



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council

Monday 2nd November 2020

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Waywell (unavailable)

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 5th October 2020 were approved, and will be signed at a later date due to the current Covid-19 social distancing regulations

4. Minutes of Extraordinary meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 12th October 2020 were approved, and will be signed at a later date due to the current Covid-19 social distancing regulations

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Junior play park – work due to start week beginning 9th November. Their work is considered to be construction and is permitted during the lockdown.

Covingham Park extension of lease – no response from SBC received to date.

Firecrest Play area transfer from SBC to CPC – no response from SBC received to date

Bench in Smitanbrook – removed and in storage. Seats from Covingham park have been removed and currently being refurbished ready to install on the frame in the basketball court in Smitanbrook.

Gateway – SBC has scheduled the works although no date provided.

Dog bin – ordered, received, and installed. Cllr Bacon raised concerns regarding tyre marks left around the dog bins. Cllr Curtis to raise the concern with the contractor. **Action – Cllr Curtis**

Adult exercise equipment – plates ordered and received, not installed as yet.

Dorcan Brook – has been inspected and a recommendation was due to be made but no further news has been forthcoming.

Skateboard Park- Missing signage, look into new signage

Action- Cllr Curtis

Street Signs- Cllr Bates carried out a survey on the street signs, those street signs that also contain the dead end symbol are badly faded. Cllr Bates to complete the report and return to the Clerk.

Action – Cllr Bates

6. Public forum

No questions or comments were received from members of the public

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Rats – A resident made contact to report that several houses in Heronscroft, one in Swanbrook and one in Merlin Way had problems with rats. Pest control is not and never has been a Parish Council responsibility, SBC has no legal duty to treat infestation of pests but does have a statutory duty to require owners of places or land that are significantly infested, to take action to destroy the infestation or otherwise prevent damage from pests. The resident replied confirming that the property owners had contacted vermin control and believed that people should be made aware as it was due to their actions of feeding birds etc could be making the situation worse.

Planning Protocol – SBC has issued a new planning protocol that was approved by the Planning Committee in early October with several advisories from the Government. All local authorities are being encouraged to take a light touch approach with any planning changes that would aid economic recovery from the pandemic e.g. change of business use when no external works are required and also any extensions/buildings on domestic properties that are within permitted development and may be used for businesses such as dog groomers, hairdressers etc.

Change to Management Team at SBC – a suggestion has been mooted to look at the Transfer of Services Deeds, although no time frames given.

Anti-social behaviour and drug dealing/taking – Police Inspector has been informed and details provided

Firecrest Play area – is becoming serious. Swing seat had been badly vandalised so has been removed due to safety concerns, remaining swing constantly wrapped around the cross member. Litter, broken glass is extreme. 5 teenage boys and 5 teenage girls were the main protagonists – abusive, rude and threatening behaviour.

Covingham Park – bottles smashed in the small new swivel bowl and left.

Drug dealing and taking – everywhere in broad daylight. Bus shelters, Cole Close car park, both of the parks and some of the quieter residential roads.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

As published in the Members Bulletin, SBC are working with the fire service to ban the releasing of sky lanterns from SBC land. There will be a marketing campaign to help educate the dangers.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another exceptional month. Cllr Benfield thanked Cllr Ricketts for helping the Maintenance Engineers on Monday.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Nothing to report

- **Data Protection & Governance**
Cllr Hawkes to action accessibility guidelines.
- **Planning Working Party**
Nothing to report

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

The meeting noted that no planning applications had been received.

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

Application: S/HOU/20/1264

Locations: 1 Honeybone Walk, Covingham, SN3 5DL

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey side extension

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council formally **objects** to this proposal as it considers it to be overdevelopment and not in keeping with the area.

We request that the plans to be called in and dealt with by the Planning Committee and not decided by delegated authority

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/20/1037

Location: 5 Blackmore Close, Covingham, SN3 5DF

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side/rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable space – Granted

Application: S/HOU/20/1156

Location: 24 Gilling Way, Covingham, SN3 5EQ

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension – Granted

12. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

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

b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation

Resolved: The meeting noted the accounts were in good order.

13. 20 MPH speed limit zones

To consider a response to a request from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council to support the aim of introducing 20 mph speed limits in residential areas.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed not to support Stratton St Margaret Parish Council as a 20mph speed limit as it would require enforcement, which is not considered a priority, or traffic calming measures, such as the humps that were removed several years ago. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal, which was agreed by a majority vote, with three against. A response letter to be drafted and sent.

Action- Clerk

14. Flowerbox Request

To agree installation of two flower boxes by the street signs for St Ambrose Close. This item has been deferred until the next meeting.

15. Correspondence

A letter was received from Justin Tomlinson MP, who as the Minister for Disabled people wished to introduce a North Swindon resident who is currently trying to improve access and provision for

disabled children in parks across Swindon. Cllr Curtis to make contact via the details provided.

Action- Cllr Curtis

16. Matters for consideration

Cllr Bacon commented on what a brilliant idea the Halloween Trail it was. This was set up by a resident so families could enjoy Halloween. Cllr Curtis to publish thanks to the resident in the Handy Mag.

Action – Cllr Curtis

The Meeting closed at 8:42pm

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