



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 14 October 2024 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Langston (Chairman), Cllr N Lardo, Cllr C Senior

Also Present: 2 members of the public, Cllr L Dupré, Mrs S Thompson (Clerk)

24/125 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs N Gilbert, Cllr C Hammond and Cllr B Matthews.

24/126 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None Made

24/127 Co-option to the Parish Council

Moved to the next meeting

24/128 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 9 September 2024 were approved.

24/129 Public Question Time

For members of the public to comment on items on the agenda

The Groundskeeper gave an update on the season. There was a late start due to wet weather, but that did give opportunity to get chemical store set up correctly. It has also been wet lately. Fenland Spirit have taken over the maintenance of the equipment. They are a small operation and very helpful, but will not have space to store the trailer over winter. They recommend using a better quality fuel, which they can supply, for the strimmer to improve performance, and the more expensive E10 fuel for the mower. Now at the end of the season, Wardy Hill has had the last cut and Coveney will have one more cut. There is some spraying to be done for the year end and then drop off the mower for service. The Groundskeeper will also trim off low hanging branches from chestnut tree on Wardy Hill Green to enable the mower to go underneath safely. He was asked to check if it is possible to cut the orchard one more time. It was noted that there are moles in both Coveney and Wardy Hill. Pat was thanked for his hard work.

24/130 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Bailey has sent her apologies.

Cllr Dupré has sent her regular written report. She reported on the replacement of the bridge on Footpath 3, Gravel End to Downham Hythe. The tender process has not been successful and Cllr Dupré is continuing to push for a solution. Work on Byway 12 was scheduled to have been completed.



24/131

Correspondence

A resident has reported a fence encroaching on the drove in the Hale Fen area. The spot was identified on the map as being in Witcham Parish and the resident will be advised accordingly.

24/132

Update on actions from previous meetings

Actions were reviewed.

24/133

External Audit Report

The report has been received and the completion of audit has been posted on the website. The Clerk will query the point about which statement the internal auditor actually responded "no" to.

24/134

Pond – update on pond works

- ECDC have given advice from their Ecologist who advises that Great Crested Newts and voles are likely to be present and therefore a licence would be needed to dredge the pond. It was agreed not to proceed with this for the time being.
- It was agreed to proceed with the hoggin path in accordance with the quotation from Whatley Landscaping with wood edge option.
- A planting plan is being developed and will be publicised.
- The first phase of planting will cost £500 and was approved. Cllr Laredo will proceed with ordering.

The Groundskeeper gave his report earlier in the meeting. It was agreed to review the contract at the next meeting to bring it up to date to reflect changes that have taken place. It was further agreed to undertake a tender process next year.

24/136

Bus Franchising Consultation

Cllr Langston will follow up on this and respond appropriately

24/137

Budget 2025/26

It was confirmed that the precept request has to be confirmed in early January. Therefore, the budget for 2025/26 has to be finalised in the December meeting. Councillors are asked to consider anything that needs to be included. Background information on Band D properties and the number of properties would be helpful to understand the impact on the final bills.

24/138

Finance

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

b) Payments for approval – the following payments were approved for signature.

Ref	Description	Supplier	Net
335	Salary	Sandra Thompson	519.00
336	Administration	Sandra Thompson	48.84
338	Audit	PKF Littlejohn LLP	252.00
327	Electricity	Yu Energy	98.87
328	Electricity	Yu Energy	13.29
329	Electricity	Yu Energy	14.93



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332	Trees	Cutting Edge Craft Studio	46.00
333	Village Improvement	K&M Lighting Services Ltd	96.00
334	Groundskeeping	Pat Whetton	568.88
337	Administration	Claire Langston	11.00
330	Fuel	Right Fuelcard	46.97
331	Groundskeeping	Fenland Spirit Services Ltd	106.17
334	Groundskeeping	Pat Whetton	44.10
Total			1,878.88

24/139

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 11 November 2024, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.30pm