

Minutes of the Covington Parish Meeting 'Budget Setting' Meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Jonathan Baker, Rex Bigger, Richard Brown, Glyn Clark, Peter & Sue Sewell, Simon Luscombe (Chairman), and Shirley Mathews (Clerk).
The meeting was quorate.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from Karen & Lee Barley, Mo Brown, Dianne Clark, John Fells, Fiona McCullough-Fells, Sarah Schofield, Carole Ludford, Karen Luscombe, Robert Maclaren, Michael Mathews, Simon & Deirdre Peck, and Polly Sewell.

2 Declarations of interest in matters on the Agenda

None were received

3 Minutes of Parish Annual Meetings

Shortly after each meeting these were put on the Notice board. They were circulated by email this week. All past minutes are also on the website

- a. 17th April 2019 Annual Meeting
- b. 3rd June 2019 Exemption Meeting

It was proposed by Rex Bigger, seconded by Richard Brown and unanimously agreed that the minutes of both meetings be accepted.

4 Matters Arising from Minutes

- a. 17th April 2019 Annual Meeting

Condition of B645 near Covington Lodge. Michael Brown had spoken to the Highways Officer who felt not enough had occurred on the section of road to warrant any action

Danger at the junction of B645 and Keyston Road received a similar reaction. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Highways department and try to enlist the help of the County and District Councilors concerned
(ACTION)

- b. 3rd June 2019 Exemption Meeting

There were no matters arising

5 Finance

1. Report on Audit

This had been approved and accepted by the National Auditor

2a. Retrospective Approval of payments

Capalc	98.75	20.4.19
First Aid	260.00	24.5.19
Zurich Ins.	257.60	24.5.19
CCC Power	120.69	30.5.19

2b. Approve payments

Clerk (Zen)	64.68
Clerk (Ink)	97.19
Clerk (Audit)	10.00
Amenities Cttee	420.00

It was proposed by Peter Sewell, Seconded by Jonathan Baker and

unanimously agreed to approve all the payments.

NB. This was provided the Amenities Committee grant of £420 was agreed under item 6.4.

3. To Approve the Budget 2019/20

The Clerk went through the accounts, which showed the precept of £1300 received, a total expenditure of £1384.85 (£792.98 paid, £591.87 to be paid) against a budget of £1305. The balance at the bank would be £4093.85.

NB No power paid this year.

A budget of £1340 for 2020/2021 was anticipated

It was proposed by Rex Bigger, seconded by Glyn Clark and unanimously agreed to accept the Accounts and Budget.

4. Precept 2020/21

It was proposed by Sue Sewell, seconded by Richard Brown that a precept of £1300.00 be set. (ACTION)

5. Street Lighting

The Clerk explained that the Cambridgeshire County Council would no longer be coordinating power supply and streetlight maintenance.

a. Maintenance

Balfour Beatty would maintain the two streetlights at £24 per light per year

It was proposed by Jonathan Baker, seconded by Peter Sewell to accept the 3 year contract with Belfour Beatty (ACTION)

b. Supply

There is some confusion at CCC about our supplier. It is either E-On or UK Power Networks. The Clerk is awaiting clarification from Michael Richards at CCC

6 Reports of Representatives / Officers

1. Footpaths

Carole Ludford's written report plus the minutes of the Parish Meeting on 10th September covered all aspects. Particular note was made of her success with the repairs to the 'step bridges' over the railway line.

2. Neighbourhood Watch

Michael Mathews continued to forward relevant emails to the Village. He was thanked in his absence

3. Tree Warden

Mo Brown had nothing new to report, although she believed David Moran had consulted about an ash tree on/near his property

4. Amenities Committee

Jonathan Baker reported that the Village Hall continued to be well supported with regular village activities. The income was around £2220 and outgoings around £1745. The annual grant of £420 was much appreciated. The matting for the entrance to the rear was in hand as was

a new back door. A tree dangerously overhanging the Red Cow garage would need to be felled professionally.

It was proposed by Richard Brown, seconded by Peter Sewell and unanimously agreed that the annual grant of £420 be paid.

7 Report of Special General Planning meetings and Planning Committee meetings

There had been three Special General Meeting called since April Shortly after each meeting the minutes of each were put on the Notice board and circulated by email this week. Copies of all past minutes are on the website

1. 10th September 2019 Public Rights of Way

It was proposed by Sue Sewell, seconded by Richard Brown and unanimously agreed these be accepted.

2. 17th September 2019 Planning Application/Bottom Farm

It was proposed by Glyn Clark, seconded by Jonathan Baker and unanimously agreed these be accepted

3. 16th Oct. 2019 Planning Application/Land North of Woodland House

Glyn Clark was saddened by some of the views expressed at the meeting. It was proposed by Rex Bigger, seconded by Sue Sewell and unanimously agreed these be accepted

10 Correspondence

Various items of information was regularly forwarded from the Clerk to Covington Residents: Road works and events; A14 updates;

1. Polling District Review, The Clerk had replied that we were quite content with our current arrangements

2. A request for our plans for VE Day May 2020 - Peter Sewell confirmed that the Church Bells would be rung. **(ACTION)**

3. A request for our plans for death of the Monarch - The Clerk confirmed that the proclamation would be read if appropriate and Peter Sewell confirmed the Church Bells would be muffled and tolled **(ACTION)**

11 Any Other Business

1) The condition of practically all the village roads was discussed. It was agreed that constant reporting by individuals on the open website would probably have more effect than one letter from the meeting. However our local County and District Councillors could be encouraged to fight our corner. **(ACTION)**

12 Date of next meetings

Annual Meeting April 22nd 2020

Budget Setting October 28th 2020

Local County Councillor and/or District Councillor to be invited

The meeting closed at 8.15pm