



1506

COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall for the purpose of transacting the following business

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

Also Present: Cllr L Dupré (CCC), Cllr A Bailey (ECDC), 3 members of the public, Mrs S Thompson (The Clerk)

24/140 Apologies for absence

Apologies were approved from Cllr Senior (work)

It was noted that Cllr Matthews has been absent for six meetings and is therefore no longer on the council. He was thanked for his enormous contribution to the council over many years.

24/141 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None made

24/142 Co-option to the Parish Council

Jane Doig was co-opted to the vacant position on the Parish Council.

24/143 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 14 October 2024 were approved for signature.

24/144 Public Question Time

Peter Ingram gave more information about the other people who are involved with the Anglian Observatory and/or offering support. Over 70 people attended Coveney to observe the Perseid meteor shower, a further 30 people attended a "Get to know your telescope" evening. He outlined the benefits that he sees a 25 year lease would give to Coveney. S106 funding has been agreed from ECDC subject to a 25 year lease. Peter Townrow gave further information on the educational need that has been discovered now that astronomy is included in GCSE science. A constitution has been created and there is now a bank account. The Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge will be offering speakers. Councillors were very pleased to hear about the progress.

24/145 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Dupré (CCC) has sent a report which has been circulated to councillors. She gave a verbal update.

Cllr Bailey (ECDC) gave a report.

- A new diagnostic centre at the Princess of Wales Hospital opened last week.
- There is a Net Zero grant scheme now available
- There is a big push for those eligible to apply for pension credits and therefore qualify for winter fuel payments
- Housing support fund is continuing.
- Housing register is now being run from the District Council, no longer Sanctuary.
- Demand responsive transportation is not coming just yet.



- 24/146 Correspondence**
Cambs Acre has responded to on Wardy Hill Social Club, this is to be reported to Councillors.
- 24/147 Update on actions from previous meetings (for information only)**
Ongoing items
- Query with external auditor
 - 20mph speed consultation
 - Mower sale
 - Telephone box sale/disposal
 - Coronation oaks map and leaflets
 - Play equipment checklist update
 - Wardy Hill Social Club – seek information about ownership
 - Feoffees – write about Cllr Langston attendance at the meeting and disposal of pond waste
- 24/148 Budget and Precept 2025/26**
Cllr Langston has drafted a budget proposal. It was agreed to set the precept at £20,100.
- 24/149 Pond Project**
Planting plan consultation, Cllr Senior will help get a visual plan drawn up. Contractor for the path has indicated he will be on site in February but not yet confirmed. Further information has been sought in regards great crested newts but no way forward has yet been identified.
- 24/150 Tree Warden October report**
It was agreed in principle to approve planting of silver birch and cowslips as long as proper consultation is evidenced and a grant is obtained to cover the cost. The Tree Warden was authorised to make an application to the Pride of Place grant scheme.
- 24/151 Community Payback scheme**
A general discussion took place. There are concerns about who provides equipment and risk assessments. Suggested tasks could include hand weeding the orchard boundary, litter picking verges, help in clearing the pond. Cllr Laredo will feedback,
- 24/152 Bus Franchising Consultation**
Cllr Langston has drafted a response which has been circulated and it was approved for submission.
- 24/153 Streetlights**
It was reported that 3 streetlights in Coveney are in need of repair (PC6 and 2 in Gravel End).
The fixed price contract for the energy supply finishes at the end of January 2025. The Clerk has used Clear Utility Solutions, a service recommended by CAPALC, to find the best deal. They recommend a 36 month deal with Tomato at an estimated cost of £1,206.52 a year.
- 24/154 Finance**
a) Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date were presented.



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b) Payments for approval – The following payments were authorised.

£15.57	Electricity	Yu Energy	338
£106.91	Electricity	Yu Energy	339
£13.72	Electricity	Yu Energy	340
£180.00	Orchard	Nigel Pate	345
£30.00	Groundskeeping	Right Fuelcard	342
£150.00	Administration	Society Of Local Council Clerks	343
£519.00	Administration	Sandra Thompson	344
£51.99	Administration	Sandra Thompson	344b
£509.16	Fireworks	Dynamic Fireworks	345

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Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 9 December 2024, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 21.15