

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 4th February 2019 at 7pm
at Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present: Cllr Curtis (Chair), Cllr Benfield, Cllr Hawkes, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Wichall, Cllr Ricketts, Cllr Bacon

Also in attendance: Emma Kingsley (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr Waywell

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Ricketts declared a non-pecuniary interest to item 12 - Parish Allowances, should the Chair's allowance should be discussed

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

SHELAA – Cole Close car park remains on the list. The Ward Councillors confirmed that it will take several months as it is not a 'hot topic' like green or open spaces. An amended SHELAA listing due to be published imminently.

Extension of lease for Covingham Park – Cllr Heenan confirmed on 9th January that SBC Officers have agreed to move forward positively. An extension of the lease for Smitanbrook Park to include the outlying areas to be requested.

Transfer of Services Deed – Borough/Parish meeting on 31st January was cancelled due to the weather forecast.

Virgin Box – Mentioned to the Ward Councillors on 22nd January

Street Sweeping – due to the number of cars parked in the road it was impossible to clear Martinfield. A clean-up event to clear the road will be held once the weather improves.

10-minute rule bill – disappointing answer received from the MP in response to our request asking him to support the bill at its second reading.

Covingham Library – Responses received to the decision made by the Parish Council have been circulated - no further action needed.

5. Public forum

As no members of the public were present, the Council continued with the meeting

6. Chairs Verbal Update:

Covingham Square & the hot food vending van – pleased to see that the correct decision had been made.

Police – Met with the lead PCSO on 18th January for a ‘catch up. Residents had commented on the marking on several footpaths in the area, some of which appeared to be arrows pointing at individual properties. Unfortunately, the Police could not provide an answer, but Cllr Bacon could. The marks had been laid as a route by a running club. The Police had responded to several car break-ins in neighbouring areas to find that the vehicles had been left unlocked and asked for the Parish Council to make residents aware to always lock their vehicles when unattended.

7. Clerks Verbal Update:

No update given

8. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Reports positively received.

9. Reports from Parish Council Working Parties and Committee’s

- **Environment Working Party**
No report provided
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Cllr Hawkes stated that the software used for the website was old and no longer supported. He was researching a replacement product.
- **Planning Working Party**
No report provided
- **Covingham Flood Group**
Cllr Curtis provided a written report, the contents of which were noted. It was confirmed that Covingham Flood Group meetings would now take place as and when required instead of pre-arranged future meetings.

10. Planning Matters:

To consider any planning applications:

Application: S/HOU/18/2071

Location: 9 Dovetrees, Covingham Swindon SN3 5AX

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear and front extensions.

Resolved: The Meeting agreed that the following comment be submitted:

The Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.

Application: S/HOU/19/0114

Location: 3 Blackmore Close, Covingham Swindon SN3 5DF

Proposal: Erection of single storey side/rear extension.

Resolved: The Meeting agreed that the following comments be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council was unable to comment on the above-mentioned Planning Consultation due to the unprofessional and inadequate drawings received as part of the Planning Application process. The Council respectfully requests that the applicant be asked to provide a full set of building drawings to enable a thorough assessment of the impact of the proposed changes to be carried out.

Application: S/OUT/18/1943

Location Inlands Farm, The Marsh Wanborough Swindon SN4 0AS

Proposal: A Hybrid Planning Application for a Science Park and associated works to include full details of 33,507 sqm (GIA) of Use Class B1c (light industrial), with associated access, parking, landscaping and drainage and an outline proposal for up to 32,281 sqm (GIA) of Use Class B1b

research and development) and up to 16,400 sqm (GIA) B1c (light industrial), with associated access, parking, landscaping and drainage (all matter reserved).

Resolved: The Meeting agreed that the following comments be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council objects to the proposed development.

The land is open space, and all designated open space within Swindon should be protected by the Local Plan.

Specifically, fails to acknowledge:

- The site is outside of a settlement boundary.
- The **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** abuts the south of the site and is within its setting
- The site adjoins a **Country Wildlife Site** along the north eastern boundary.
- The site is within the **Mid Vale Ridge LCA** and **Upper Thames Clay Vale NCA**.
- The site is part of the **Great Western Community Forest**.
- The site is within an **Indicative Non-Coalescence Area (NC3)** which permits small-scale development provided it meets the economic and social needs of the community. This clearly does not.
- The site contains a significant area of low surface water flood risk
- The site is along the safeguarded route for the **canal** and **New Eastern Villages Southern Connector Road (SCR)**, which is designed to enable access to the New Eastern Villages.
- Development of this site would load more vehicle movements onto the **Southern Connector Road, Commonhead roundabout, the A419 and M4 Junction 15**. Identified road improvements for **M4 Junction 15, Commonhead roundabout** and the **Southern Connector Road** would not take into account development of this site and would therefore need to be addressed before development could proceed, taking into account S106 pooling restrictions.
- The site is undeliverable unless capacity improvements over and above those planned to the **Southern Connector Road, A419 and M4 Junction 15** are secured.
- The site is unsuitable due to **landscape** and **heritage constraints**.

The proposed use of the site is for a 24-hour operation, the noise pollution that would result would affect **Covingham**.

If the above reasons why this site should not be developed are disregarded (by Swindon Borough Council, or overturned on appeal), then the following conditions must be applied.

The **Recommended Conditions** required by the **Lead Local Flood Authority** are fully endorsed, as to disregard these, increases the **flood risk posed to Covingham**.

Heavy Goods Vehicles should be prohibited from travelling north along the **Southern Connector Road**.

There should be a **No Left Turn restriction** at the junction of the **Southern Connector Road** and **Wanborough Road** (when travelling north from Commonhead Roundabout. This is to prevent additional pressure on the roads within Covingham caused by staff access to the site.

If **development of the site** starts before the construction of the **Southern Connector Road**, then construction traffic must be prohibited from using **Covingham** and the **Wanborough Road** to access the site.

Also if the site becomes **operational** before the construction of the **Southern Connector Road**, then access to the site via **Covingham** and **Wanborough Road** must be prohibited.

11. Honorary Titles - Local Government Act 1972 section 249

To consider the adoption of the power to confer the honorary title of Freeman or Freewoman of the Parish under the LGA 1972 Section 249 (5)

Deferred: The meeting agreed that this would be investigated further and discussed at a future meeting.

12. Parish Allowances

To discuss and consider the recommendations from the Swindon Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish Allowances for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed that the Cllrs forego the Parish Allowances recommended by the Swindon Independent Remuneration Panel. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed as the Parish Councillors believed that any money paid by the residents should be used for the benefit of the residents.

All Councillors are required to email the Clerk to formally confirm that they wish to forego the allowances.

Action – All

13. Covingham Parish Council Business Cards

To discuss and agree the design and purchase of new Parish business cards at a cost of £24.95.

Resolved: Cllr Ricketts proposed the purchase of the new Parish Business cards. Cllr Sandle seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

Action - Clerk

14. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

Resolved: Cllr Ricketts proposed that the Financial summary and cheque list was approved for payment. Cllr Hawkes seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

b) To receive monthly bank accounts reconciliation - The Meeting agreed that the accounts are in good order and are on target to come in under budget for 2018/19.

15. Correspondence

The Meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

16. Admission of Public and Press: To resolve in accordance with Standing Order 3 (c) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: Draft tender document and process

17. Draft Tender Document and Process

To select and agree a small panel of Councillors to review the document and define the tender process

Resolved: The meeting agreed that the tender document produced by Cllr Ricketts was an excellent piece of work. Cllr Waywell and Cllr Bacon volunteered to be part of the tender process team. Cllr Hawkes proposed the three-person review team. Cllr Sandle seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

Action – Cllrs Ricketts/Bacon/Waywell

18. Matters for consideration

Cllr Wichall highlighted that several trees had been cut down in Gibbs Close. Cllrs Ricketts stated that this was due to the trees being dead. He would like to see them opened out to create more open space like had been achieved in Smitanbrook Park.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....