



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council on:

Monday 3rd August 2020

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bacon (unavailable), Cllr Mills (unavailable), Cllr Waywell (unavailable).

The Meeting noted that Cllr Westall had resigned.

2. 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.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2020 were approved, and are to be signed at a later date due to the current Covid-19 social distancing regulations

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Kerbside Weedkilling – some areas still in need of treatment by SBC.

Play Park Signage – The Covid 19 safety signs that have been put up in the play areas have been ripped off and replaced numerous times. The decision has been made to stop repalcing them. Cllr Curtis to put an explanation in the Handymag. **Action- Cllr Curtis**

Thermofisher- Awaiting a date for a site visit.

Hedge Cutting – The second hedge cutting round has started with the Kestrel Estate nearly complete. Cllr Curtis commented on what brilliant job has been done. The work for the hedge that needed removing completely has been completed.

5. Public forum

No questions or comments were received from members of the public.

6. Chairs Verbal Update

No update given

7. Clerks Verbal Update

Junior Play Park- The order for the upgrade of the junior play park has been placed.

Limited Assurance Review - The Meeting noted that the period for the Exercise of Public Rights is Thursday 30th July until Friday 11th September 2020.

8. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – The Maintenance Engineers have had another busy month. The removal of whips and wraps that had been planted to create a hedge will be removed shortly by the Maintenance Engineers.

Cllr Benfield proposed a vote of thanks to the Maintenance Engineers, Cllr Ricketts for the support given, and to the contractor Adam & Watts. It was noted what a excellent job is being done, which was unanimously agreed.

- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
No issues or concerns raised

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

- **Environment Working Party**

Cllr Benfield attended the Wanborough Allotment meeting on 3rd August 2020 and explained the judging for the best allotment is now complete and the presentation shall be held on 31st August 2020.

- **Data Protection & Governance**

Cllr Hawkes explained that Covingham Parish Council are now registered with the Domain Registry Lock as per government advice making the email system more secure.

- **Planning Working Party**

Wanborough Traffic Calming Scheme Consultation

Resolved: The meeting agreed the following comments be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council **object** to the construction of the traffic calming measures to be introduced in Wanborough, prior to the completion of the Southern Connector Road.

Residents along Merlin Way suffer enough because of heavy traffic. It is unacceptable to the Parish Council that there is a deliberate instruction for construction traffic to use that road and therefore increase their misery to relieve potential misery elsewhere when there appears to be a more sensible approach.

The timescales quoted for the traffic calming measures are 'towards the end of 2021 and will last approximately 15 weeks', suggesting development will last into 2022. As the suggested timescales for the Southern Connector Road are commencement in the Winter 2020 with completion Summer 2022, the sensible option would be to introduce the traffic calming measures on completion. We would assume that the Southern Connector Road works will start from Commonhead roundabout, with early stages being completed in a phased approach. This will then provide an opportunity for construction traffic to the NEV to use the SCR, as has been suggested is the preferred route on other planning applications, and therefore avoid Merlin Way.

10. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

Application: S/19/1221 (7th August)

Location: Mayhew Dental, 19 Covingham Square, Covingham, SN3 5AA

Proposal: Erection of a three-storey building to provide 12 no. flats and associated works including revised parking layout for the dental practice.

Resolved: The meeting agreed the following comments be submitted:

As stated in the previous response, in principle, Covingham Parish Council has no objections to this area of land being redeveloped. However, we believe that any development should be sympathetically designed and considerate of the neighbouring properties.

The Parish Council has reviewed the amendments to the proposed development and, although some of the issues have been addressed, there is still some way to go with the following:

We acknowledge that footpaths have now been provided on one side of the site in the amended plan. However, access to the site is still narrow and passing vehicles are likely to encroach onto the footpath at its narrowest.

There is no indication of how the new pedestrian access point will be designed and constructed to meet up with the existing footpath and cycle track.

Due to the incidences of flooding that have occurred in and around this area previously, we are extremely concerned and fully support the points that have been raised by the Environment Agency. The Parish Council believes that insufficient consideration has been given to the possible increased risk of flooding should this development take place.

Based on the above comments Covingham Parish Council **objects** to this planning application.

Should this application be approved the following should apply:

We fully support the conditions made by the Lead Local Flood Authority and would expect full compliance.

We would expect the conditions recommended by the Arboriculture Officer to be complied with as described with no amendments made.

The requests made by the Landscape Officer should be conditions of approval.

Application: S/OUT/20/0533 (17th August)

Location: Land At Foxbridge Village North, Wanborough Road Swindon

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of up to 299no. dwellings, commercial facilities up to 300 sqm (Use Classes A1/ A2/A3/A4/A5/ B1 & D1) with associated parking, landscaping, drainage and heritage trail - Access not

Resolved: The meeting agreed that the Planning Working Party comment on this application.

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

The meeting noted that no comments had been submitted.

c) To note any decisions

The meeting noted that no decisions had been received.

11. 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 Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation

Resolved: The meeting agreed the accounts were in a good order.

12. Flowerbox Request

To agree installation of a flower box by the street sign for St Katherines Green

Resolved: The meeting agreed to the installation of the flower box by the street sign on St Katherines Green.

13. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

14. Matters for consideration

Cllr Bates explained that contact has been made with the Borough Councillors as the Gateway has not yet been reinstated and Cllr Curtis has not had any further contact from Highways regarding the matter, update to be given when received.

Trees – the lack of tree maintenance is increasingly becoming an issue for the residents due to the amount of complaints and requests for attention received. With the limitations of the Transfer of Services Deed regarding the extent of tree work that the Parish Council can undertake, the majority of contacts cannot be actioned and need to be referred to SBC. In several responses SBC has stated to the resident that the Parish Council is responsible for tree maintenance, which is incorrect. The residents are being bounced backwards and forwards which is unacceptable. SBC, as the landowners have a common law duty of care to ensure the safety of trees, however, due to the budgetary constraints, regular maintenance is not a priority.

Cllr Wichall proposed that a tree survey be carried out by a professional arboriculturist to enable the Parish Council to be able to understand the extent of the problem and the consequences should the decision be made to assume responsibility for some or all of the trees in Covingham. The meeting agreed with the suggestion. The Contractor to be asked in the first instance for comments and advice.

Action – Cllr Curtis

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

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