



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council

Monday 7th December 2020

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk) and one member of the public

1. Apologies

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2020 were approved, and will be signed at a later date due to the current Covid-19 social distancing regulations

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Junior play park – Handover was due to take place 7th December, has been delayed.

Covingham Park extension of lease – no progress from SBC

Firecrest Play area transfer from SBC to CPC – no progress from SBC

Bench in Smitanbrook – Seats that had been in storage have been refurbished by the Maintenance Engineers, have been installed in Covingham Park. The seats from there have been refurbished by Cllr Ricketts and installed by the basketball court in Smitanbrook Park. Patio slabs need to be laid around the area to finish it off. Cllr Ricketts has also refurbished the gates from the old play area and the posts.

Gateway – no update with regards the start date for the works to commence

Adult exercise equipment – weather and other priorities have delayed installation of the replacement plates

Dorcan Brook – no update has been provided by SBC

Street Signs – Cllr Bates to forward the completed survey on the street signs to the Clerk

Action – Cllr Bates

5. Public forum

The member of the public commented on the recent announcement made regarding Covingham Library closing and asked if the Parish Council would help fund the Library. Cllr Curtis explained that funds were withheld for a reason and if the resident wished to know more information then to contact Cllr Curtis via email.

6. Chairs Verbal Update

Police matters - Anti-social behaviour, drug dealing/taking and general criminality around Covingham – The Police Inspector took the issues raised seriously. Two PCSO's have been assigned to the case. The Facebook post generated lots of information and several Messenger messages were received with specific information relating to individuals and addresses. All of the information was handed over and has been logged on to the Police system as intelligence. Patrols have been increased, especially around the areas that were identified with problems.

Speeding - A resident raised the excessive speeding along Kingfisher Drive, which was loosely mentioned to the PCSOs. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, they are parking up to act as a deterrent. In the meantime, I have tried to re-open the conversation of starting a Community Speedwatch Team in Covingham although all CSW activities are currently suspended due to social distancing guidelines.

Thermo Fisher – works to extend the boundary fence out to the actual property boundary are almost complete now. Thermofisher has provided confirmation that they will continue to maintain the green area outside of the boundary that runs next to Kingfisher Drive as it will have an impact on their site. Cllr Sandle raised concerns regarding the tyre marks on the green by Thermofisher. Cllr Curtis to make contact regarding this. **Action- Cllr Curtis**

7. Clerks Verbal Update

No update given

8. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another very busy month. Cllr Benfield commented on the excellent job being done by the Maintenance Engineers. Cllr Ricketts explained that there is an increase in fly tipping with 20 bags being removed in November. There is also an excess amount of wine and beer bottles being put into the public litter bins. Cllr Curtis suggested holding an educational campaign regarding the use of public litter bins and was unanimously agreed.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
To review quotation provided for areas of improvement- see attached
Resolved: Cllr Ricketts proposed to accept the quote and for the work to be carried out. Cllr Hawkes seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle have been out recently deadheading the flowers
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Cllr Hawkes explained that an Accessibility Statement has been added to the Website which makes it compliant.
- **Planning Working Party**
Cllr Hawkes explained that The New Eastern Villages, Lotmead and Redhouse are progressing slowly
Symmetry Park – SBC lost the High Court Case in making the road a public access road.

White Hart Roundabout - Work is still continuing.

Southern Connector Road - Work to commence in March 2021.

Thames Water New Pumping Station – Thames Water wish to place a pipe under the A419 but we will ask that a condition would be all construction traffic would have to enter via the A419 and not through Covingham.

10. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

The meeting noted that no planning applications have been received.

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

The meeting noted that no comments have been submitted.

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/19/1221

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

Proposal: Erection of a three-storey building to provide 9 no. flats and associated works including revised parking layout for the dental practice - Granted

11. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

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

b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation

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

12. Community Safety Forum

An overview of the new policing model and to choose the representative to the CSF for the Parish Council

Resolved: Cllr Curtis explained that this is a restructure to enable better communication between the Police, Parish Councils, and other bodies within the communities. Cllr Curtis suggested being the representative to attend the first meeting and this was unanimously agreed.

13. Review of Swindon Borough Council Codes and Protocols

To consider feedback for SBC Codes and Protocols- see email previously sent

Resolved: The meeting agreed that there were no comments to make.

14. Flowerbox Request

To agree installation of two flower boxes by the street signs for St Ambrose Close

Resolved: Cllr Ricketts proposed the request be refused as no further communication has been received from the resident. The meeting unanimously agreed.

15. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence was received.

16. Admission of Public and Press: To resolve in accordance with Standing Order 3 (c) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: Draft budget and personnel

17. Draft Budget

First look at draft budget - To look at the draft budget proposal for 2021/22- draft figures were discussed. Cllr Hawkes proposed approving the draft budget at January's meeting, Cllr Ricketts seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

Laura Evans, the Clerk, left the meeting at 8.25pm

18. Personnel matters

A business case had been circulated by Cllr Curtis with a proposal to increase the Clerk's working hours per month from 50 to 70 to enable the transfer of website and social media tasks. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hawkes and was unanimously approved.

19. Matter for consideration

The annual kerbside cleaning to take place during week beginning the 14th December.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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