

# Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5th November 2018 at 7pm  
at Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

**Present:** Cllr Curtis (Chair), Cllr Benfield, Cllr Hawkes, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Waywell, Cllr Bacon

**Also in attendance:** Emma Kingsley (Parish Clerk) and eighteen members of the public.

Cllr Curtis, the Chairperson opened the meeting by thanking the members of the public that were in attendance, everyone was always welcome to attend and it was good to see so many people there.

## 1. Apologies

No apologies were received as all Members were in attendance

The Chair announced that two resignations had been received from Stuart Kennedy and Ben Summerhill. She thanked them for their contributions and wished them well.

## 2. Consider Co-option of two Parish Councillors

**Resolved:** Cllr Curtis proposed that Scott Wichall should be Co-opted onto the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hawkes and was unanimously agreed.

**Resolved:** Cllr Benfield proposed that John Ricketts should be Co-opted onto the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hawkes and was unanimously agreed.

## 3. Declaration of Interests:

None

## 6. Public forum:

Item 12. The SHELAA Listing was brought forward by the Chair due to the number of residents in attendance who all had the same concerns over the inclusion of three sites within Covingham on the SHELAA.

Cllr Curtis started the public forum by reading out the objections that the Planning Working Party had put together. She then asked the members of the public for any comments that they would like to make. After much discussion between the residents and the Councillors in attendance, the residents were asked if they were in agreement with the objections that the Parish Council were proposing to submit, to which they all agreed.

## 12. SHELAA Listing

To review, agree and approve the Parish Council's response to the inclusion of the following sites on the SHELAA

Cllr Curtis proposed to full Council to submit the objections with some minor adjustments as suggested by the residents. The Proposal was seconded by Cllr Hawkes and unanimously agreed

- **S0367 - Land to West of Lovell Close (Cole Close car park)**

**Resolved:** The following comment to be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council formally objects to the inclusion of this site in the SHELAA for the following reasons:

1. This is currently a car park that is used extensively, to its absolute capacity, due to the location.

2. The car park is used throughout the day by people using the mini supermarket from 6am until 10 pm at night.
3. It is regularly used by parents doing the drop offs and pick-ups for Covingham Park Primary School. When the Church car park is full and Cole Close car park is also full, the standard of parking at these times is dangerous with cars parking in the road and on grass verges, blocking the line of site for those drivers entering and exiting onto St Pauls Drive. This situation will be exacerbated when the NEV is built as Covingham Park Primary School is one of the designated schools for children from the NEV. Should parking become impossible, parents could then choose to drive to the school gates and have the engine idling whilst watching their child enter the school grounds which would have a detrimental effect on the air quality.
4. There is also a walking bus for the children to the School site and any dangerous parking increases the risk of an accident happening.
5. St Pauls Drive is a bus route and cars parking on the road cause constriction and therefore hampers free movement of the buses, other vehicles, at times large HGVs delivering to Thermo Fischer and pedestrians.
6. Whilst assurances were given in Planning Application, S/18/0671 that there were sufficient car parking spaces for all employees in the Former Patheon Building to park within the site, which was subsequently referred to in the Planning Considerations (11) of the Permission Report, employees and visitors to the site are regularly seen to use this area.
7. St Paul's Church and Centre is the only Community facility within the area and is used extensively. Events, both Church and Public, e.g. Blood Donor sessions, are regularly held, seven days a week, all times of the day and evening. When any available parking within the Church site and the Cole Close car park are full to capacity, cars are being left on the grass verges and at the kerbside, examples of which can be seen in the attached photographs.

- **S0250- Land adjacent to Swallowdale**

**Resolved:** The following comment to be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council formally objects to the inclusion of this site in the SHELAA for the following reasons:

1. The site is within an area of designated Open Space on the Swindon Borough Local Plan Key Policies Map and development contradicts Policy EN3
2. Loss of the open space to the side of the main path around the park adversely affects the quality of the open space, as open space is deemed to be available on both sides of the main paths. Where housing currently reaches the path the quality is not as good as the remainder of the park.
3. Alternative provision cannot be made locally to compensate for the loss of this open space.
4. The proposed development is not ancillary to the main use of the site.
5. The proposed developments do not provide community benefit that outweighs the loss of open space.
6. The area covered by S0250 and S0251 meets the definition of Public Open Space
7. These areas are used extensively by members of the public.
8. Exercise equipment has been placed close to the identified areas by the Parish Council. Building houses close to these amenities may cause conflict with potential occupiers of the proposed buildings.
9. The proposed developments will reduce the enjoyment of the area by members of the public.

10. The areas that have been identified contain habitat suitable for the house sparrow, which is regularly seen in these areas. Loss of this habitat could adversely affect the existence of this species. The house sparrow is a RED LISTED species due to the reduction in numbers within the UK.

- **S0251 - Linear space to the north of open space (north of Covingham Park Primary)**

**Resolved:** The following comment to be submitted

Covingham Parish Council formally objects to the inclusion of this site in the SHELAA for the following reasons:

1. The site is within an area of designated Open Space on the Swindon Borough Local Plan Key Policies Map and development contradicts Policy EN3.
2. Loss of the open space to the side of the main path around the park adversely affects the quality of the open space, as open space is deemed to be available on both sides of the main paths. Where housing currently reaches the path the quality is not as good as the remainder of the park.
3. Alternative provision cannot be made locally to compensate for the loss of this open space.
4. The proposed development is not ancillary to the main use of the site.
5. The proposed developments do not provide community benefit that outweighs the loss of open space.
6. The area covered by S0250 and S0251 meets the definition of Public Open Space
7. These areas are used extensively by members of the public.
8. Exercise equipment has been placed close to the identified areas by the Parish Council. Building houses close to these amenities may cause conflict with potential occupiers of the proposed buildings.
9. The proposed developments will reduce the enjoyment of the area by members of the public.
10. The areas that have been identified contain habitat suitable for the house sparrow, which is regularly seen in these areas. Loss of this habitat could adversely affect the existence of this species. The house sparrow is a RED LISTED species due to the reduction in numbers within the UK.

#### **11. Planning Matters:**

To consider any planning applications:

**Application:** S/HOU/18/1659

**Location:** 13 Totterdown Close, Covingham Swindon SN3 5DJ

**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey front extension to existing garage and conversion of garage into habitable space.

**Resolved:** The following comment to be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council has no comments or objections to this application.

#### **4. Minutes of previous meeting**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **5. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

**Facebook Photo Competition** – Cllr Curtis made members aware that the Facebook photo would be changed soon.

## 7. Chairs Verbal Update

No update received

## 8. Clerks Verbal Update

No update received

## 9. Parish Maintenance Engineers:

- **Monthly Reports** – Thanks were given by the Councillors for the excellent work done by the Parish Maintenance Engineers.

Cllr Ricketts made members aware that the Maintenance Engineers have already picked as much litter as the previous year with two months still to go.

- **ROSPA report** –

Cllr Ricketts highlighted that there were no high areas identified.

Two areas were of medium but the majority low risk.

Some areas will require decision and discussion by the Parish Council, which will be done at a later date.

The Maintenance Engineers compiled a list of actions that need to be address. Most of which have been completed.

A sign is needed for the skateboard park to comply with health and safety and insurance reasons.

**ACTION - Clerk**

## 10. Reports from Parish Council Working Parties and Committee's

- **Environment and Recreation Party-**

Cllr Benfield informed Councillors that bulbs have been planted under all street signs on the three main roads in Covingham namely Covingham Drive, Kingfisher Drive and St. Pauls Drive.

Thanks were given to Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle.

Cllr Curtis informed Councillors that a meeting will be held with Allbuild on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to discuss road and street sweeping.

- **Website Working Party (Including GDPR)**

Cllr Hawkes confirmed that the website is ticking over, with everything going well.

- **GDPR- (Data protection Act 2018)**

Cllr Hawkes informed Councillors that a small amount of work had been dedicated to data protection.

- **Planning Working Party**

Cllr Hawkes, Cllr Curtis and Cllr Waywell had focussed their attention on working on the SHELAA objections

## 13. Provision of Mobile phone for the Clerk

**Resolved:** Cllr Benfield proposed the purchase of a business mobile phone for the Clerk. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

## 14. Financial Matters

- a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

**Resolved:** Cllr Curtis proposed that the Financial summary and cheque list was approved. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Sandle and unanimously agreed.

- b) To receive monthly bank accounts reconciliation - Cllrs agreed that the accounts are on track following budget.
- c) First review of the Draft Budget for 2019/20

Cllr Curtis made Cllrs aware that an email had been sent to Cllr Heenan making another request for a balance sheet. Cllr Benfield suggested that other options were researched and produced at the next meeting.

**Action Clerk/Cllr Curtis**

**15 Correspondence**

The meeting note that no correspondence had been received

**16. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Curtis thanked Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle for their obvious hard work and contributions to the WW1 event. Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle confirmed that there was a good footfall and that the majority of raffle prizes had been delivered.

Cllr Curtis said that she has been invited to lay a wreath at the cenotaph on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Cllr Wichall informed the Cllrs that it has been nice to see the huge improvements made by the Parish Council and that there have been many positive comments.

Cllr Benfield stated he believes the Parish Maintenance Engineers have been a huge benefit and have helped make a positive difference to Covingham.

Cllr Sandle asked if it would be possible to make a template for residents to respond to the SHELAA. Cllr Hawkes suggested adding information about how to respond to the proposals via the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

The meeting concluded at 8.55 pm

Signed.....

Date.....