



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on

Monday 4th April 2022

At 7pm in the Small Hall at St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Covingham

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk) and one of the Maintenance Engineers.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Khan (unwell)

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 7th March 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Covingham Park extension of lease – no progress

Firecrest play area – no progress

Speed Indicator Device – no progress

Dorcan Brook Bank, St Pauls Drive – Still outstanding.

Crescent, Covingham Square – meeting held with Contractor on 9th March and re-planting agreed. Quote for works needed, plants and materials received for £3,070.00 +VAT plus an optional ornamental bark mulch laying at £350.00 +VAT, if required. The plants selected will provide a complete season result with interest throughout the year. Heathers have been included for the quiet months, i.e December, January and February.

Resolved: Cllr Benfield proposed proceeding with the quote of £3,070.00 + VAT but not to proceed with the optional ornamental bark mulch laying at this time. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

Junior Play park – refurbishment kit for the closing mechanism fitted. Gate is now working as it should do.

Dog Fouling video – no response from SBC or Ward Councillor as to the suitability for evidence to enable a successful prosecution.

5. Public forum

The Maintenance Engineer stated how wonderful the Memorial Area is and what a lovely idea it was to create the area.

Concerns were raised regarding, what could be a future problem, with utilities infrastructure being laid only 2-3 feet below ground in the grass verges and Covingham having incredibly soft ground, especially in the winter months, due to the high water table. Vehicles, contractor vans and machinery that park on the grass verges could cause damage to the utilities pipework and cables that are installed under the grass. A comment will be put in The Handy Mag with Facebook posts to follow.

6. Police Matters

No Police personnel were present at the meeting so no update provided.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Receipt of the letter from Covingham Parish Council and Covingham Flood Group has been acknowledged by the SBC Officer. Awaiting a full response.

Dorcan Trading Estate – Some properties on the Redrow Estate and off Kestrel Drive back on to the estate. One particular development had all the trees that acted as a barrier and screen for the residents, removed without prior consultation with SBC. The land agent has contacted all residents with the planned proposal for redevelopment comprising of the Fraser Building being knocked down and new units built at the boundary fence. Due to the negative impact on the houses, SBC has agreed that Covingham Parish Council will be a statutory consultee.

Articulated Lorries – Large 40 ton articulated lorries are trying to reach the Dorcan Trading Estate via the Redrow Estate. The roads being used are Bullfinch and Pheasant Close that leads in to Mallard Close. This is a major concern as these roads are dead ends with no areas for turning, causing the lorries to reverse into side roads which are extremely tight on space. This has been reported to a Senior Manager at SBC with the suggestion that a larger ‘no through road’ sign be positioned on the bridge into the estate. This will be investigated by SBC but can take up to 28 days.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

The VAT Reclaim has been submitted for October 2021 to March 2022.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers. Cllr Curtis thanked the Maintenance Engineer present on behalf of the Parish Council for the brilliant job they do.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
Memorial Area- The finishing of the area. Quote for works needed, plants and materials received from the Contractor for £976 + VAT.
Resolved: Cllr Waywell proposed proceeding with the quotation of £976 + VAT. Cllr Bates seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
32 Sunflower seeds have been planted, and compost has been purchased ready to top up the flower boxes once the Spring flowers are removed.
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Working Party**
Nothing to report.

11. Planning Matters:

- a) **To consider any planning applications.**

Application: S/HOU/22/0313 (25th March)
Location: 2 Larksfield, Covingham, SN3 5AD
Proposal: Erection of a detached garage.
Resolved: The meeting noted there were no objections to this proposal.

Application: S/22/0370 (1st April)
Location: White Hart & Gable Cross Junctions, Swindon
Proposal: Installation of public art sculptures and associated landscaping.

Application: S/21/1417 (Extension until 8th April)
Location: 19 Covingham Square, Covingham, SN3 5AA
Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings; construction of mixed use building to provide a dental surgery on the ground floor with 12 flats on first and second floors; and construction of parking and turning areas.
Resolved: The meeting agreed that all previous concerns regarding this planning application have been addressed so there is no objection to this proposal.

Application: S/LDP/22/0423 (13th April)
Location: 80 Bullfinch Close, Covingham, SN3 5HP
Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) for the erection of a single storey rear extension.
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.
The meeting noted that no comments were submitted.

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/LDP/22/0113
Location: 8 Smitan Brook, Covingham, SN3 5BX
Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) for the erection of a single storey rear extension- Granted.

Application: S/HOU/22/0281
Location: 7 Kestrel Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DP
Proposal: Erection of a two storey and single storey rear extension- 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 a good position
- c) Internal Auditor – to agree that Auditing Solutions be appointed the Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2021/22
Resolved: Cllr Benfield proposed appointing Auditing Solutions for the Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2021/22. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

13. S137 Grant Request

To consider a contribution request from St Paul's Church and Community Centre- See letter attached.

Resolved: Cllr Curtis proposed contributing £570.76p. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal with the amendment that the contribution is not made until the works are completed, which was agreed with a majority vote and 3 abstentions.

14. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

15. Matters for consideration

Cllr Bates raised a query, as to whether the traffic orders on Merlin Way had been temporarily lifted. Cllr Curtis confirmed that they have been lifted due to the NEV construction.

Cllr Kay enquired if the 7.5 Tonne weight restriction had also been suspended on the Wanborough Road, Cllr Hawkes confirmed it has.

Tree preservation order for the Memorial Tree - The Clerk confirmed this is now with the Tree Preservation Officer at SBC.

Cllr Wichall apologised for not being able to attend the unveiling of the Memorial Area on Saturday 2nd April. Lots of feedback has been received from residents stating how good the area is looking.

Cllr Wichall also raised concerns over the amount of fencing panels that have blown down near pavements and not been fixed. SBC has the powers to be able to request the property owner to effect a repair, the same as with a vegetation notice for overgrown hedges and trees on private property would be the best way to proceed. Clerk to enquire if Covingham Parish Council can obtain copies of the standard notices letter and what the limitations are on the Parish Council issuing them.

Action- Clerk

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

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