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documents.

COVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025 Edition



PARISH COUNCILLORS

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DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

East Lindsey District Council: **Councillor Edward Mossop**, Fulstow Ward

E-mail: Edward.Mossop@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council: **Councillor Alex Martin Hall**, Louth North Ward

E-mail: Cllra.hall@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Letter from The Chair

Dear Residents of Covenham,

As I write this I am sitting with the sun shining on me and thinking how lucky I am to live here, not only because for the countryside but also for all those who have become my friends and colleagues over the last few years. The people of Covenham have been so welcoming whether at the church, or on the Parish Council or at the events organised by CVV. I cannot thank you all enough for the hard work you put in or nice it is that everyone pulls together to make Covenham a great place to live.

Having said that there are always things that need doing and if anyone has any concerns about any matter then please get in touch with myself or one of the councillors and we will always do our best to help and find a solution. We can be contacted by phone or email and at the monthly lunch or the weekly cafe councillors can be found if you wish to speak in person.

In our January Council Meeting we had a good turnout of residents. We discussed the budget and the precept and I am pleased to say that for this year at least we have kept it at the same. It would be good to always have the same attendance, residents are welcome at any of our meetings and get a chance to put things to the council at the open forum in the beginning, so please come along.

On April 3rd we have our Annual Parish Meeting, in the Parish Rooms at 7pm. This is a residents' meeting, not a parish council meeting. You can hear what the council and other groups have done throughout the year and have a chat to us all. Refreshments will be served so please make a note of the date and come along.

I will look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Gillian Pollard
Chair

Parish Council News

- *New Parish Councillor.* The Parish Council welcomed back Nicky Gulley Brown as a co-opted Councillor in the meeting held 23 January 2025. Nicky is the Chair of Covenham Village Volunteers and has been hugely instrumental in the refurbishment of the Parish Rooms alongside the other amazing volunteers from CVV.

The full complement of parish councillors is 11 and with the current eight occupied, there are still vacant seats. If you are interested in community affairs and have time to attend meetings on a bi-monthly basis, please get in touch with any of the councillors or contact the Parish Clerk on parishclerkcpc@gmail.com

- *Covenham Reservoir Steps.* We are asking residents who have photos and other proof that can verify the steps in use since the millennium or even earlier to get in touch. As much evidence is required to get Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to make the steps a public right of way (PROW). Without testimonies, it is unlikely that the steps will be reinstated.
- *Purchase of Shed.* The Parish Council is looking to apply for funding to cover the costs of the purchase as well as the building of a disabled toilet. It is estimated that the total cost will exceed £25,000.
- *Annual Parish Meeting.* The next Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday, 3rd April 2025. An agenda is published in this newsletter.
- *Schedule of Parish Council Meetings for Financial Year 2025/26.* The bi-monthly dates of parish council meetings have been set and is listed below.

Date	Meeting	Time
Thursday, 29 May 2025	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	7 pm
Thursday, 31 July 2025	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting	7 pm
Thursday, 2 October 2025	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting	7 pm
Thursday, 27 November 2025	Budget Meeting	7 pm
Thursday, 29 January 2026	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting	7 pm
Thursday, 26 March 2026	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting	7 pm

- *Budget and Precept.* The Parish Council has agreed to keep the precept for Financial Year 2025/26 the same as last year which is £9,206.

The table below show the precept per property band and a comparison from the previous year.

2025	Band 'D' Equivalent Figure =			158.0				
Precept Amount	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£9,206.00	£38.84	£45.32	£51.79	£58.27	£71.21	£84.16	£97.11	£116.53
Difference (2025 and 2024)	-£0.25	-£0.29	-£0.33	-£0.37	-£0.45	-£0.54	-£0.62	-£0.74
Increase	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%

The Budget approved for the next Financial year starting April 2025 is tabled below.

Covenham Parish Council - Approved Budget for FY2025-26							
	Actual 2021/22	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	As @ end November 2024	Estimated Year-end 2023/24	Proposed Budget 2025/26
PAYMENTS							
Staff Costs	6,447	6,028	6,338	6,733	4,476	6,694	7,258
Parish Rooms	25,565	3,468	3,872	2,800	3,178	3,928	3,800
Gardening Services	1,110	666	499	700	263	450	700
Insurance	392	404	406	500	526	526	552
Elections Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
S137 allowance	245	129	343	500	34	34	30
Stationery & postage	228	417	85	100	16	70	100
Professional Fees	280	356	443	400	475	511	515
LALC Membership -	141	144		0			
LALC Training scheme	153	114		0			
Assets repair and maintenance	100	400	16	1,300	511	511	500
Specific Grants			250	300	250	250	250
Newsletter			114	1,000	-	115	72
Total Expenditure	34,661	12,125	12,365	14,333	9,729	13,089	13,777
General Contingency (10%)				1,433			1,378
Total Budget	34,661	12,125	12,365	15,766			15,155
RECEIPTS							
Parish Room Rental Income	545	478	1,571	1,200	1,658	2,058	1,200
Parish Newsletter Advertisement		175	50	0		150	-
Grants	8,200	800	0	0			-
VAT	145	3,716	575	100	498	498	498
Bank Interest		11	60	60	38	76	76
Other receipts			200	0	0	0	-
Sub-Total	8,890	5,180	2,456	1,360	2,194	2,782	1,774
						Total Receipts	
Receipts	8,890	5,180	2,456	1,360	2,194	2,782	1,774
Bank Balance expected @ year end				5,200		4,000	4,175
Total Expenditure	34,661	12,125	12,365	15,766		13,089	15,155
Precept	6,176	6,795	8,934	9,206			9,206

Notice of Annual Parish Meeting

All members of the public are welcome to attend

I hereby give notice that by order of the Parish Council in pursuance of Schedule 12 Paragraph 14(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 the **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held **at the Parish Room on Thursday 3rd April 2025 starting at 7:00pm.**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. To receive and approve the minutes held 30th May 2024.
3. Annual report of the Chair of Covenham Parish Council – Cllr Gillian Pollard
4. Financial Report for FY2024/25 – Nadine Must, Responsible Finance Officer
5. Annual report from East Lindsey District Council- Cllr Edward Mossop, Ward Member
6. Annual report from East Lindsey District Council- Alex Hall, Ward Member
7. Annual report from the Covenham Village Volunteers- Mrs Nicky Gulley Brown
8. Annual report from the Monthly Lunches – Ms Gillian Pollard
9. Annual report of Eleemosynary Charity - Mr Ernest McCready
10. Annual report of St Bart's Heritage Trust
11. Annual report of St Mary's Church – Mrs Anne McCready
12. Open Forum - Feedback and comments from Parishioners on village issues and services and any questions to the Parish Council

Close of meeting

NOTE *All government electors registered for the parish and in attendance are members of the Parish Meeting. All members of the public are welcome to attend and speak on any matter of local interest, however voting on any item may only be done by local electors.*

Please note that this is not a Parish Council Meeting, but it is facilitated by the Chair of the Parish Council in accordance with legal requirements. Councillors attend Parish Meetings as members of the public.

Cllr Gillian Pollard

Chair – Covenham Parish Council

Covenham Village Volunteers



2025 for CVV has brought many new things following some residents' feedback.

Covenham Camera Club - lead by Diane Seddon. We have had a speaker and have others in the pipeline plus lots of practical experience sessions.

Covenham Book Club - now on its 3rd book. Trialling many new authors while having a good social evening with wine, nibbles and coffee. What more could you ask for.

ELDC social isolation fund has paid for our jacket potato oven and free lunches for March and April. Open to everyone. Please just book.

Archery has been invited to do some outdoor sessions this summer, yoga will continue as will all our fitness sessions with Boxer fit. Fun and fitness games for families and strength and Conditioning on a Wednesday evening. New sessions this spring - Friday fitness & music - any age any ability 10-11am, family 6week session beginners weight lifting.

Social evenings will continue throughout the year.

We have received a second batch of funding to spend this year on further improvements to the parish rooms. We intend to create an accessible hall for all. New doors, ramps and kitchen - all on one level so we can welcome you all so look out for work commencing and feel free to pop in.

For any further information please contact us on covenhamvv@gmail.com or 07931258178.

*Nicky
Chair of CVV*

Eleemosynary Charity

In view of the rising cost of food and fuel this is a reminder that there are limited funds available should anyone in Covenham need financial assistance.

We understand that it may be difficult to make such an approach but any request will be held in the strictest confidence.

You must appreciate that any application must include full disclosure of income and expenditure and should be made directly to one of the trustees; Ms Gillian Pollard 07947421137 or Ernest McCready 01507 363508.

*Ernest McCready
Trustee*

St. Mary's Church



Sunday Morning Worship 9.30a.m. on the first Sunday of each month. Services at other churches in our group are listed on the village noticeboards.

By the time this Newsletter is published we will have had our Quinquennial inspection which will no doubt uncover more work needed on the church building. All the work needed has to be prioritised and will no doubt involve applying for grants as any work on a building of

this age is very expensive.

We eventually got the church hedge cut in the Autumn so the churchyard is looking more tidy. Responsibility for upkeep of the grounds can be confusing as the cemetery is looked after by St. Mary's Church whereas the church grounds are dealt with by the Parish Council. If you have any problems with either your best point of contact is Anne McCready (Churchwarden/Parish Councillor) 01507 363508.

Our chosen charity for this year is The Ark animal rescue centre at North Somercotes.

The monthly events programme began on Fri. 28th March with a Pudding Night. There are planned events for each month which are listed below, so please add them to your diaries:-

Fri. 11th April 7p.m. Family Bingo

Fri. 2nd May 7.30p.m. 'Running a Post Office in Antarctica'. Talk by Clare Ballantyne

Fri. 6th June 7.30p.m. Cocoa Experience. This event involves chocolate tasting.

Sun. 6th July 1p.m. - 5p.m. Covenham Open Gardens There is still time to join in by opening your garden. Thanks to those who have already volunteered.

Fri. 15th August 7p.m. Vinyl Evening. Details of this event to be confirmed.

Fri. 26th September 7p.m. Harvest Service & Supper

Fri. 17th October 7p.m. Charity Bingo Night. All funds raised are for the Ark.

Sat. 15th November 2p.m. Christmas Fair

Fri. 19th December 7p.m. Carol Service

The church also hosts the Monthly lunches on the first Wednesday of each month and the Phoenix Singers hold a weekly practice in the building.

Full details of all future events will be advertised on the village noticeboards & leaflets nearer the time and also on both the achurchnearyou.com website and Facebook.

*Anne McCready
Church Warden*

Monthly Lunches

The monthly lunches held in St Mary's church started again in February after our Christmas break.

I am pleased to say we now have a regular group of people that come along to enjoy homemade soup and puddings and have a jolly good natter at the same time. Recently we have had some new people join us and hopefully will be coming back again. Everyone is very welcome so please do come along, it's a chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. All we ask is that you let us know by the Sunday before if you would like to come for catering purposes.

We do not have a charge for our lunches but are grateful for donations to cover our costs. So far we have also been able to donate to several charities as well, so a big thank you to all our regulars.

Our lunches are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Doors open 12.15pm to start serving at 12.30pm, please do come along and join us.

Our next lunch is April 2nd followed by the one in May on the 7th.

To book please ring or message:

Anne.....01507 363508 or Gillian....07947421137

Gillian Pollard



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The Donald Witney Memorial Fund Grants available to young people

This charitable fund was set up in the memory of Donald Witney, an eminent Louth citizen, one-time Headmaster of King Edward VI School.

The Louthesk Deanery Synod who are the trustees of the fund are able to consider applications for funding from those of school age and up to 25 years, who reside within the Louthesk Deanery, **this includes Covenham**. Grants can be given to assist them in the costs of such activities as attending Christian conferences or courses, carrying out expeditions to under-privileged parts of the world, or advancing their studies or skills e.g. undergoing an organ scholarship.

Applications in writing are invited, which should detail the activity to be funded and how the amount applied for will be used. Please apply to the Deanery Secretary, Dr. Anita Samaan at samaan@doctors.org.uk. **Applications can be made by anyone, whether they attend an Anglican church or not.**

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There is a Combined County Authority Mayoral and Lincolnshire County Council Election on Thursday 1 May 2025

Deadline for registering to vote

Register by 11:59pm on 11 April 2025 to vote in the following elections on 1 May 2025:

- Lincolnshire County Council elections
- combined county authority mayoral elections

Who can register

You can register to vote up to 2 years before you reach voting age. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk>

If you live in England and Northern Ireland

You must be aged 16 or over to register.

You can register to vote if you're a British citizen or an Irish citizen.

You can also register if you have permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man - or you do not need permission - and you're a:

- Commonwealth citizen
- citizen of Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal or Spain
- citizen of another EU country, if you have had permission to enter or stay - or not needed permission - since 31 December 2020, and this has continued without a break



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angela.aylett10@gmail.com

Covenham St. Bartholomew



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