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COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 12 February 2024 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall for the purpose of transacting the following business

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

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

24/014 Apologies for absence

Apologies were approved from Cllr Matthews.

24/015 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None made.

24/016 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 8 January 2024 were approved for signature.

24/017 Public Question Time

A resident enquired on the status of Wardy Hill Social Club.

It was reported that there are ruts caused by delivery vehicles on the Green in Wardy Hill. Neighbours are kindly going to repair the damage.

It was reported that there is a low branch on a chestnut tree on the Green in Wardy Hill, that is blocking the view of traffic, residents have offered to remove it.

Two residents interested in renting the grazing land attended to ask questions.

24/018 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Bailey (ECDC) reported:

- separate food waste collection will be forthcoming but probably not until 2026
- Full Council meeting will take place next week
- Reach are bringing forward their Neighbourhood Plan
- Bereavement Centre will be recommended for approval.
- Extension of loan agreement with East Cambs Trading Co has been approved
- A council tax freeze is recommended
- The Combined Authority have agreed a precept for bus services
- Finance and Assets committee have approved funding for a new GP surgery building in Stretham
- Some extra funding from Government has been allocated to councils with Internal Drainage Boards in their area
- Silver accreditation for Investors in the Environment achieved.

Cllr Dupré (CCC) has sent a written report. She gave an update.

- Cyclical gully cleaning is taking place with Coveney and Wardy Hill currently due at end of Feb/early March.
- Shire Hall is back on the market.
- Crucified skeleton found in Fenstanton is on display in the British Museum.
- A new Highways Officer is in the process of being appointed and Cllr Dupre will provide contact details to the Clerk.



24/019

Reports

- a) Allotments – no applications for the vacant plot have been received, therefore, it was agreed that Chris Warner is authorised to organise a community pumpkin patch on the vacant plot.
- b) Coveney Village Hall – nothing new to report
- c) Wardy Hill Social Club – The Clerk has written to Mr and Mrs Border and they have agreed to hand over the keys. It was hoped that would happen tonight. The Clerk will write to try and arrange a date for handover.
- d) Friends of Coveney – Tree and hedge planting completed in the orchard. Responses to Cllr Laredo's proposal for managing the Friends have been received, but neither the Village Hall nor church has nominated a representative to the committee.
- e) Connexions Newsletter – It is possible that the newsletter could expand and it was confirmed that in theory the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute financially, details to be agreed in due course.
- f) Tree Warden including Christmas Tree and oak trees – Mr Foster is liaising with FWAG. 300 bulbs have been planted in Wardy Hill Green. The idea of a permanent Christmas tree, possibly sited on the Pond area in Coveney, was discussed. There are issues around whether that would be a suitable site, whether there is an alternative site, what variety of tree would be suitable. or continue with a fresh tree each year. No decision was made. Mr Foster has applied for 6 oak trees from the East Cambs Coronation Oak scheme. He handed over a more detailed version of his proposal for planting a Coronation Oak grove on the Bottom Field.

24/020

Vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors

No applications have been received.

24/021

Working Groups

(the order of priority was agreed to provide better focus)

- a) Allotment and Community Green Space
 - Borehole – *Priority 2* – it was agreed to engage Stuart Hancock £140 + VAT to provide a quote for installation of a pump. A manual pump will not be pursued as it is not a cheap option.
 - Community Orchard - 12 new trees and 150 replacement hedging whips have been planted
 - Pond – *Priority 1* – The three stages of the project are, detailed consultation, hard landscaping then planting. Cllrs Senior and Langston will create a consultation. It will go out with the next Connexions newsletter, it will be put on the website and promoted through all social media channels possible.
 - Bulb and Wild Flower Planting - completed
- b) Policies and Procedures
 - Privacy Policy - ongoing
 - Delegation Scheme - ongoing
- c) Website – nothing to report
- d) Document management – no progress to report
- e) Assets
 - Grasscutting/Maintenance – The Groundskeeper is to be invited to next meeting as it is the start of the season.
 - MUGA – lighting – *Priority 4* – quotes to be pursued by the Clerk.



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- MUGA – Improvements – feedback from the children at Witchford Village College has been received. Cllr Laredo has started putting the information in a spreadsheet.
- Play Area Wardy Hill – Climbing frame repair – Cllr Laredo has replaced the broken part.
- Wardy Hill – Noticeboard – replacement of Perspex. The Clerk has contacted a handyman.
- Streetlighting – The Clerk will report the 2 broken/damaged lights at the top of School Lane and also PC8 in Wardy Hill
- Village Sign Brass Plaques – next meeting

24/022

Projects

- a) Grazing land in School Lane - Priority 3 – The Clerk is to contact the people who are interested with the details. The Clerk will get quotes for installation of a gate and will get the draft contract from the land agent for approval at the next meeting.
- b) Anglian Observatory – Cllr Adams has updated the details in the draft agreement. There will probably be little further progress until Anglian Observatory get their funding organised.
- c) Land Adjacent to the Village Hall – Sanctuary have now asked for a £500 administration fee which was not part of the original agreement. The Clerk has instructed the solicitor to push back on this.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan – no progress and not a priority so will not be progressed for the time being
- e) Climate Action Plan – no progress and not a priority so will not be progressed for the time being
- f) HGV traffic – no progress and not a priority so will not be progressed for the time being

24/023

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

- 2023/24 – Feedback on scheme for traffic calming measures at Gravel End received from Highways Department. Cllr Adams has offered to consult with the residents.

24/024

Finance

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

Bank Reconciliation – 31 January 2024

Current Account	8,288.56	Brought Forward	40,564.43
Deposit Account	19,184.22 10,000.00	Income – Bank Interest	84.20
Uncleared payments		(Expenditure)	(3,175.85)
	37,472.78		37,472.78



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b) Payments for approval – The following payments were approved for payment

Payee	Detail	Ref	Amount
Yu Energy	Streetlighting	243DD	13.94
Yu Energy	Streetlighting	244DD	133.24
Yu Energy	streetlighting	245DD	16.39
Right Fuelcard	Fuelcard	246DD	2.40
CAPALC	Training	247	40.00
Mrs N Laredo	Expenses – re MUGA consultation	248	27.98
Starboard Systems	Scribe Subscription	249	489.60
Mrs S Thomspen	Salary and expenses	250	622.34
			1,345.89

24/025

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 11 March 2024, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting closed at 22.25