



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council held on:

Monday 4th November 2019

At 7pm in St. Paul's Church and community Centre, Covingham

Present: Cllr Benfield, Curtis (Chair), Ricketts, Sandle, Waywell, Westall, Wichall

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk) and two members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bacon (unavailable), Cllr Hawkes (unavailable)

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Curtis reminded that they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered at the beginning of the meeting and during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Planters- New replacement planters have been installed ready for planting.

Cole Close Car Park- Cllr Benfield noted that again there were no available parking spaces. Cllr Curtis to escalate the problem to the Ward Councillors as this not within the Parish Council's responsibility and it does not have enforcement powers. **Action -Cllr Curtis**

Grant Request –The Group Manager of Dorest & Wiltshire Fire Rescue Service, Safe Drive, Stay Alive campaign passed on his thanks for the grant given.

ROSPA Report- The Maintenance Engineers are working through, where possible, on points raised on the Play Park inspection, none of which were any cause for concern. Cllr Curtis confirmed that the corrosion on the adult exercise equipment is not covered under warranty.

Streetlight on Heronscroft- Cllr Waywell confirmed the streetlight is now working.

5. Public forum

Member of the public raised a question regarding item 16 on the agenda – this was answered and explained within the agenda item.

6. Chairs Verbal Update

Hedge – SBC recently removed some trees that were causing subsidence to a property and leaving a hedgerow needing urgent attention. Cllr Curtis proposed that the hedgerow is dealt with in place of the missed grass cut that the contractor was unable to complete due to poor weather. The Meeting unanimously agreed.

Street Sweeper- Cllr Curtis confirmed that due to more leaves still to fall, a request will be made for the streets to be swept in early December

Bus Service no20- Cllr Curtis explained that an Opposition Motion was due to be raised at the Full Borough Council Meeting on 7th November. One of the Ward Councillors had asked if the Parish Council's view had changed about funding for Bus no20. The Parish Council declined but were in favour and supportive of the proposal from Wanborough Parish Council.

7. Clerks Verbal Update

No update given

8. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – The meeting noted the good work carried out.

9. Reports from Parish Council Working Parties and Committees

- **Environment Working Party-** Cllr Benfield explained that more top soil had been purchased to fill the new planters up, ready for planting.

Covingham Square clean up – Clean up arranged for Wednesday 13th November at 2pm

- **Data Protection & Governance-** No report provided
- **Planning Working Party** – An update had been received for the current status of the NEV developments, with very little progress being achieved in recent weeks.

10. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

The meeting noted that no applications had been received

b) To note any comments from the Planning Working Party submitted between meetings

The meeting noted that no comments have been submitted

c) The meeting noted that the following decisions had been made:

Application: S/HOU/19/1201/PEKO

Location: 17 Dovetrees, Covingham, Swindon, SN3 5AX

Proposal: Erection of a first-floor extension – Refused

Application: S/HOU/19/1284/LZWI

Location: 33 Foxbridge, Covingham, Swindon, SN3 5BP

Proposal: Erection of a porch to front - Granted

11. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

Resolved: Cllr Sandle proposed approval of the Finance Statement and payment approval list. Cllr Benfield seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation.

Resolved: The meeting agreed the accounts were in good order. Cllr Curtis confirmed the VAT reclaim that had been submitted in early October had been received.

12. Change of Business Address

Resolved: Permission has been granted to use St Paul’s Church as the business address for the Parish Council. Cllr Curtis suggested holding in pop-in sessions for residents to speak face to face with the Parish Councillors. Cllr Benfield proposed holding the sessions once a month on a Saturday for six months to see what response the pop-in sessions generate. Cllr Wichall seconded proposal and was unanimously agreed. Cllr Curtis to check availability with the church. **Action- Cllr Curtis**

13. Replacement Tree for Heronscroft

To consider the request to replace the tree that was removed by SBC in Heronscroft. This item was deferred until the next meeting due to the current situation regarding tree maintenance with Swindon Borough Council

14. Swindon Area Committee- Tree Maintenance

The representatives of Swindon Area Committee held a meeting with the CEO of Swindon Borough Council and the lack of tree maintenance was raised. The representatives were informed that due to budget constraints the current situation will not change. The question was then asked about the possibility of Parish Councils contributing to enable the Tree team to be extended. An Extraordinary meeting is being held by the Swindon Area committee on 14th November to receive feedback.

Resolved: The meeting agreed it will not be contributing to the Tree Team

15. Flower Box request Larksfield

Resolved: The meeting agreed to the installation of two flower boxes by the street signs for Larksfield

16. Toddler Play Park

Cllr Curtis explained that after contacting the Play Equipment company and requesting a phased installation, a new quotation had been received with a guarantee for the prices to be held for the second phase until the end of 2020.

Cllr Benfield proposed acceptance of the quote and plans and to commence the replacement of the Toddler play park. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal.

Cllr Sandle proposed an amendment to the proposal to remove the picnic bench from the plans and replace with another item of equipment. Cllr Westall seconded the amended proposal which failed.

Resolved: Cllr Benfield restated his proposal to accept the quote and plans and to commence the replacement of the Toddler play park. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal which was agreed by a majority vote. **Action-Clerk**

17. Correspondence

The Meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

18. Matters for consideration

To receive information on matters not covered elsewhere & to receive future agenda items

Signed.....Date.....