

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the **Extraordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 7pm in the Coleview Community Centre

Present: Cllr Osbourn (Chair), Cllr Foss, Cllr Bacon, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Benfield

In attendance: Gemma Cheal, Parish Clerk

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Paginton, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Short and Cllr Hawkes.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Curtis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3.

3. Discuss Parish Council Personnel including future requirements

An update on current status of personnel was given by the Chair.

Members discussed the condition of Covingham Square in terms of the amount of litter and fly tipping and agreed that additional staffing is required to ensure the area, as well as the area at Cole Close is adequately maintained, to release current Handyman to carry out duties in other areas.

Members unanimously resolved to advertise and recruit for a part-time Assistant Handyman for the Parish, working 15 hours per week with some flexibility and possibility of more hours in the future.

ACTION: Clerk to advertise in local press. Job description to be revised and agreed with current Handyman. Interview panel to consist of no more than 3 people, including the Handyman, Clerk and a Parish Councillor.

Members unanimously resolved to give delegated authority to the Handyman to report fly tipping directly to Swindon Borough Council. Any problems relating to this to be fed back to the Clerk. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Swindon Borough Council Property Services to enquire about renting an empty garage behind Covingham Shops.

4. Discuss the Removal of the Recycle Bins due to fly tipping

Cllr Osbourn reported that he had been in correspondence with Swindon Borough Council to request the urgent removal of the recycle bins on Covingham Square due to the issue of constant fly tipping. Members noted that the clothing bank has been full for two weeks. The Clerk informed members that fly tipping is reported almost every other day. Cllr Osbourn informed members that when the bins were originally installed, they were placed there on an open-ended contract and require notice from the Borough for removal. Cllr Osbourn also informed members that he has been investigating the current rates paid from local shop tenants to Swindon Borough Council towards cleaning of the area.

Members resolved unanimously to take all necessary action to ensure the removal of the bins.

ACTION: Cllr Curtis to talk to Stephen Taylor, Head of Law and Democratic Services, Swindon Borough Council. Clerk to formally write to Swindon Borough Council to request removal of the bins.

5. Matters for consideration

Cllr Curtis enquired about the amount of public liability insurance held by the grass and hedge cutting contractor.

Meeting closed at 19:50.