

COVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of The Joint Parish Councils of Covenham St Bartholomew and Covenham St Mary which took place on Friday 20th January 2017 at 6.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Main Road, Covenham St Bartholomew

Prior to the meeting a meeting to interview, David Tall (retired Carpenter and Joiner) residing at The Annexe, The Orchards, Newbridge Lane, Covenham St Mary and Chris Denny (Retired Police Officer) The Orchards, Newbridge Lane, Covenham St Mary as prospective co-opted Parish Councillors took place.

AGENDA

- 1 The Parish Council discussed the prospective co-opted councillors following the interview. Cllr Emma Cooling proposed that both prospective councillors should be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Steve Beasley. Both new co-opted councillors were asked to join the meeting and formal welcome to the Parish given by the Chairman.
- 2 Appointment of Clerk for the meeting – Cllr Emma Cooling offered
- 3 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Lee Daniels, Amanda Daniels, Cllr Jerry Fields, Cllr Nicky Gulley-Brown, Cllr Colin Brader, David Buckley ELDC and Cllr Daniel McNally LCC.
- 4 Declaration of interest – The Chairman declared an interest on any planning matters.
- 5 It was decided to approve the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 30th October 2016, Wednesday 16th November and the Extra-Ordinary meeting on Friday 2nd December 2016 at the next meeting.
- 6 Chairman's update:
 - Resignation of Ian Fazakeley – This was received on Thursday 19th January 2017. Cllr Emma Cooling in her capacity of acting Clerk to confirm receipt of the resignation.
 - The Chairman apologised for the lateness of the meeting but this was due to medical advice.
 - The update of the Standing and Financial Orders to take place by the February 2017 meeting.
 - The Chairman explained that the delay on approving the minutes of previous meetings was due to not being able to open the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd of October 2016. Cllr Aldridge to contact Cllr Gulley Brown.
 - The Chairman gave thanks to all the people involved in putting up and taking down the Village Christmas Tree.
- 7 Open Forum – No County or District Councillors present and no members of the public present.
8. The Chairman reminded the councillors of the Code of Conduct and behaviour at Parish Council meetings and possible sanctions. The Chairman expressed his disappointment in the behaviour of a small number of parish councillors at the meeting on the 25th November 2016 and the embarrassment caused to prospective Councillors. The Chairman explained that in his capacity of Acting Clerk he had contacted Alex Strickland the Monitoring Officer to report the conduct.
9. A Financial update was given. The accounts are healthy, but a number of items of expenditure are required. A number of items were suggested :
 - Appointment and payment of a Parish Council Clerk

- The roof on the Parish Rooms to be inspected.
- Lights to be cleaned in the main hall
- Windows inspected and possible replacements required
- Maintenance of the 2 church yards
- Inspection and possible preventative measures of the trees in the church yards.
- The floor in the entrance hall
- Decoration of the interior of the Parish rooms

These items listed above to be discussed at the next parish Council meeting.

The payment of the work undertaken on the Church Yards was agreed. Cllr Denny proposed the payment and Cllr Tall seconded it.

10. Setting of the Parish precept for 2017-2018 – This was discussed and Cllr Beasley proposed that the precept amount was to remain the same as last year. Cllr Denny seconded it and all were in agreement.
11. A review of the use of the Parish rooms and charges – A number of Villagers have raised a query about the use of the Covenham Community Hub's use of the Parish rooms for free. The Parish Rooms is hireable but is free to charities. It was decided that the Hub is not a Charity. Cllr Denny proposed that the hire of the Parish Rooms is chargeable except for registered charitable organisations. Also that the Covenham Community Hub can hold meetings in the Parish rooms for free. This was seconded by Cllr Beasley. All were in agreement.
12. Website Development – The village must have a dedicated website which is managed by Lincolnshire County Council by April 2017. Chairman to investigate this further and bring an update to the next meeting. The Chairman asked all Councillors in the meantime to look at North Thoresby's Parish Council website to gain an insight into the format required.
13. Planning application update – Motley Birketts Lane; refused. Outline permission for 3 houses on Coldharbour Lane; Glebe Cottage gone to Appeal.
14. The Chairman is to take advice from LALC regarding the Job Description for the Parish Clerk and Responsible Officer to ensure it is in line with current regulations.
15. The Chairman to contact Jenny Ballantyne regarding the Eleemosyary Charity to obtain an update.
16. The meeting closed at 7.50pm
17. The date of the next meeting to occur between the 20th- 25th February 2017. The Chairman to confirm.