



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council held on:

Monday 3rd February 2020

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

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk), Angus Macpherson - Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon and two members of the public.

1. Guest Speaker - Angus Macpherson: Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon

Angus Macpherson thanked the Parish Council and residents for letting him address the meeting. Angus has been trying to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible to communicate the Precept consultation as Wiltshire is the third lowest funded force in the country. Angus explained his job role is to be the voice of the people of Wiltshire and Swindon, to hold the Chief Constable and Force to account and cut crime and deliver effective and efficient policing.

He explained that it takes 3 years to recruit, train and post new Officers. 41 new Officers have been recruited, 20 of which will be hitting the streets in April with the remaining 21 still in training. A Cyber Crime team has been started and will continue to grow which will see them tackling the growing threat of online crime and child exploitation.

To be able to maintain this service at the current level the question to the public is, which one of the following increases would you support?

Over £1 per month to improve services

£1 per month to maintain services

Under £1 per month which would see a reduction in services.

An increase is needed to increase the number of officers from 979 to 1028 and to protect 131 PSCOs and 991 members of staff to be able to deliver a good level of policing.

The online consultation will close on Wednesday 5th February.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Westall (unavailable)

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Curtis reminded Members 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.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2020 were approved and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Pop-in Sessions- A meeting is being arranged with the Community Centre Development Manager to discuss holding the pop-in sessions. An update shall be given at the meeting in March.

Action- Cllr Curtis

Updating Email System to Office 365- This item is deferred until the next meeting.

Prevention of Further Services being transferred- Cllr Curtis to arrange a meeting with Councillors to review the SSPC policy and adapt for Covingham PC. **Action- Cllr Curtis**

The Gateway- No further updates have been received regarding the wall being replaced. Cllr Curtis to chase Highways. **Action- Cllr Curtis**

Road Sweeper- The Road Sweeper has been booked for 4th February and 5th February, a Facebook post reminding residents to move vehicles from the roads has been posted.

Community Speed Watch- The Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator is currently absent but will respond on return. Cllr Bates to help co-ordinate training, rotas and locations.

6. Public forum

Member of the public raised concerns over drug dealing activity in Covingham, Cllr Curtis will raise the issue at the next Community Safety Forum but encourages members of the public to report incidents/suspicious behaviour as soon as possible to the Police by telephoning 101, so intelligence can be gathered. Cllr Curtis explained that as from May Neighbourhood Policing shall be coming into force, so hoping to see more Officers on the streets.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Covingham Play Park – The work at the play park is near completion and being inspected at 10am on Tuesday 3rd February, if all is well will be open for the public. Cllr Bacon raised concern over the Adult Exercise equipment as due to the recent rain the areas around the equipment have become very muddy. Cllr Bacon suggested clearing around the equipment and laying sand to prevent this problem reoccurring. Cllr Curtis suggested the Councillors organise a day that is dry to do the work.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

No update given

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Cllr Curtis explained that due to an error the reports will be sent out later in the week.

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

- **Environment Working Party-** Cllr Benfield commented on the excellent work done removing the dead tree in Covingham Square. Cllr Waywell to find a replacement ornamental tree. Cllr Benfield to carry out a survey of areas that need more bulbs planting before Autumn.
- **Data Protection & Governance-**Cllr Hawkes explained that the website needs backing up and updating again. No other problems to report.
- **Planning Working Party**
Covingham Parish Liaison Group –No questions were raised regarding the written report tabled by Cllr Hawkes.

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

Application: S/HOU/20/0071 (12th February 2020)

Location: 35 Cornmarsh Way, Covingham, SN3 5DG

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and garage to side
Resolved: The meeting agreed that there is no objection to this proposal.

Application: S/HOU/20/0072 (14th February 2020)
Location: 33 Cornmarsh Way, Covingham, SN3 5DG
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension
Resolved: The meeting agreed that there is no objection to this proposal

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

Application: S/HOU/20/0003
Location: 17 Dovetrees, Covingham, SN3 5AX
Proposal: Erection of first floor extension
Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council have no objections to this proposal

Swindon Borough Local Plan Review

Covingham Parish Council object to Swindon Borough Local Plan Submission Draft for the following reasons.

- The plan still shows a development to the west of Lovell Close, and
- The plan does not appear to pay enough attention to the houses within Covingham in its description of the flood risks associated with the Foxbridge (New Eastern Villages) details.

Development west of Lovell Close

Covingham Parish Council formally objects to the inclusion of this site, as detailed in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Site Assessment Appendix B – East Sites 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 Applications, S/18/0671 and S/19/1158 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. If the area is developed or reduced in size, this will create more kerbside parking and create a safety hazard.

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 too near to the junction with Kingfisher Drive causing cars turning into St Pauls Drive to be in the centre of the road, thus causing risk to any oncoming traffic.

Covingham Parish Council submitted the above as an objection to the inclusion of this site during the initial SHELAA consultation. Cllr Dale Heenan provided a public assurance to the Parish Council and the Covingham residents on 11th February 2019 that this site had been removed, so we were dismayed to see it included at this stage.

Foxbridge Development

We believe that the information provided in respect of the Foxbridge development is technically flawed and also does not honour the statements in Policy DM36.

It has come to light that the drainage from the SuDS in the northern development known as Foxbridge is routed under the A419 and along a channel that joins Dorcan Stream above the Kestrel Road Bridge. The aforementioned channel, and Dorcan Stream were the major contributors to the floods of 2007, floods before this date and near flood events after this date.

The land is classified as a More Vulnerable Flood Risk, which it is.

The land is noted as a functional Flood Plain, which it is.

There is a high risk of surface water flooding within the site.

It is stated that the site is outside of the region expected to see ground water flooding. We do not believe that this is the case.

It is stated that this area has not been identified as at risk from reservoir flood risk. The maps provided by the Environment Agency are challenged. In the event of reservoir failure large areas of Covingham will be flooded, but the limit of the flood water is drawn against the boundary of the site. Historical evidence, with photographs, shows that the Wanborough Road bridge is the pinch point that will stem the flow of reservoir flood water causing it to travel south across the Foxbridge Site. There is discrepancy between the results of modelling, and local historical information, backed up by photographs.

It is stated that there is an opportunity for bespoke infiltration SuDS to be used. We do not believe that a clay-based flood plain is suitable for infiltration SuDS. This is a point we have made in the past.

The document states that there has been flooding in the vicinity. As it appears the Swindon Borough Council DO NOT actually know what happens during flood events in this area, the statement is regarded as understated.

This development contravenes Policy DM 36, part 2. This will not result in a net reduction of the flood risk in Covingham.

The development cannot be done without a net loss in Flood Storage Capacity within the development boundary.

Part 6 states all development should not adversely affect flood routing and thereby increase flood risk elsewhere. Opportunities should be sought within the site design to make space for water and therefore reduce flood risk elsewhere.

7.11.2 states that opportunities should be sought to reduce the flood risk elsewhere. We do not believe this has been actioned in respect of the Foxbridge development.

The water storage and movement across the flood plain of Foxbridge will be done in such a way that it attempts to reduce the flood risk to Foxbridge. The land where houses will be built currently retain rainwater, with very little actual drainage. The SuDS will hold back a few hours rainwater, before discharging into Dorcan Stream, and further filling the Flood Storage Area. This is completely inappropriate in the current climate, considering the rainfall patterns for the last few months. The building of the site, within the constraints of the Swindon Plan will increase the flood risk to Covingham.

In Covingham Parish Council's opinion, the way to mitigate the perceived increase in flood risk to Covingham is to increase the capacity of the Dorcan Stream culvert under the Wanborough Road. The proposed Foxbridge development is upstream of this culvert. The discharge from the site (when the SuDS are full) will add volume to the water held in the Dorcan Flood Storage Area, the release of which is restricted by the culvert. When the culvert has reached capacity in the past, the water has been held back and parts of Covingham have been flooded.

Covingham Parish Council feels that Swindon Borough Council has not given sufficient consideration to Covingham in the production of this section of the document

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/19/1838

Location: 13 Covingham Drive, Covingham, SN3 5BQ

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension- Granted

Application: S/LDP/19/1442

Location: 36 Partridge Close, Covingham, SN3 5EU

Proposal: Erection of a single storey detached outbuilding- Granted a certificate of lawful use in development.

12. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

Resolved: Cllr Sandle proposed approval of the Finance Statement and 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

13. Correspondence

Covingham Park- Positive feedback was received regarding the updating of the play park.

St Paul's Drive Hedge- Due to SBC not taking responsibility for the hedge which has become overgrown, the Parish Council agreed to get the contractor to cut back the hedge back to make the path more passable. The work will be carried out on Thursday 6th February.

14. Matters for consideration

Cllr Wichall raised concerns over the poor condition of the footpaths around Smitanbrook Park. Clerk to report via SBC My Account.

Cllr Sandle wished to note her apologies as she shall not be in attendance for the March meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

Signed.....Dated.....