



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Adams, Cllr N Laredo (Chairman), Cllr B Matthews

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

24/040 Apologies for absence

Apologies were approved from Cllr Langston and Cllr Senior.

24/050 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None made.

24/051 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 11 March 2024 were approved and signed.

24/052 Public Question Time

No comments raised.

24/053 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Bailey (ECDC) reported

- by election in Ely West tomorrow and Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 2 May.
- a huge amount of correspondence received about the introduction of 20 mph speed limit in Ely, lots of residents were unaware and are unhappy about the implementation
- Combined authority – Littleport No 9 bus reduced from 10 a day to 3. Quick tendering has increased this to 6, pushing hard for a further bus. Nature Recovery Strategy has been delayed.
- Biodiversity net gain of at least 10% is now live. Has to be on site if possible.
- Waste – weekly food collection service will be introduced from 2026, also looking to bring in black wheelie bins. ECDC is 25th in the country for recycling.
- Will be going out to consultation for a hedgehog supplementary planning document.
- Target of planting 75 oak trees has been achieved.
- There is a small pot of money available to print village footpath maps.

Cllr Dupré (CCC) updated her report previously circulated.

- Wisbech incinerator - Fenland DC has launched a judicial review.
- Household support fund – government is extending it for 6 months but not a full year.
- Highways Officer will be in post next month.
- Sunnica solar farm deadline for a decision has been moved to June.
- Fens Reservoir – Anglian Water are gearing up for the first consultation.

24/054 Reports



- a) Allotments – nothing to report
- b) Coveney Village Hall – AGM is tomorrow. A recent maintenance day was successful and the bar will be revamped this coming weekend.
- c) Wardy Hill Social Club – CIC application will be progressed when Cllr Langston is available.
- d) Friends of Coveney – apple trees have been pruned.
- e) Connexions Newsletter – nothing this month
- f) Tree Warden – Daffodils are looking lovely in Wardy Hill Green. The Tree Warden is keen to forge links with landowners. He will be drawing up a map of valuable habitats in the parish and is working on a tree planting strategy. It was agreed to authorise the Tree Warden to contact Witcham Parish Council to liaise on tree planting. He has identified possible sites for planting the coronation oaks.
- g) Barrier at Byall Fen site – nothing to report

24/055 Annual Parish Meeting (29 April 2024)

Cllr Laredo will confirm details with Witchford Open Spaces representatives. The Clerk will put the details on the website and noticeboards and Cllr Laredo will post to the Whats App village group.

24/056 Vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors

No applications have been received. Cllr Laredo has sent an advert for inclusion in the Little Downham parish magazine.

24/057 Working Groups (for updates and decisions)

- a) Allotment and Community Green Space
 - Borehole
 - o pump – nothing to report
 - o interim arrangements – Cllr Adams has agreement to borrow a bowser from a resident and neighbours have offered to fill it.
 - Community Orchard
 - o Easter trail activity
 - Pond – Ongoing
 - o Consultation – Cllr Laredo will respond to comments received from a resident
 - o Plans – Cllr Laredo has briefed a garden designer and a landscaper and their quotations are awaited. Excess reed growth needs removing from the pond, ideally before other work starts. The Feoffees may help to dispose of it. Cllr Laredo will follow up.
 - o Funding opportunities – more quotations are required in order to apply for grants
- b) Policies and Procedures – delayed until next meeting
 - Privacy Policy
 - Delegation Scheme
 - Debit card arrangements
- c) Website – nothing to report
- d) Document management – gmail has been set up. Clerk will liaise with Cllr Langston
- e) Assets
 - Grasscutting/Maintenance - It was agreed to settle the Ernest Doe invoice with the offered 15% discount. Cllr Matthews will liaise with the Groundskeeper
 - MUGA – lighting- nothing to report



- MUGA – Improvements – nothing to report
- Wardy Hill – Noticeboard – replacement of Perspex – nothing to report
- Streetlighting – nothing to report
- Village Sign Brass Plaques – nothing to report

24/058

Projects

- a) Grazing land in School Lane - It was agreed for the Clerk to purchase two padlocks and chains to secure any potential access from the top field. It was agreed to accept the quote from Frog End Fencing (£821.42) to install a gate. It was confirmed that the land is available as seen, there is no water and the fencing will not be improved. Cllr Laredo will liaise with the agent.
- b) Anglian Observatory – Cllrs Adams and Matthews will prepare a letter to inform and liaise with residents in School Lane.
- c) Land Adjacent to the Village Hall Completion – the completion statement of costs has been received and it was agreed to transfer the funds (£1,286.00) to allow completion to be finalised.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan – nothing to report
- e) Climate Action Plan – nothing to report

24/059

Local Highways Improvement Scheme – delayed until next meeting

- 2023/24 – Feedback on scheme for traffic calming measures at Gravel End

24/060

Finance

- a) Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date - noted
- b) Payments were approved as per attached report.

24/061

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 13 May 2024, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting closed at 10.05