



COVENEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Also Present: 1 member of the public, Mrs S Thompson (The Clerk)

24/096 Apologies for absence

Apologies were approved from Cllr Matthews.

24/097 Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None Made

24/098 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 20 May and 10 June 2024 were approved and signed.

24/099 Public Question Time

Peter Townrow, Treasurer of Anglian Observatory introduced himself. There has been a lot of work on the formalities of setting up a legal entity, constitution and bank account. Now working on gathering funds. Looking at S106 application which requires evidence of Parish Council support. Cllr Langston noted that the Council had previously given support in principle but still need to approve the arrangements in detail. The Clerk will locate the minute that refers to this approval and send to Mr Townrow.

24/100 District and County Councillors' Reports

Both Councillors send their apologies but are available to be contacted with any issues.

Cllr Dupré sent a report that progress is being made to replace the footbridge on the footpath from Gravel End to Downham Hythe. The design package will be finalised after ground investigations have taken place.

24/101 Reports

Tree Warden – Report was noted and it was agreed to approve the costs of plaques as proposed (approximately £50 in total). Cllr Laredo will inform the Tree Warden.

The groundskeeper has requested that some low branches were cut from a tree on Wardy Hill Green. The Tree Warden advised that this should be done in the winter, and Cllr Langston agreed to report this back to the groundskeeper.

24/102 Internal Audit Report

The report has been circulated to all councillors and the points raised noted. The Clerk will ensure that the Dispensation Policy is drafted. The process was efficient



1498

and rigorous and the Clerk recommends continuing with CAPALC who will likely send a different individual to carry out the audit next year.

24/103

Pond – to agree next steps

The results of the consultation have been summarised and the priorities identified are for natural planting and increased access. It was agreed that the reeds should be pulled from the pond, a new path established to the pond and natural planting around the edge.

Cllr Senior will contact Lucy Jenkins from FWAG to get advice on the pond reeds and suitable plants.

In due course the feoffees will be asked if the reeds can be deposited on their field, and the overflow pipe checked.

The Clerk reminded councillors that a quote of £3,600 had been received for the path, which would leave £3,900 from the Pride of Place grant for planting and reed removal.

24/104

Playground Inspection

The Clerk is preparing a checklist which will be completed shortly. Councillors will complete the checks before the next meeting when a frequency for checks will be agreed. The Clerk will check the requirements of the insurer for regularity of inspections.

24/105

Parish Council vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies and it is possible that there may be further vacancies in the coming months. Councillors discussed potential candidates to co-opt and will have conversations with those candidates to encourage them to put their names forward.

24/106

Responsibility for allotment / orchard borehole

A resident, Jamie Lowrie, has got the borehole working and is happy to continue refining the system. A black tank will be needed to provide water pressure and prevent bacteria build up and still may need to be purchased (this has already been approved by the Parish Council). Cllr Laredo will continue to liaise with Mr Lowrie and ask him to speak to Phil Wenn on behalf of the allotment holders. The Clerk will send the grateful thanks of the Parish Council to Mr Lowrie.

24/107

Finance

- a) Monthly income and expenditure, financial reconciliation and budgetary control reports for the year to date were received
- b) Payments for approval
The following payments were approved. It was agreed to cancel the Council's subscription to the War Memorials Trust.

38	£88.71	Electricity	Yu Energy	300
39	£13.29	Electricity	Yu Energy	300
40	£14.58	Electricity	Yu Energy	301
41	£86.69	Fuel	Right Fuelcard	302
42	£100.00	Administration	Mr K Tither	303



1499

43	£0.00	Administration	War Memorials Trust	304
44	£50.60	Allotment	Littleport and Downham Internal Drainage Board	305
45	£117.41	Trees	Miles Foster	306
46	£78.75	Audit	CAPALC	307
47	£197.16	Administration	Brown and Co	308
48	£519.00	Salary	Sandra Thompson	309
49	£59.89	Administration	Sandra Thompson	309b
50	£568.88	Groundskeeping	Pat Whitton	310

24/108

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 12 August 2024 7.30pm in Coveney Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 9.05pm