

COVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 11th December 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Public Forum including outside bodies. No members of the public joined the meeting.

1. ELDC Ward Member – Cllr Mossop reported the following:

- Haiths Farm consultation extended since receipt of the drainage strategy. Decision is expected by the new year through delegated power.
- He is waiting for a decision from ELDC regarding his request for The Plough planning application to be called in and was interested in the Parish Council's comments.
- There is uncertainty which tier East Lindsey will be when the government reviews the Covid restrictions next week.
- He reported that Covenham should also receive the Local Restrictions Support Grant due to the second lockdown.

2. LCC Ward Member – Cllr Bridges sent his apologies. There is an LCC Council meeting. He reported that there were no Highways Officer available to speak to but will try again next week and report back to the Clerk.

3. Louth Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team – Beat Manager Rich Precious joined the meeting and reported the following:

- Louth Town and Louth Rural teams have merged. And despite the shortfall of officers, the team has been recognised as a good team and the two PCSOs have been remarkable.
- There is no concern on criminality in the local area. Dwelling burglaries have gone down from last year and a number of those responsible have been apprehended.
- There was an anti-social incident involving fireworks at Covenham Reservoir but was deemed to be minor.
- The main priority is rural crime including glamping and poaching. There is targeted policing at identified areas. With help for air support they have arrested two men for poaching and a vehicle and dogs were taken.

There were no questions from the Council. The Chairman thanked PC Precious and the policing team for their work. PC Precious left the meeting at 7:26pm.

12/20-1 Record of Members Present and Apologies.

Present: Cllr Emma Cooling (EC) (Chairman), Cllr Don Wiltshire (DW), Cllr Alyson Wiltshire (AW), Cllr John Firth (JF), Cllr Gareth Smith (GS) and Cllr Anne McCready

Also present: Cllr Edward Mossop (ELDC Ward Member) and Mrs Nadine Must (Parish Clerk/RFO),

12/20-2 To receive any Declarations of Interest on any item on the agenda – Cllr GS declared his interest on items 12/20-8a and 12/20-9b and did not participate in the discussions.

12/20-3 Minutes from 23rd October 2020 – It was resolved that the draft minutes were accurate. The Chairman will sign at the next opportunity.

P: DW; S: GS, All in favour

12/20-4 Council Matters

a) **Chairman's Remarks** – Cllr EC thanked all the councillors and Cllr Mossop for their continued support despite these difficult times.

- Cllr EC reported that the Remembrance Sunday event went well and there were a number of residents who attended. Cllr DW was thanked for organising the

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purchase of the wreath. The Council noted their thanks to Laura Clark for cleaning the War Memorial.

- Cllr EC thanked Cllr GS for picking up the mobile speed sign from Marshchapel and Cllrs DW and JF for placing them in the parish.
- Cllrs JF and DW were complimented for purchasing, installing and lighting up the Christmas Tree in front of the Parish Rooms.

- b) **Actions from previous meeting** – Clerk's report was noted.
- c) **Councillor Training** – Cllr AM attended the Councillor roles, powers and duties. She reported a few suggestions raised at the training including a welcome pack for new residents, organise more community events and where councillors wear lanyards to be easily identified and acquire a copy of the Big Yellow Book which is the main parish council guide. It was highly recommended that all councillors attend refresher courses on an annual basis.
- d) **New Website** – The Clerk reported that the current website will be switched off at the end of the year and the work on the new website is nearly finished. The Clerk shared on screen the new website. Cllr GS volunteered to support the clerk in maintaining and updating the website. The Clerk to ask LCC to provide Cllr GS log in details.
- e) **Communications** – The list was noted.
- f) **Mobile Speed Sign**- There was a proposal that Council buy equipment for exclusive council use. However, this proposal was deferred having regard to more immediate priorities including damp proofing the parish rooms and fitting in heating equipment and updating the kitchen facilities. It was noted that the shared mobile speed sign purchased in partnership with other parish councils is suitably acceptable. Cllr AM will forward the email received from the speed signs supplier for future reference.

12/20-5 Parish Room

- a) **LCC and Lincolnshire Police Crime Commissioner elections in May 2021** – The Council agreed to charge ELDC £215 to cover the cost of the elections.
P: DW; S: AM, All in favour
It was agreed that the money will be used towards purchase of two heating equipment for the parish rooms.
P: AM; S: GS, All in favour
- b) **Local Restrictions Support Grant** – It was noted that ELDC has approved grant application. The Clerk will check the bank when the money is credited.
- c) **Lincolnshire County Council Covid-19 Community Response Fund** – The Council agreed that the Clerk pursue the application for broadband provision in the Parish Rooms.
P: GS; S: AM, All in favour
- d) **Electricity supply** – The Council agreed for the Parish Clerk to discuss with utilities agents to provide the best options for electricity and water suppliers.
P: DW; S: JF, All in favour
- e) **Damp proofing** – Two quotes have been received but have not been properly reviewed by all councillors. It was therefore agreed to defer until the next meeting.
- f) **Gutter drains cleaning** – It was resolved to hire Mr G Jones to do the works for £26.

12/20-6 Finance and Budgets

- a) **Community Account** – The Chairman reported that the issue with Cllr JF not being an authorised signatory in the bank mandate are still unresolved despite several time-

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consuming phone calls and an hour long visit at the branch in Grimsby. The Chairman will have to request a previous councillor who is still authorised as per bank mandate to counter sign the cheques.

- b) **Payments** - The Council resolved to accept payments for December 2020 as tabled.

	Cheque Number	Payee	Amount
1	101133	Parish Clerk – salary and expenses	£442.75
2	101134	HMRC PAYE income tax	£91.80
3	101135	LALC – Councillor Training – Cllr A McCready	£54.00
4	101136	British Legion – Remembrance Sunday wreath including donation	£27.00
5	101137	Purchase of Christmas Tree – Cllr J Firth reimbursement	£49.00
Total			£664.55

P: DW; S: AM, All in favour

- c) **Latest Receipts and Payments and Financial Monitoring** – Noted
- d) **Proposed Budget for 2021/22** – After considerable discussion, the Council approved the budget as recommended by the Responsible Finance Officer and the precept requirement of £6,176 for Financial Year 2021/22. It was agreed that the Parish Council will circulate a flyer to all residents the justification for increasing the precept in line with the estimated expenditure for the next financial year. The Chairman has agreed to draft the content of the newsletter once the tax base is confirmed by ELDC and the parish precept by band property is correctly calculated.
- e) **Changing banking arrangements**. The current bank arrangement is not satisfactory and it was agreed to explore other bank accounts. The Clerk will report back at the next meeting with recommendations.

12/20-7 Community Amenities and Groups

- a) **Scarecrow Competition** – The Council noted their thanks to Astra Chilton who organised the competition. They were pleased to note that events are being organised in the village and that many residents took part in the competition.
- b) **St Barts Church** – Cllr GS reported that Neil Foxon will refurbish the bench for free and will be done early next year. The Council has extended their thanks to Neil.
- c) **St Mary's Church** – Cllr AM reported that the noticeboard in the Church has been equally funded by the Parish Council and the DCC so any maintenance cost will be shared. The ownership of the kissing gates will be discussed at the next DCC meeting in January. It was also reported that the kitchen refurbishment has been put on hold pending the application for a faculty.
- d) **Covenham Plough Community Hub (CPCH)** – The Committee is continuing talks with ELDC but no significant progress to report.

12/20-8 ELDC/LCC Services

- a) **The Plough Inn** – The Council has agreed, in principle, to support the CPCH application for the Plough to be an Asset of Community Value. The support is

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contingent with the current planning application being rejected and the CPCH successfully transforming the premises into a community hub.

P: DW; S: JF, All in favour

- b) **Dog Bins/posters** – The Council noted the new replacement of posters along the parish provided by the ELDC Dog Warden and receipt of additional posters for future use.
- c) **LCC Highways** – The Yarburgh village sign has been repaired. Other highways issues are still outstanding. LCC Ward Member will report back next week for updates.

12/20-9 Planning Matters – updates and to consider any applications, if any

- a) **N/037/01064/20 Haiths Farm**, Main Road, Covenham St Bartholomew – The Council reiterated their objection to this planning application. The ELDC Ward Member reported that he has been assured by the planning department that there was no risk to any trees impacted by the drainage pipes and that conditions on lights, noise and operating hours will be imposed if the application is approved. He has continued to request that this planning application be determined by a committee rather than by delegated powers.
- b) **N/037/01906/20 The New Plough**, Main Road, Covenham St Bartholomew, Louth, LN11 0PF - The Council ratified its decision to object to this planning applications
P: DW; S: AM, All in favour
- c) **N/037/01878/20 Church of St Bartholomew**, Birketts Lane, Covenham St Bartholomew, Louth, Lincolnshire - The approval was noted.
- d) **N/037/01013/20 The Mill House**, Main Road, Covenham St Bartholomew - The approval was noted
- e) **N/038/01609/20 Land Adjacent to Blenheim House**, Main Road, Covenham St Mary – The Council noted that this planning application was refused.

12/20-10 Date of Next Meeting - The next meeting of the parish council is scheduled for **Friday, 19th February at 7pm** via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9pm.