



Minutes of the **Extraordinary** meeting of Covingham Parish Council held on:

Monday 12th October 2020

At 7pm via Zoom

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

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. Tree Survey – To discuss quotation received.

Cllr Curtis explained that any new leases or extension of current leases would include responsibility for the trees on the relevant land. Due to Swindon Borough Council's policy of not carrying out routine tree maintenance, it was essential that the Parish Council was aware of any potential issues that could arise due to the costs involved, to assist with budget management. A quote had been received from an Arboriculturist for a full tree survey to be undertaken, which would identify any potential risks. The Arboriculturist recommendation was for the Parish Council to enrol on the PSGA (Public Service Geospatial Agreement) with Ordnance Survey, to facilitate the provision of the map required, at a reduced cost, to complete the survey.

Cllr Bates raised concerns regarding the ability to be able to map all the trees in Covingham. The Arboriculturist had been recommended and has recently completed tree surveys for two other Parish Councils in the area.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed registering with the PSGA and giving approval for the tree survey to be undertaken. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal, which was agreed by a majority vote, with 2 abstentions.

4. Update on the 'gateway' – approval needed to cover the traffic management costs.

Cllr Curtis explained a response had been received from the Highways Officer who was dealing with the claim. Swindon Borough Council had received a settlement from the insurance loss adjuster which would cover the costs of the materials and labour to reinstate the gateway, but not the traffic management. The work for the gateway requires the use of three way temporary traffic lights for 3-4 days costing £2,147. If the shortfall in costs is not covered by the Parish Council then the gateway would not be reinstated and many residents have been asking when the gateway will be rebuilt.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed approving the costs to cover the traffic management for the reinstatement of the gateway. Cllr Ricketts seconded the proposal which was agreed by a majority vote with one abstention and one against.

5. Update on planning matters

Cllr Curtis explained that the planning enforcement issue that was raised at the last meeting has been passed to Ward Cllr Kevin Parry.

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6. Matters for consideration

Cllr Curtis raised concerns over the youths that have been gathering in Covingham Park starting bonfires, setting off fireworks and vandalised one of the dog bins which will need replacing. Residents will be urged to call the Police on 101 when this type of anti social behaviour is taking place.

Resolved: Cllr Sandle proposed ordering a new dog bin. Cllr Bates seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

Bank on Dorcan Brook - Concerns had been raised with the Environment Agency and SBC regarding the condition of Dorcan Brook due to the recent excessive rain. A written reply has been received by the Environment Agency and it has been physically inspected by SBC, we await further information.

Meeting closed at 8:09pm

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