



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
At 7pm in the Small Hall at St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Covingham

**Present:** Cllr Bates, Curtis (Chair), Kay, Ricketts, Roy, Sandle, Wichall.

**Also in attendance:** Laura Evans (Clerk).

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bacon (unavailable), Cllr Benfield (unavailable) and Cllr Hawkes (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 6<sup>th</sup> June 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 response received from SBC to the request to instal the device on one of the posts already in situ. Will revisit the proposed locations and look for any alternatives.

Dorcan Brook Bank, St Pauls Drive – Covingham Flood Group had a positive meeting with the Environment Agency and SBC on Tuesday 21st June. SBC has now declared this a live project with the intention of remedial works to be completed within this financial year.

Crescent, Covingham Square – planting has been completed. Spaces have been left to accommodate other plants from the original design in the autumn.

How Healthy is your Parish initiative – Contact made with St Pauls Church, which was in support of the initiative. They are contacting all of the group organisers to update their own website and obtain permission to include details on the Parish Council website.

Basketball nets – new metal nets purchased and fitted

The Handy Mag – Article submitted and paid for. One positive response from a resident received

**5. Public forum**

No questions or comments received from members of the public, as none were present at the meeting.

## 6. Police Matters

The Neighbourhood Policing Team sent an update regarding the recent activity in the area. Currently there is a lot of Anti-Social Behaviour taking place including knocking on doors then running away, the Police are urging residents to report this to the Police via 101 or by using the online reporting system. There has also been an increase of drug dealing in the area which the Police are aware of. They have asked for a message to be posted on the Parish Council Facebook Page to encourage residents to report any instances that may be witnessed and the use of Crimestoppers if anyone is not happy contacting them directly. Wording for the message and a poster to use on Social Media and the website will be forwarded.

## 7. Chairs Verbal Update

Chairs & Clerks Engagement meeting – Cllr Heenan is now the Borough Councillor with delegated responsibility for Parishes. SBC/Parish Protocol being rewritten – draft to be sent to Swindon Local Councils Forum by the end of July for review. It was acknowledged by the CEO that the backlogs of outstanding cases were due to the volume of staff leaving SBC and difficulties in recruiting replacements.

HAF Project – ATB Shop sent an email to say that sadly the HAF Project cannot fund the skate events that have been held in Covingham Park during the Summer holidays last year and Easter 2022.

Thermofisher – most Contractors have now left the site. Some portacabins to be removed imminently. New Landscape Gardeners appointed.

## 8. Clerks Verbal Update

The Clerk confirmed that all relevant paperwork is now with the External Auditor.

Tree Preservation Order for the Memorial Tree- This is still with SBC, Clerk has chased but no response received.

## 9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month including one of the Maintenance Engineers noticing and reporting 4 blockages in Dorcan Brook to the Environment Agency, which were cleared within 24 hours. It is believed that children are making dams in the brook to cross from one side of the bank to the other, which is very dangerous as the water builds up quickly, is fast flowing meaning there is not only a risk to the children but also of flooding. The number of N20 cartridges being removed are still a concern, especially the much larger versions which are normally used in the catering industry. The toddler swing seat has been damaged, we believe by teenagers forcing themselves into it. The swing has been removed for safety reasons while a replacement part is sourced.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**  
No matters needed to be addressed.

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

- **Environment Working Party**  
Cllr Sandle asked about the overgrown foliage along the side of Covingham Drive and Dorcan Way. Cllr Curtis and the Grass Cutting Contractor had spoken to the Contractors on site the previous week who had confirmed that the area will be reinstated. Work had since been started on the verge along Covingham Drive and the footpath had been replaced.
- **Data Protection & Governance**

- Nothing to report.
- **Planning Working Party**  
Nothing to report.

## 11. Planning Matters:

### a) To consider any planning applications.

**Application:** S/TC/22/0828 (11<sup>th</sup> July)

**Location:** Land Off Dorcan Way, Covingham

**Proposal:** Prior notification application for the erection of a 20 metre high monopole supporting 6 no. antennas and 2 no. transmission dishes, 4 no. equipment cabinets and associated works.

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed the following comment be submitted;  
Covingham Parish Council agrees with and fully supports the concerns raised by Cllr Dale Heenan. Furthermore, it strongly objects to the parking location identified in The Harriers. This is a busy road that is constantly beset by issues with vehicles due to the close proximity of the main entrance to the school. It is also narrow and the hammerhead is there to assist access and egress to the properties at the end of the road. It would also severely restrict access for emergency services vehicles and create problems for other larger vehicles, e.g. refuse collection lorries.

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

**Application:** S/21/1417

**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- revised documents.

**Resolved:** The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no further comments to make; all points previously raised still stand

### c) To note any decisions

**Application:** S/HOU/22/0313

**Location:** 2 Larkfield, Covingham, SN3 5AD

**Proposal:** Erection of a detached garage – Granted.

**Application:** S/HOU/22/0682

**Location:** 12 Foxbridge, Covingham, SN3 5BW

**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey side/ rear extension and associated works- Granted.

**Application:** S/HOU/22/0611

**Location:** 7 Linnetsdene, Covingham, SN3 5AG

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey side/ rear and single storey rear extensions- 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 Wichall 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) Q1 Budget monitoring

**Resolved:** The meeting noted that the budget is on track.

**13. Correspondence**

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

**14. Handy Mag Article**

The meeting agreed to put the following into the Handy Mag article

- Anti- Social Behaviour
- Covingham Crescent
- Basketball nets
- Swing Seat

**15. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Wichall asked if a request could be made to residents to tend to overgrown foliage from their properties via Facebook, as in some areas of the Parish the foliage is now overhanging the footpaths.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

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