



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

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

**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. Cllr Bacon declared an interest in item 8.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 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 completed. The contract stated that the old play area would be levelled and seeded. Due to the weather the ground was too wet to complete this. Wicksteed has agreed with a suggestion to withhold 5% of the cost until the area has been reinstated satisfactorily.

**Covingham Park extension of lease** – SBC has stated that other Parish Councils are still waiting for leases to be actioned.

**Firecrest Play area transfer from SBC to CPC** – SBC has stated that other Parish Councils are still waiting for asset transfers to be completed, Covingham is not the only one.

**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.

The Member of the Public that attended last month's meeting did make contact and requested details of the reasoning behind the refusal to continue to fund Covingham Library. The standard reply was sent.

**Symmetry Park** – SBC has applied to the Supreme Court to appeal the decision of the Developer for the main route through not to be a public highway.

**Police matters** – A car has been identified as being used by a drug dealer to meet with his/her runners. Details have been passed to the Police. One area constantly used for dealing – Police informed

**Street Signs** -Cllr Bates has completed survey on the street signs. Clerk to report to SBC

**Action- Clerk**

**5. Public forum**

The member of the public raised concerns over the relocated seats in Smitanbrook as when sat on the seats you can not see anyone approaching, as it faces away from the path. This also makes it difficult for parents to watch their children when playing on the basketball court. Cllr Curtis explained the reasoning behind the relocation of the seating. Cllr Benfield proposed that all Cllrs are to have a look at the location and speak to the residents to obtain their views. This will then be reported back at the next meeting, which was unanimously agreed.

**6. Chairs Verbal Update**

No update given

**7. Clerks Verbal Update**

No update given

**8. Parish Maintenance Engineers**

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers. Cllr Benfield commented that the Maintenance Engineers go above and beyond their job role.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**  
Complaint – was brought forward to item 5 – Public Forum

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

- **Environment Working Party**  
Nothing to report.
- **Data Protection & Governance**  
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**  
Nothing to report

**10. Planning Matters:**

**a) To consider any planning applications**

**Application:** S/20/1538

**Location:** Land East of The A419, Between Commonhead Roundabout And Land North Of Wanborough Swindon

**Proposal:** Variation of conditions 3 - 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 - 22, 24 and 26 from previous permission S/19/0703 for the construction of a new road, to link the A419 Commonhead Roundabout to the proposed New Eastern Villages (NEV) development including improvements to the existing Commonhead Roundabout and Pack Hill, new junctions with Pack Hill, The Marsh and Wanborough Road, new footway/cycleway and associated earthworks, drainage works and landscaping.

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed that there is no objection to this proposal

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

**Application:** S/HOU/20/1481

**Location:** 12 Bullfinch Close, Covingham, SN3 5HP

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

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

**Application:** S/HOU/20/1478

**Location:** 57 Pheasant Close, Covingham, SN3 5HT

**Proposal:** Erection of a first-floor side extension and conversion of garage into habitable space.

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

**c) To note any decisions**

The meeting noted that no decisions have been received.

**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 Benfield seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation

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

c) Q3 Budget Monitoring

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed the budget is on track.

**12. 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 discussions, Precept setting*

**13. To agree the Draft Budget for 2021/22**

**Resolved:** Cllr Benfield proposed the approval of the draft budget. Cllr Ricketts seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

**14. To agree the Precept for 2021/22**

**Resolved:** Cllr Benfield proposed that the precept be set at £127,394. Cllr Ricketts seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. **Action – Clerk**

**15. Correspondence**

The meeting noted that no correspondence was received.

**16. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Bacon suggested that when the Covid-19 regulations change, that all the Cllrs do a clean up at the end of the cul- de-sacs where the road sweeper cannot reach.

Cllr Curtis requested that the Clerk contact SBC as Covingham Drive, Merlin Way, Kingfisher Drive and St Paul's Drive have not received the annual road sweep that is carried out by SBC Highways.

**Action – Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

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