



Minutes of the meeting of Covingham Parish Council

Monday 1st March 2021

At 7pm via Zoom Conference Call

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sandle (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 1st February 2021 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

Covingham Park extension of lease, Firecrest play area transfer and works to reinstate the Gateway still outstanding. The Borough Council Officer and Borough Councillor responsible for Parish Council liaison have been informed. Awaiting a response.

Adult exercise equipment – installation of the replacement plates still delayed due to weather and other priorities.

Dorcan Brook – no update has been provided by SBC.

Junior Play Park Equipment Invoice – to be paid, less 5% withheld due to the terms of the contract not being completed as the ground was unsuitable. The withheld amount should cover the cost if an alternative Contractor was asked to complete the reinstatement works.

Seat in Smitanbrook Park - actioned

Dog poo bins – Contractor has commented that the bin that is being overfilled, is getting worse. One of the bins in Covingham Park, near to skateboard area, has minimal usage. He has suggested relocating it either next to the problematic one or along Kingfisher Drive.

Resolved: The meeting agreed to relocate the bin next to the problematic dog poo bin.

St Pauls Church Centre - confirmation has been provided that wi-fi capability is available and can be used. Sharing of the access details would need to be minimal and a suggestion was made that a trial run, before an actual meeting, is arranged. Lockdown restrictions and Government guidelines would dictate if and when hybrid meetings can be an option.

5. Public forum

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

6. Chairs Verbal Update

Bus shelters vandalism – Good quality CCTV of offender(s) has been passed to the Police. Awaiting response as to whether any action can and will be taken.

Bus shelters – The Parish Council does not have sufficient Perspex sheets to repair the damage. To buy replacements the cost would be approximately £70 per sheet. As the shelters are no longer on a bus route, the suggestion was made to leave them as they are.

Resolved: The meeting agreed with the suggestion.

Police matters – The Meeting noted the success with the two-day operation targeting local drug lines that took place in East Swindon week beginning 22nd February.

Dog fouling – the amount of dog poo not being picked up is unacceptable. As the problem is Borough wide, an item has been added to the Swindon Area Committee meeting, due to take place later in March, with the aim of having enforcement action taken against some of the offending owners.

Collaborative Youth Service – Cllr Curtis attended a virtual meeting regarding a new youth service being proposed. A survey had been carried out at Dorcan Technology College, with over 400 responses received to date, with the idea of the service to be tailored to the needs and wants of the young local residents, rather than adults dictating what is made available to them. Further details will be forthcoming.

7. Clerks Verbal Update

The Clerk will be attending an Election Briefing being held virtually by Swindon Borough Council on Thursday 4th March 2021. Depending on the timelines confirmed at the briefing, further details would be communicated to the Councillors either prior to or at the meeting to be held on 12th April 2021.

Clerks Forum- It was requested at the Clerks Forum held on 28th January that any key issues for Parish Councils were to be emailed through. A comprehensive response was sent.

Waste Audit – SBC have given advance notice that they will be shortly carrying out an audit of the waste delivered directly to PPS Waterside by Parish Councils.

8. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers. Cllr Benfield commented on the excellent work being done and the Meeting agreed.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
No matters needed addressing.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Cllr Benfield had attended the Wanborough Allotment meeting, and explained the two vacant plots were given to Covingham residents.
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**

Cllrs Hawkes and Curtis had attended the Covingham Parish Council/SBC NEV Liaison meeting. Cllr Hawkes explained that there is no change to the status on most of the NEV Villages, with some closer to resolution than others.

Symmetry Park – Awaiting High Court judgement.

Toys R Us Site – Revisions had been requested and now been submitted, as SBC was not happy with the access route into the site from the slip road onto the A419 which is not adequate for traffic management purposes.

Foxbridge North – Revised plans have been submitted – this needs to be reviewed by Covingham Parish Council

Southern Connector Road – Latest published plan indicates that traffic from Merlin Way cannot travel to Commonhead, and vice versa, which results in no route from White Hart to Commonhead through Covingham when A419 backed up.

10. 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/21/0055

Location: 1 Honeybone Walk, Covingham, SN3 5DL

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey side extension

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

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/20/1481

Location: 12 Bullfinch Close, Covingham, SN3 5HP

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side and rear extension - granted

Application: S/HOU/20/1654

Location: 5 Peregrine Close, Covingham, SN3 5BJ

Proposal: Construction of vehicle access - granted

Application: S/HOU/20/1698

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 - granted

11. 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 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. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

13. Matters for consideration

Cllr Wichall raised concerns regarding speeding vehicles on Kingfisher Drive. Cllr Curtis confirmed that the Police had been informed. Once lockdown restrictions had been lifted, setting up a Community Speedwatch Team could be revisited.

Cllr Bacon raised concerns over Thermo Fisher using the parking in Cole Close car park, and when staffing levels are increased, would this make the situation worse. Cllr Curtis explained that this issue is currently due to the works being carried out on site and once complete, having been given reassurance by Thermo Fisher, there should be ample parking for staff.

The meeting closed at 8:08pm

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