

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th February 2017
In Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present: Cllr Osbourn (Chair), Cllr Benfield (Vice Chair), Cllr Sandle, Cllr Paginton, Cllr Foss, Cllr Curtis, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Roy Bacon, Cllr Short

In attendance: Gemma Cheal (Parish Clerk), 1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Hawkes and Cllr Haigh.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Foss declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11; Financial Matters reference Grant Request from Covingham Park Primary School.

3. Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2017 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Members noted the recent article in the Swindon Advertiser regarding support from Covingham Parish Council for Covingham Library and clarified the amount of funding and time period agreed by the Parish Council.

5. Public forum

A local resident of Falconscroft commented on the issue of parking; particularly on a Tuesday evening near to Covingham Park. Members of the public are parking on grass verges near to the park entrance to take part in an organised keep fit activity. Members pointed out that parking is allowed on a public highway however; the Parish Council may respectfully ask for residents to use the car park by Covingham Shops to resolve the situation.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate and contact organiser of the keep fit activity.

6. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following report from the Clerk:

Purchases following play park inspection reports (agreed November 2016 Parish Council meeting):

- 10 x replacement bin liners, including 2 complete bins – order delivered and bins replaced.
- Various replacement parts for play parks have been ordered, including new seats and chains for swings, end caps, triangular platform replacement – order expected first week of February.

Handyman Report

Key notes to report from John this month:

1. Removed dead fox dog dumped in black sack between Ravenscroft/Covingham Park.
2. Cleaned liquid soap off of bus shelter seat (nearest St Paul's Church)
3. Attended 2 site mtgs with D.Benfield / R.Core re transfer of services in Covingham sq. etc.
4. Replaced 10 litter bin liners
5. Removed 3 lots of graffiti from skate board park
6. Tightened bolts on "skier" (adult exercise equipment)
7. Removed graffiti from BT box in Pinnegar Way
8. Removed several N20 cartridges from Covingham Park
9. Purchased wood / screws and made 2 flower boxes for Cornmarsh

Signed: John Ricketts, Date: 31st January 2017

Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) – Update from Swindon Borough Council

Following our Precept and related matters letter, Swindon Borough Council have written to confirm that our revised CTSG for 2017-18 is **£3,523.00**. This change has arisen as a result of using a revised methodology to apportion the available funding of £272k across the whole Borough. Recognising that with the introduction of the new parish councils SBC are in a transitional phase and they have not consulted with existing parishes about any changes to the methodology. SBC have written to inform us that they have recalculated the grant for existing parish council's using the same basis as previous years.

Precept

As agreed at the January Parish Council meeting, I have submitted the Precept Request form for the amount of £70,265.00.

Register of Members' Interests

I have updated the parish website to include a typed 'register of members' interests' form for each councillor. I have asked Gareth to have a look at this to see if the amount of forms can be tidied up into a new folder as currently, the documents uploaded look messy and are not easy to find. All completed forms have been sent to the Monitoring Officer, Swindon Borough Council.

Comments: Members noted that the flower boxes for Cornmarsh will be installed by the Handyman when the wood for the boxes has dried.

7. Verbal Update from the Chairman

Covered under Item 9, Committee Reports under Recreation.

8. Police Matters (Update from local neighbourhood policing team)

No report from the Police this month.

9. Reports from Parish Council Committee Chairs:

- Environment Committee (Chair Cllr Sandle):

No report this month. Members noted that the Environment Committee will look into installing a plaque under the Christmas tree in Covingham Square.

- Finance Committee (Chair Cllr Benfield):

Budget for Financial Year 2017/18: Cllr Benfield distributed copies of the Parish Council budget for the financial year 2017/18. Members agreed to adjust the amount allocated for Covingham Library by £200 and reallocate this amount to tree maintenance. Members unanimously resolved to accept the budget with this amendment. Members unanimously agreed wording to be published in the Handymag regarding the precept request for the financial year 2017/18.

- Recreation (Chair Cllr Haigh):

Members received a report from Cllr Osbourn on behalf of the Recreation Committee regarding a site meeting that took place at Covingham Park to discuss future prevention of travellers on the park. Cllr Osbourn commented on the possibility of using earth from one of the neighbouring developmental sites to build mounds, although some clarity will be needed regarding licensing required for safe disposal of earth on site. Cllr Osbourn agreed to contact Martin Hambidge at Swindon Borough Council for further advice (ACTION CLLR OSBOURN). Cllr Osbourn stated that adequate space will be left for pushchair and wheelchair users. Members agreed that residents close to Covingham Park will be consulted on plans. Members discussed vehicle access to the park including the dog waste contractor and leaving access for Emergency Services. Members noted that Lee Wells has agreed to store the bollards on behalf of the Parish Council.

Outcome of discussion: Members noted the report from the Recreation Committee and asked for schematic plans, including full costings to be drawn up by the Recreation Committee and presented to the Parish Council (ACTION CLLR OSBOURN/CLLR HAIGH).

Further comments: Members noted that drainage investigation may be required on Covingham Park near to the area that had previously received drainage works, as the area is currently boggy.

Members noted the issue of rutting on Covingham Park due to tyre tracks.

ACTION: CLERK TO CONTACT DOG WASTE CONTRACTOR.

- Parish Plan/Highways Committee (Chair Cllr Curtis):

No report this month. Members noted that the next meeting of the Parish Liaison Group is scheduled for 23rd February 2017.

- Covingham Flood Group report (Cllr Curtis):

Members received the following report from the Flood Group:

The latest multi-agency meeting between the group members, Swindon Borough Council and the Environment Agency was held on 16 January 2017.

It had been noticed at the end of last year and beginning of this, that the water levels flowing through Dorcan Brook were far higher and faster than normal. It was confirmed that SBC had carried out some necessary maintenance work to the structure of Coate Water and had lowered the water levels to gain access, which explained the changes seen. What caused greater concern was that the increased amount of water through Dorcan Brook should have triggered a flood alert which had not happened. It appears that the Kestrel Drive monitoring station had gone off-line which had not been noticed by the EA. The situation is currently under investigation and we await the outcome.

The Group also asked why the annual maintenance on the River Cole and Dorcan Brook that was due to have been completed in November, had not taken place. The Group also pointed out that as the growing season was not far off, this needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. As the EA representative that has responsibility for operational matters was not at the meeting, his colleague took the action to find out why and report back with a revised timetable.

The Flood Group had been asked to identify possible sites for flood alleviation/mitigation measures to be put in place. The Eldene/Nythe attenuation area was highlighted by the Group as somewhere that needed attention in 2015. A proposal was put forward for the area to be re-instated, however due to the quality of the waste matter to be removed it needed specialist removal and treatment, which increased the cost enormously. The monies have now been secured and the job has been put out to tender to the Water Environment framework contractors. Work will hopefully be completed before the end of this financial year.

The Flood Group asked whether the cycle track being constructed alongside the River Cole in Covingham Drive had increased the risk of flooding? It was confirmed that it was actually creating additional storage for water due to the 400mm of crushed stone being used in the construction, therefore providing increased drainage capacity, so should result in a likely reduction of flood risk.

The Group have also asked questions and expressed their concerns about some of the proposed developments in the NEV, especially around the Flood Storage Area, which was built to protect Covingham, and the drainage of the Foxbridge area, e.g. as Wanborough Road regularly floods, if the FSA is full does it flow back into Foxbridge or could it affect Covingham?

The group also wanted to highlight the fact that if the Southern Connector Road is at the same height or higher than Wanborough Road, it effectively creates a dam between Covingham and Wanborough.

- Parish Website Working Party (Cllr Hawkes):

No report this month.

10. Planning Matters

Application No. S/OUT/16/0021

Re. Outline planning application for the erection of up to 370no. dwellings, a local convenience store/community facility, primary school, open space, landscaping, access points to and from Wanborough Road and northern site

At. Redlands, Eastern Villages, Swindon

COMMENTS: Parish Council to reinforce previous comments made. Clerk to check why previous comments have not been uploaded on to SBC website.

Application No. S/OUT/17/0040

Re. Erection of single storey side/rear extension

At. 10 Gantlettdene, Covingham, Swindon, SN3 5EL

COMMENTS No objections.

11. Financial Matters

• Approve financial summary and cheque list

Members unanimously approved the financial summary and cheque list.

• Consider any grant requests received (current grant money available £375)

Members noted a grant request received from Covingham Park Primary School for financial contribution towards a defibrillator for community use as well as for use by the school. Members discussed on-going maintenance costs that will be required and requested for further information.

ACTION: Members resolved to agree in principle to ring fence current remaining grant money of £375 for Covingham Park Primary School towards the cost of purchasing a defibrillator, subject to satisfactory information regarding on-going maintenance costs required. Members agreed to defer this item until the March Parish Council meeting.

12. Correspondence

Members noted the following received correspondence

Received from	Subject
Covingham Park Primary School	Grant request –defibrillator
SBC	Council Tax Support grant for 2017-18
SBC	Junction 15 event – Highways and Transport Team (24 th May 2017)
Community First	Planning for Communities Workshops (February 2017) and South West Regional Conference (16 th March 2017)
Ward Cllr Heenan	Email update on Covingham Library

13. Matters for consideration

Members noted assets that are being handed over from Swindon Borough Council to the new Parishes and commented on the Parks in Covingham. The Clerk agreed to enquire about the possibility of the parks being handed over to Covingham Parish Council as assets. Members commented that this was discussed at a meeting with Kirsty Cole, previous head of Finance, Swindon Borough Council.

Members discussed the future location of the wheelie bins that will be provided to the Parish Council and noted that the bins will have lockable lids and will be bolted to a nearby wall. Cllr Kennedy raised some concern about vandalism that may occur.

Meeting closed at 20:49.

Signed (Chairman):