

Minutes of the 'Budget Setting' Meeting of the Covington Parish held on Wednesday 24th October 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Attended by Simon Luscombe (Chairman) , Jonathan Baker, Richard & Mo Brown, John Fells, Fiona McCullough Fells, Gillian Holmes, David Lockhart, Carole Ludford, Karen Luscombe, Robert McLaren, Sarah Schofield, Polly Sewell, and Shirley Mathews (Clerk)

1 Apologies for absence

Were received from: Stephen Holmes, Linda Lockhart, Michael Mathews, Simon & Deirdre Peck, Peter & Sue Sewell, John & Marilyn Turrell.

2 Declarations of interest in matters on the Agenda

There were none declared

3 Minutes of Parish Meeting 18th April 2017

Copies had been placed on the notice board on 3rd Oct, sent with email notice and were available at the meeting. They were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising from Minutes

Item 6 Additional planning committee person, Simon had approached Jo & Rex Bigger in the Pentelows but they had not yet committed themselves. Post this meeting Rex agreed to serve.

Item 11 Defibrillator signage on the telephone box – thanks were expressed to Pete Ludford for undertaking this task.

Neighbourhood watch notices - thanks to Peter Sewell for putting these at the village boundaries

Item 13e Footpaths – Windy Barn Farm: Extract from Carole Ludford's report "*The obstruction of a bridleway in two places on Fairy's Lodge farm has been on-going since before my appointment. Simon Williams, Zaria Bettles and her managers are dealing with this issue and I have been advised all the appropriate applications have been made.*"

Item 17.2 First Aid – Mo Brown informed the meeting that this would take place on 24th November in the village Hall, any resident welcome.

17.4 Dead tree – reported, passed to utility company

17.5 Drains – will be dealt with within 12 weeks

17.6 Triangle opp. Bottom Farm – no action

These three items had been reported to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The clerk advised that any future items of this nature would probably receive a better response if reports were made at the time of occurrence direct to the Authority rather than waiting for the next meeting.

5 Finance

1. **Report on Audit** – Approved and accepted by the National Auditor

2. **Retrospective Approval of the following payments**

1. CAPALC -87.72

2. Zurich Ins. – 257.60

Proposed by Jonathan Baker, seconded by Mo Brown and unanimously agreed

2a **Approve of the following payments**

1. Zen – 7 months £37.73
2. Thank you for Auditor- £15
3. Amenities Committee - £420

Proposed by Richard Brown, seconded by John Fells and unanimously agreed

3. **Budget 2018/9**

The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts to October 2018. These showed expenditure of £1077.1 and £540.15 with a further £100.67 outstanding. Totaling £1717.92 against a budget of £1,645.00
The balance at the bank being £4,651.04

4. **Precept 2018/9**

The meeting discussed the possibility of reducing the precept for the upcoming year in the light of the current balance at the bank

It was proposed by Richard Brown, seconded by Fiona McCullough and agreed Nem. Con. To retain the precept at £1300 this year with a view to considering a reduction next year

6 **Reports of Representatives / Officers**

1. **Footpaths** – Carole Ludford submitted a written report which was circulated to all present. Mo Brown was concerned about the safety of the footpath steps over the old railway line.
2. **Neighbourhood Watch** – Michael Mathews submitted a written report, which was circulated to those present. Particularly thanking, Michael Brown, Gordon Waldron, Simon Luscombe and Jo Bigger for their various contribution to our safety over the past few months
3. **Tree Warden** – Mo reported no change from the previous meeting
4. **Amenities Committee** – Jonathan Baker reported the village Hall had received a spring clean, was benefitting from steady hiring income, and had a balance of around £7,000. The committee was considering installing anti-slip matting on the entrance to the garden to make parking easier in the winter. They had decided not to proceed with children's' play equipment, primarily due to the maintenance and safety requirements. They were looking for one additional trustee.

7 **Report of Special General Planning meetings and Planning Committee**

A meeting had been held on 3rd July to consider a planning application to Bedford Borough for the Osier stables.

The Chairman reported that although the meeting had recommended approval and Bedford Borough had in fact approved the application this would not now be built by the current owners and the plot was again on the market. The additional requirement demanded by the Bedford Borough had put the scheme beyond the current owners' budget.

As he had at the time of the meeting Richard Brown again raised the matter of the meeting's notice. Extract from minutes of 3rd July meeting

Richard Brown raised the subject of notification of the meeting. The Clerk's emails were going into Junk or Trash and not being read. This had been put right and a reminder sent to the village that afternoon. Notice had also been put on the notice boards as well as the Village Website on 27th June.

10 Correspondence

The Clerk had continued to forward the usual informative Emails
In the past six months these had included updates on the A14, Grit Bin filling, notice from Steetworks re power poles and the visit to the village of the Dragon Patcher, repairing potholes,

11 Any Other Business

1. Bad Farm Smells: This issue had been raised with the Chairman by a number of people who commented during the meeting. CAPALC had advised the Clerk that the Parish meeting had no powers in this matter. She had also been advised that individuals should report any complaints direct to the Environmental Health in Huntingdon

[www/huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environmenthealthqualityandstandards](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environmenthealthqualityandstandards)

Or The Environment Agency, Brampton Office, Bromholme Ln, Brampton, Huntingdon PE28 4NE

Phone: 0370 850 6506

Oliver Williams had told the Chairman that if anyone experiences strong odours in the village, they are welcome to contact him directly to check whether they originate from Windy Barn Farm. Oliver Williams has also offered to host any villagers who would like to visit the dairy farm to find out more about its operation. Oliver's numbers can be found on the Covington Emergency Contact List.

The issue of an additional Slurry Lagoon and barns needing planning permission was raised by David Lockhart. Polly Sewell would look into the matter.

2. B645: Michael Brown was concerned about the road before Covington Lodge. Three bad accidents had occurred there in the past 10 days. The three villages meeting held at Hargrave a year or so ago had resulted in Northants Council undertaking some improvement near the water tower. The Clerk would write to the CCC, and Cambridgeshire police to raise the issue.

3. A New Post Office facility would be opening in the Chemists in Kimbolton before Christmas

12 Date of next meetings The following dates were agreed.

Wednesday 17th April 2019 and Wednesday 23rd October 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm