



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

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

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

24/001 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Senior were approved.

24/002 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None made.

24/003 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Adjustments were agreed to the minutes of 11 December 2023 which were then approved for signature.

24/004 Public Question Time

Cllr Adams raised concerns by villagers that the top end of School Lane at the intersection with Main Street is very dark at night, making it feel less safe to walk there.

24/005 District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Bailey (ECDC) – Reported that the final business case for crematorium is coming to committee later this month. CCC have agreed to go ahead with the 20mph speed limit in Ely. Cllr Bailey recommended that the Parish Council considers creating a Neighbourhood Plan in advance of ECDC starting renewal of its Local Plan in late 2024. Following an email exchange in which councillors expressed disappointment at the handling of the planning application for 26 Main Street, Coveney, Cllr Bailey gave information that she would not normally follow each planning application as they are so numerous and that if a Parish Council wants her to call in an application then she needs to be contacted directly.

Cllr Dupré (CCC) has sent her report and gave an update on flooding issues since Storm Henk which has affected some properties in her area, but none in Coveney. Her advice was requested on how to go about installation of a new streetlight if that was required.

24/006 Reports

- a) Allotments – nothing to report.
- b) Coveney Village Hall – Cllr Laredo has been in touch with the Village Hall on a number of issues including a living Christmas tree.
- c) Wardy Hill Social Club – The Clerk will follow this up by writing to Mr Border.
- d) Friends of Coveney – Cllr Laredo has circulated a proposal for the future management of the Friends.. Feedback is ongoing. Cllr Laredo has received the



donation of 3200 bulbs to be planted, currently volunteers are still needed to do this.

- e) Connexions Newsletter – will be out very soon.
- f) Tree Warden – Mr Foster. Tree Warden, introduced himself to the meeting. He has signed up with the Tree Council and is feeling his way into the role. Early thoughts include a living Christmas tree. He is interested in ideas for positions to plant trees. He is also keen to reach out to farmers and the whole community. Planting of new hedges and encouraging existing hedges is an interest. Identifying hedgerow trees is also important. It was agreed to authorise Mr Foster (as Tree Warden) to attend the CAPALC Biodiversity training on 18 January 2024, at a cost of £40. It was also noted the ECDC have a programme to donate oak trees for planting this year.

24/007**Planning**

To report approval of the following applications:

21/01196/FUL – 26 Main Street, Coveney – Construction of three detached dwellings and associated works, provision of parking, and private amenity space - noted

24/008**Vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors**

There has not been a request for a poll, therefore, the vacancies can be filled by co-option. This will be advertised on the website and noticeboards.

24/009**Working Groups (for updates and decisions)**

- a) Allotment and Community Green Space
 - Borehole – The grant application to the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund was submitted as three costings were forthcoming. It was not necessary to pay the up-front fee requested by one company for a quote. Manual pump – no progress report.
 - Community Orchard - Tree guards and stakes are to be ordered by the Clerk. Delivery of trees and hedging is anticipated shortly.
 - Pond – Pride of Place – Project needs to be progressed. Next step is consultation on the detailed plan.
 - Bulb and Wild Flower Planting – nothing further to report
- b) Policies and Procedures
 - Privacy Policy – Cllr Adams will review
 - Delegation Scheme – nothing to report
- c) Website – Cllr Langston has drafted some pages on community assets and will circulate them for comment
- d) Document management- Cllr Langston has investigated possibilities and it was agreed that Google drive is the most effective and cost efficient way forward to share documents. The Clerk will set up the necessary structure.
- e) Assets
 - Grasscutting/Maintenance – it was confirmed that the dead branch on Wardy Hill Green has been dealt with. Ernest Doe have the mower for servicing and will be sending a quote for additional work required.
 - MUGA – lighting – quote still awaited
 - MUGA – Improvements - Cllr Laredo is meeting Lizzi Wales on Wednesday and will ask her about other potential sources of funding.
 - Play Area, Coveney – Repairs – completed. The bark is still needing to be spread. It was agreed for Cllr Adams to use Whats App to offer £20 to anyone to spread the bark
 - Play Area Wardy Hill – Climbing frame repair - outstanding



- Wardy Hill – Noticeboard – replacement of Perspex – outstanding

24/010

Projects

- a) Grazing land in School Lane - Cllr Langston will put availability in Connexions and on the website.
- b) Anglian Observatory - Cllr Adams has prepared a document to be the basis for an agreement between Anglian Observatory and the Parish Council. It was discussed and amendments were made. Cllr Adams will circulate the updated document.
- c) Land Adjacent to the Village Hall – The Clerk will ask Maggie Camp at ECDC if she can help move things to a completion.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan – postponed to a later meeting
- e) Climate Action Plan – postponed to a later meeting
- f) Tree Planting Strategy – Miles Foster will be looking for suitable locations as part of his role as Tree Warden.
- g) HGV traffic - ongoing

24/011

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

- 2023/24 – The Clerk is still in discussion with the Highways Officer about the plans for traffic calming at the Gravel End corner.
- 2024/25 – It was agreed to submit an application for six dedicated posts for the MVA signs (locations to be agreed in discussions with Highways).

24/012

Finance

- a) Confirmation of appointment of Internal Auditor (CAPALC) – It was agreed to confirm the appointment of CAPALC as the Internal Auditor.
- b) Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date were provided.

Bank Reconciliation – 31 December 2023

Current Account	12,424.41	Brought Forward	35,816.47
Deposit Account	19,100.02 10,000.00	Income – Pride of Place	7,500.00
Uncleared payments	(960.00)	(Expenditure)	(2,752.04)
	40,564.43		40,564.43

- c) Payments for approval – the following payments were approved.

Payee	Detail	Ref	Amount
Yu Energy	Streetlighting	234DD	124.57
Yu Energy	Streetlighting	235DD	13.87
Yu Energy	Streetlighting	236DD	16.12
Right Fuelcard	Fuelcard	237DD	2.40
CPRE	Subscription	238	36.00
Online Playgrouonds	Play area repairs	239	1,370.40



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Ward Gethin Archer	Legal Fees	240	720.00
Starboard Systems	Scribe Accounting	241	360.00
Mrs S Thompson	Clerk's salary and expenses	242	532.49
			3,175.85

24/013

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 12 February 2024, 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting closed at 22.30