



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

**Also in attendance:** Laura Evans (Clerk), one member of the public and Angus Macpherson - Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon.

**1. Guest Speaker - Angus Macpherson: Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon**

Angus Macpherson thanked the Parish Council and residents for letting him address the meeting. Angus has been trying to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible to communicate the Precept consultation.

He explained that the Government announced that it would deliver 6,000 new officers nationally in 2021/22 as part of its plan to increase officer numbers by 20,000 and that he can raise the policing part of the council tax next April by 6.9%, equivalent of up to £15 per year for an average band D household, to help fund the increase in officers. This equates to £1.25 per month. This will help support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and will help maintain the current services provided, while bolstering the Community Policing Teams which will help target issues that matter to residents.

The Consultation closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

Cllr Curtis explained that in September 2020, after an increase in general criminality in the area, the Neighbourhood Inspector took the concerns seriously and responded quickly. Two PCSO's were assigned to the area and are doing a brilliant job, with petty crime reducing. Cllr Curtis asked for thanks to be passed to the Inspector and PCSO's.

Cllr Wichall raised concerns over drivers attitudes and actions towards learner drivers and asked if this issue could be passed back to the Traffic Enforcement team.

**2. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Bates declared an interest in item 13. Cllr Curtis declared an interest in item 11a.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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** –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, still awaiting invoice.

**Covingham Park extension of lease** –SBC has stated that other Parish Councils are still waiting for leases to be actioned, no further update provided.

**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 – still ongoing

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

**Adult exercise equipment** – Still outstanding due to weather and other priorities have delayed installation of the replacement plates.

**Dorcan Brook** – Still no update has been provided by SBC.

**6. Public forum**

No questions or comments were received from members of the public

**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. Cllr Ricketts explained that there is still excessive fly tipping with 19 bags being removed in January, another area of concern is the amount of disregarded N20 cartridge (153 removed)
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**  
Additional Services  
**Resolved:** Cllr Wichall proposed releasing relevant information to the Swindon Borough Council. Cllr Benfield seconded the proposal, which was agreed with a majority vote, as there was 1 abstention.

Purchase of an additional dog poo bin on the corner of Kingfisher Drive/St Pauls Drive  
**Resolved:** Cllr Ricketts proposed to monitor usage of the bin for the next 2 months, should the usage be high then the purchase would be reconsidered.

Smitanbrook Park – To receive feedback on siting of the seats.  
**Resolved:** The meeting agreed to turn the seats around

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

- **Environment Working Party**  
Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle have been out deadheading a few of the flower boxes. Bulbs have planted at the end of Merlin Way and more bulbs will be planted at the far end of Covingham Drive.
- **Data Protection & Governance**  
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**  
Nothing to report

**11. Planning Matters:**

**a) To consider any planning applications**

**Application:** S/COND/20/0868 (2<sup>nd</sup> February)

**Location:** Redlands, Eastern Villages, Swindon

**Proposal:** Discharge of condition 25 (Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) Method Statement) from previous permission S/OUT/16/0021.

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed that there were no comments to make on this proposal.

**Application:** S/20/1655

**Location:** Merlin Way, Covingham

**Proposal:** Construction of a temporary construction access off Merlin Way

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed that there is no objection to this proposal, but that there should be a condition on the proposal that construction traffic is not permitted to travel through Covingham.

**Application:** S/HOU/20/1698 (11<sup>th</sup> February)

**Location:** 2 Mallard Close, Covingham, SN3 5JQ

**Proposal:** Conversion of garage into habitable space, erection of single storey extension to rear of garage, single storey rear extension and associated works.

**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/20/1654

**Location:** 5 Peregrine Close, Covingham, SN3 5BJ

**Proposal:** Construction of vehicle access

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

**Application:** S/21/0036

**Location:** Patheon Building, Kingfisher Drive, Covingham, SN3 5BZ

**Proposal:** Erection of infill of internal patio to create additional floor space and installation of roof plant and 3no. flues.

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

**c) To note any decisions**

**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-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 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.

**13. Swindon Borough Council Consultation review of Statement of Licensing Policy**

To review and feedback on SBC review of Statement of Licensing Policy- see email attached.

**Resolved:** Cllr Ricketts explained that after reviewing the Licensing Policy that the Licensing Committee should consult with local residents, especially those directly affected, and the Parish Council on Licensing applications.

**Resolved:** Cllr Hawkes proposed that a response to the consultation should be made raising the points stated. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

**14. Correspondence**

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

**15. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Bates asked when the Parish Council budget will be formalised. Cllr Curtis confirmed that it is formalised in May.

Cllr Sandle commented on how clean the gullies were on Merlin Way, believed to be due to the request sent to Swindon Borough Council as discussed at the January meeting.

As the legislation permitting the use of virtual meetings appeared to be ending, with no sign of an extension at the end of March, Cllr Curtis had contacted St Paul’s Church to ascertain if there was Wi-Fi capability at the Centre to facilitate ‘hybrid’ meetings. This would then allow any members or residents to continue to log in from home that were considered to be vulnerable or those uncomfortable attending meetings. It was noted that the National Association of Local Councils were still to comment, so the advice could change the situation.

The meeting closed at 8:41pm

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