –
 - o Consultation – Cllr Senior has drafted a consultation to go out with the Connexions. The PC will donate a proportionate cost to the production of Connexions.
 - o Plans – will be refined after the consultation.



- Funding opportunities
- b) Policies and Procedures
 - Privacy Policy – next meeting
 - Delegation Scheme – next meeting
- c) Website – no issues reported
- d) Document management – no progress
- e) Assets
 - Grasscutting/Maintenance – Ernest Doe have sent an invoice for service and repair of the mower which is far in excess of the amount expected. The repair was carried out without specific approval as they had been phoning the wrong number. The invoice will be challenged. Cllr Matthews was authorised to contact Ernest Doe.
 - MUGA – lighting - ongoing
 - MUGA – Improvements- ongoing
 - Play Area Wardy Hill – Climbing frame repair has been completed
 - Wardy Hill – Noticeboard – replacement of Perspex
 - Streetlighting – Cllr Adams has talked to the residents at the triangle and they all want it lit.
 - Village Sign Brass Plaques – next meeting

24/036

Projects

- a) Grazing land in School Lane - It was agreed that the Clerk will forward details of all interested parties to the land agent for her to progress.
- b) Anglian Observatory – Mr Ingram gave an update in Public Question Time
- c) Land Adjacent to the Village Hall – The Clerk to contact Cllr Bailey to see if she can help move things along.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan – nothing to report
- e) Climate Action Plan – nothing to report
- f) HGV traffic - nothing to report

24/037

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

- 2023/24 – Feedback on scheme for traffic calming measures at Gravel End – Cllr Adams will be consulting residents in the area.

24/0238

Finance

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

Bank Reconciliation – 7 March 2024

Current Account	6,678.87	Brought Forward	37,472.78
Deposit Account	19,184.22	Income –	
	10,000.00		
Uncleared payments		(Expenditure)	(1,609.69)
	35,893.09		35,863.09

- b) Payments for approval
The following payments were authorised for payment, with the exception of the Ernest Doe payment which is to be challenged.

Payee	Detail	Ref	Amount
Miles Foster	Bulbs	251	95.80



1484

Veritas Water Engineers	Site Suvey Fee	252	168.00
Above Two payments are for retrospective approval			
Yu Energy	Streetlights	253DD	12.96
Yu Energy	Streetlights	254DD	14.96
Yu Energy	Streetlights	255DD	114.40
Right Fuelcard	Fuelcard	256DD	2.40
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership subscription	257	65.00
East Of England Apples	Orchard Trees	258	340.00
Red Shoes	Payroll services	259	46.80
NALC	Training	260	39.22
Ernest Doe	Mower service and repair	261	1,999.12
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk's salary and expenses	262	529.34
			3,164.20

24/039

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 8 April 2024, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting closed at 23.00