



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council on:

Monday 1st June 2020

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

Also in attendance: Cllr Kevin Parry (Ward), Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Consider Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Resolved: Cllr Benfield proposed that Anna Mills be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Cllr Bates seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed. Due to Covid-19 restrictions The Acceptance of Office, Register of Members Interests and Application for a Dispensation forms were emailed and duly signed and received.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bennet (unavailable), Cllr Waywell (unavailable), 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 4th May 2020 were approved, and are to be signed at a later date due to the current Covid-19 social distancing regulations

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Replacement drill for the van – completed- Drill purchased

Flowerbox in Larksfield- Cllr Sandle confirmed that this has now been planted.

Grasscuttings left on Path – Contractor now has blowers on the machines to use when needed.

Tyre Marks near Smitanbrook- Cllr Curtis raised concerns with the contractor who has assured this will not happen again.

Tanker Lorries on Merlin Way – Confirmation had been received from Thames Water that due to a filter being taken out of service for maintenance reasons at the Wanborough pumping station and the increased loading, believed to be from the lockdown, the tankers were removing the excess capacity and transporting it to the Sewage treatment works.

6. Public forum

No questions or comments were received from members of the public

7. Chairs Verbal Update

As items were included in further agenda item, no further update was provided

8. Clerks Verbal Update

Still awaiting feedback regarding the Internal Audit

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – It has been a very busy month for the Maintenance Engineers dealing with broken branches from the strong winds and carrying out extra work.
- **Fly Tipping**- Still seeing an increase in fly tipping, 26 bags of fly tipped waste have been removed this month.
- **Kerbside Weedkilling** – The Maintenance Engineers have noticed that the weeds on the kerbside need to be dealt with. The meeting agreed to obtain a quote from the contractor for the weedkilling. **Action- Clerk**

Cllr Benfield thanked the Maintenance Engineers for all their hardwork and that the Parish Council are very supportive of the engineers. Cllr Benfield also expressed what a good job they are doing.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Cllr Benfield explained the the flowerbox down the end of Covingham Drive has been planted with miniature sunflowers which are growing very well.
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**
See planning matters below

Ward Councillor Kevin Parry joined the meeting at 7.35pm

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

Application: S/OUT/17/1990

Location: Great Stall East - Land South Of The A420, South Marston Swindon

Proposal: Outline planning application (with means of access to the A420 not reserved) for up to 1,550 homes; education provision including a 10 form entry secondary school and a 3 form entry primary school with attendant sports pitches; a sports hub and open space; a park and ride; a local centre up to 1,000sqm including classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and D1 uses; public open space/green infrastructure; new informal and formal recreation spaces, the formation of a new permanent access from the A420 and a temporary construction access from the A420.

Resolved: The meeting agreed that it had no comments to make.

Application: S/OUT/18/1943 (5th June 2020)

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 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 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 Village 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 proposal implies that it would generate additional traffic in a northern direction along the Southern Connector Road. This additional traffic would travel through residential areas. Nothing in this proposal stops commuter traffic and HGV traffic from travelling through Covingham.
- 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.

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

Application: S/HOU/20/0463

Location: 3 Blackmore Close, Covingham, SN3 5DF

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council have no objections to this proposal

Application: S/19/1891

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

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

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council have no objections to this proposal

Application: S/OUT/19/0582

Location: Lotmead Site, New Eastern Villages, Wanborough

Covingham Parish Council object for the following reasons;

1. The application does not provide for a robust system to be put in place to ensure that the maintenance of SuDS and other drainage systems are performed properly during the life of these systems.

2. We object to the commencement of the construction unless the Southern Connector Road has been constructed, and all construction traffic is mandated to use the Southern Connector Road for all access to the site. When the phase two houses are built there must be a robust method of ensuring that these houses cannot access the Wanborough Road in the direction of Covingham. This is to prevent a rat run through Covingham.

3. Major issues are currently being experienced at school drop off and pick up times at the junction of Kingfisher Drive, The Harriers and St Pauls Drive due to parents driving to and from the school, which is causing severe congestion, irresponsible parking and sitting in their cars at inappropriate locations with the engine idling. It is unreasonable to expect children to walk from Lotmead, therefore the problem will be made worse.

The Parish Council has no choice but to object to Covingham Park School being used for this development to ensure that the situation does not worsen.

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/20/0346

Location: 21 Gantletdene, Covingham, SN3 5EL

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension- Granted

12. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

Resolved: Cllr Sandle proposed approval of the Finance Statement and payments 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 a good position

13. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

14. Matters for consideration

Cllr Curtis asked Cllr Parry if he would provide an update on the ward, Cllr Parry explained that there was little to report due to the response to Covid-19. Cllr Parry also stated that the Borough Councillors are there to help, should the Parish Council need it.

The meeting closed at 8:04pm

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