



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on:

Monday 6th September 2021

At 7pm in the former Library room at St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Covingham

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk), two members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and one member of the public.

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 2nd August 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Covingham Park extension of lease – no further progress to report

Firecrest play area – no progress with the lease and resulting transfer of the asset.

Gateway on Kingfisher Drive – Work has started on the reinstatement of the Gateway.

Speed Indicator Device – business case submitted to SBC. Form needs to be completed for the work to be progressed by SBC. **Action – Cllrs Curtis/Hawkes/Clerk**

Memorial Area- progressing. The tree has been ordered and will be delivered in November, with the location to still be decided. The memorial plaque is to be ordered. **Action- Cllrs Curtis/Benfield**

Consultation on the redraft of the Borough, Parish & Town Charter- All comments submitted have been included in the redraft and is to be discussed at the next Swindon Local Council's Forum .

Hedges that border Cole Close carpark and Pheasant Close – No further update has been received from SBC or Cllr Parry regarding ownership and therefore responsibility for maintenance of the areas. Agenda Item 9 - Land Registry Subscription to address this issue.

Swindon Local Plan Submission Revised Draft Plan Consultation – After attending the NEV meeting, Covingham Parish Council have been encouraged to reaffirm their position on the Local Plan submission as Cole Close carpark has been not been removed as publicly confirmed by Ward Cllr Heenan. **Action- Cllrs Curtis/Hawkes**

5. Public forum

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

6. Police Matters

The Neighbourhood Policing Team gave an update on recent activity, but expressed concern that there is still reluctance from Covingham residents to report crimes, no matter how small.

A drop-in session was held by the Neighbourhood Policing Team on Monday 6th September and went well, but considering holding a Saturday drop-in session as more residents may attend.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

No update given.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

No update given.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers and now in a good position to go into Autumn.

- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**

Covingham Square Crescent – to discuss the options re future maintenance of the area.

Resolved: The Contractor visited the Crescent and quoted £200 to dig out and clear the area, except for the two trees either end, leaving fallow for a month and then would advise on plants for the area. Cllr Bacon proposed acceptance of the quote. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

The Owlets – large green area that is not identified on map detailing responsibility as part of Transfer of Services for hedge cutting.

Resolved: The meeting agreed that as the hedge is not highlighted on the Transfer of Services map as Parish Council responsibility and is predominantly trees, which are the responsibility of SBC, no further action would be taken.

Out of contract scope/responsibilities requests – to confirm the Parish Council's position

Resolved: A request had been received for the Parish Council to provide gravel/stone for the area where a problematic hedge at Kestrel Drive was cleared 3 years ago.

The meeting agreed that this is outside of the scope of the maintenance services contract and the responsibilities that Covingham Parish Council under the Transfer of Services Deed.

Land registry subscription – for consideration

Resolved: To register with the Land registry is free, any title plans that are requested are at a cost of £3 per plan. Cllr Wichall proposed that the Clerk sign up to the Land Registry subscription and a budget be set for £100 per year for the cost of any title plans which may need to be purchased. Cllr Hawkes seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

Action - Clerk

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

- **Environment Working Party**

Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle have been deadheading the flower boxes where necessary and have planted pansies in the Flower boxes on Kingfisher Drive.

- **Data Protection & Governance**

Review of all Data Protection and Governance Policies is still ongoing.

- **Planning Working Party**

Cllrs Curtis and Hawkes had attended the recent NEV Liaison Meeting with SBC Planning Officers on 2nd September.

The Section 106 agreement had been signed for Rowborough and consent granted.

Great Stall East – Section 106 had been signed on 18th August and permission granted for 1,950 homes, primary school and secondary school.

Lotmead – no change from outline permission at the end of March, awaiting discharge of conditions and reserve matters applications. In total circa 7,000 homes had been consented across the NEV.

SBC still awaiting the Supreme Court judgement regarding the road through Symmetry Park.

Toys R US site – no progress made.

Thames Water Pumping Station – which is a key piece of the infrastructure, to be consented.

Foxbridge – objections had been received from the Environment Agency and the LLFA (Flood Authority) – awaiting further information from the Developers to answer the points raised.

Extensions of time until the end of September had been given to both developers.

Redlands – most advanced

Southern Connector Road – Contractors working on how to split the next phase

Inlands Farm – Planning Appeal heard in early summer. Two outstanding assessments to be heard in early September with closing statements to be made on 8th September.

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

The meeting noted that no planning applications were received.

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

Application: S/HOU/21/1251

Location: 19 Ravenscroft, Covingham, SN3 5AE

Proposal: Erection of single/ two storey side and single storey rear extensions

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Application: S/HOU/21/1289

Location: 8 Tealsbrook, SN3 5AU

Proposal: Erection of a rear single storey and two storey side and single side extension

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no objections to the planning application

Application: S/COND/21/1190

Location: New Eastern Villages, Southern Connector Road, Swindon

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 6 (Design), 12 (Lighting), 22 (Commonhead Junction) and 24 (Commonhead Junction Design) following planning permission S/20/1538

Resolved: The following response was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no comments to make

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/21/0964

Location: 16 Heronscroft, Covingham, SN3 5AP

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension, dormer window to rear and associated works - granted

12. 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 Benfield seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed
- b) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation
Resolved: The meeting noted that the accounts were in good order.

13. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

14. Matters for consideration.

Cllr Wichall raised concern over two very low hanging branches by St Andrew’s Green which can be dealt with from standing height. Also the footpath on Covingham Drive has some bramble sticking out of the hedge onto the footpath. Cllr Curtis to inform the Maintenance Engineers.

Action – Cllr Curtis

Cllr Wichall wished to thank the Maintenance Engineers for the brilliant job being done, and how lovely the area is looking, which was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Bates raised concern that the riverbank on St Pauls Drive opposite Pinnegar Way has still not been made structurally sound. Cllr Curtis explained that this issue has been reported to SBC on numerous occasions since 2017 by the Parish Council, with no action being taken, other than to move the safety barriers and reduce the width of the footpath.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm

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