



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council held on:

Monday 2nd March 2020

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

Present: Cllrs Bates, Bacon, Benfield, Bennet, Curtis (Acting Clerk), Hawkes (Chair), Ricketts, Waywell, Westall and Wichall

Also in attendance: Three members of the public

1. Consider Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Resolved: Cllr Benfield proposed that Yvette Bennet be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Cllr Bates seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed. The Acceptance of Office and Application for a Dispensation forms were duly signed and received.

2. Guest Speaker - Cheryl Pottinger, Community Centre Development Manager, St Paul's Centre

Cheryl introduced herself as the new Community Centre Development Manager and explained that her background was in sports centres where she also delivered training in life guarding and first aid. One of her aims was to bring First Aid training to the Community. Her focus was to put Covingham Community Centre on the map and was looking for the Parish Council to have a presence and work together in some areas. She was also looking to involve the local schools and the neighbourhood PCSOs.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sandle (unavailable).

4. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Hawkes 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.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2020 were approved and signed as a true record

6. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Pop in sessions – a suggestion had been made to hold sessions on Saturdays to enable residents to meet with the Parish Councillors on a face to face basis, if required, which was proving to be difficult to achieve. It was agreed that the sessions should be arranged on an ad hoc basis, at the request of a resident rather than setting dates and times. A comment to be put in The Handy Mag article and on the Facebook page asking residents to contact the Parish Council if they would like to meet with a Councillor.

Office 365 – Cllr Wichall confirmed that he now had all of the information needed to provide a full report ready for the subject to be discussed at the next meeting

Gateway on Kingfisher Drive – still awaiting a response from Swindon Borough Council Highways

Road Sweeping – this had been completed.

Community Speedwatch – still outstanding.

Toddler Play park – completed

Dead Tree, Covingham Square – now replaced with a Kanzan Cherry Blossom. Cllr Waywell was thanked for carrying out the research to identify a suitable replacement and planting with Cllr Ricketts.

Hedge, St Paul's Drive – actioned

Dog bin lid in Covingham Park – replaced

7. **Public forum**

One of the three residents in attendance, commented on the good work in Covingham and the noticeable difference since the Parish Council had taken over. He was however, extremely concerned about the two rivers, notably Dorcan Brook as the banks were being eroded away by the amount of water that was now flowing through from Coate Water due to the increase in rainfall. He believed that if no remedial work was done then the bank would collapse totally and there was a serious risk of flooding as a result. Cllr Hawkes confirmed that as the Chair of Covingham Flood Group he also shared those concerns and the matter had been raised with Swindon Borough Council, initially in 2017 and again in 2018, but to date the only action taken has been to erect the temporary barriers. The subject was also raised via the Flood Group with the Environment Agency in January 2019. Cllr Hawkes gave assurances that the situation was closely monitored.

The second resident who was a Trustee of the Library Trust explained that Covingham Library was in danger of closing due to insufficient funds. Cllr Curtis to provide the written response sent to residents that had complained about the decision to not provide funding after the initial commitment.

Action – Cllr Curtis

8. **Chairs Verbal Update**

As all actions were covered in Matters arising or included as an agenda item, no further update was provided

9. **Clerks Verbal Update**

The Clerk will be attending an Election Briefing being held by Swindon Borough Council on Wednesday 4th March 2020. Depending on the timelines confirmed at the briefing, further details would be communicated to the Councillors either prior to or at the meeting to be held on 6th April 2020.

Action - Clerk

10. **Parish Maintenance Engineers**

- **Monthly Reports** – to receive any comments or provide any feedback to the Maintenance Engineers – the meeting noted the reports were good.

The condition of the grass verges in Covingham are of serious concern due to the amount of cars parked on them when the ground is saturated, resulting in very deep ruts in some places. A request for cars not to be parked on the verges to be included in the Handy Mag article and on Facebook.

Action – Cllr Curtis/Hawkes

BT Openreach? cable box in Covingham Park is seriously corroded and wires are clearly visible. Ownership to be confirmed and reported to whoever is responsible.

Action – Cllr Curtis

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Cllrs Benfield & Sandle to carry out a survey of the spring bulbs to see if there are any areas that need further bulbs planted.
Flower box in Larksfield has not been planted and needs investigating
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Working Party**
Nothing to report

12. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

Application: S/OUT/20/0160 (11th March 2020)

Location: Land At Foxbridge Village, New Eastern Villages Wanborough Road
Wanborough Swindon

Proposal: Outline application for up to 370no. dwellings and a mixed-use local centre of up to 1,500sqm floor space (use classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5 and D1) - Access not reserved.

Cllr Hawkes confirmed that the Planning working party were still working on a response. He asked for the Council to agree to the response being submitted once completed, by the closing date of 11th March, which is before the date of the next meeting meaning that it will not have full council approval. He listed the issues that had been identified to date, namely the Southern Connector Road must be used by construction traffic and residents; noise barriers need to be erected to absorb the sound, not reflect it back; the flood risk posed to Covingham due to the current drainage proposals and that this application was for Foxbridge south only as the infrastructure for the development appeared to be in Foxbridge north. This development should be one application for both sites to ensure that there was a joined-up approach. The meeting agreed to his request.

Action – Cllrs Curtis/Hawkes/Waywell/Wichall

Application: S/19/1891 (4th March 2020)

Location: Symmetry Park (Phase 6), Shrivenham Road South Marston Swindon

Proposal: Erection of storage or distribution building (use class B8), ancillary buildings, offices, landscaping, vehicular parking, bus depot, creation of 2 no. passenger vehicle accesses and associated works.

Resolved: The Meeting agreed that it had no comments to make

b) The meeting noted that no comments had been submitted between meetings

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

Application: S/LDP/20/0069

Location: 4 Baskerville Road, Covingham, SN3 5DD

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension - Certificate of Lawfulness granted.

Application: S/HOU/20/0071

Location: 35 Cornmarsh Way, Covingham SN3 5DG

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and garage to side – Permission granted

Application: S/HOU/20/0072

Location: 33 Cornmarsh Way, Covingham SN3 5DG

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension – Permission granted

13. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

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

b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation.

The meeting agreed that the accounts were in a good position.

14. S137 Grant Request

The request to consider contributing towards the costs of the replacement boiler for St Paul's Centre was discussed at length. A representative from the Church was in attendance and asked to provide details of why the boiler needed to be replaced and the costs involved. He also explained that asbestos from the roof needed to be removed which had added a significant amount to the costs. The Meeting agreed that the Centre is seen as a hub for local activities, used by several different groups and countless Covingham residents. As the Parish Council finances needed to be discussed, the final decision was made after the Members of the public had left.

Resolved: Cllr Benfield proposed that a donation of £1,000 be made. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal and was agreed by a majority.

15. Great British Spring Clean

To consider taking part in the Great British spring clean 20th March -13th April.

Cllr Benfield stated that it would be insulting to the work of the Maintenance Engineers in keeping Covingham clean and clear of litter to participate in this programme. It was also impossible to identify an area that needed additional attention.

Resolved: Cllr Benfield proposed that the Parish Council do not take part in the Great British Spring Clean. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

16. Service Provision Policy

To consider adopting the drafted Service Policy.

Cllr Benfield proposed that the draft Service Policy be approved. Cllr Bates requested that Councillors be given additional time to consider the policy outside of the meeting and make any comments as appropriate. Cllr Bates amendment was seconded by Cllr Westall and agreed by the majority.

Resolved: Cllr Bates proposed that all Councillors be given additional time to consider the policy and send any comments to the Chair by 14th March. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bacon and was agreed by the majority.

Action – All

17. Correspondence

The Meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

18. Matters for consideration

The Meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed.....

Date.....