



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on

Monday 5th September 2022

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

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk), one member of the public and one of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Benfield (Unavailable) and Cllr Khan (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 1st August 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 – to be discussed under item 9

Speed Indicator Device – progress is being made. Cllr Hawkes to meet with Ward Cllr Heenan on 8th September to discuss the suggestion of covering the SBC signs on the two locations that Highways objected to whilst the Speed Indicator Device is in use, the covers will then be removed once the device is moved to another post, which will be every 3 months.

How Healthy is your Parish initiative – permission has been given to the Parish Council from all the group activities that are held in the Community Centre, to be advertised on the Parish Council website.

Toddler Swing seat- The part has now been delivered and will be reinstalled in due course.

5. Public forum

The resident in attendance raised concerns over the apple tree on the green area in Pipitdene. The tree is dropping lots of apples which is attracting wasps and pests. The resident has been regularly clearing the area and reported the issue to SBC who passed the resident back to the Parish Council. Cllr Curtis explained that tree maintenance is the responsibility of SBC but as the resident is struggling to get any response, she will speak to the Contractor for advice on the tree and ask the Maintenance Engineers to clear the fallen apples in the interim.

Action- Cllr Curtis

6. Police Matters

The Neighbourhood Policing Team gave an update on the activity in the area including the recent increase in drug dealing which is being pushed from another area close by. Increased patrols are taking place at the Mini-Mart in Cole Close and Covingham Square.

The information being received by the Police from residents is improving but the Police are urging more residents to report incidents/suspicious behaviour. The more information received, the more intelligence is built and operations can then be planned. Residents can report incidents via 101, online and also via Crimestoppers.

Cllr Ricketts raised concerns over the amount of N20 cartridges still being found around the Parish. The Parish Council will continue to feed the information provided by the Maintenance Engineers back to the Police.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team are looking to hold events before Halloween, dates to be confirmed, and will be distributing posters for those who do not want trick or treaters knocking on their doors.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Nothing to report.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

Nothing to report.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – As always the Maintenance Engineers are going above and beyond and doing an excellent job. 219 N20 cartridges were removed from within the Parish but this now seems to be a national problem, 66 drain gullies were cleared and 4 smashed slabs were removed from the Toddlers play park.

- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**

Grass cutting – Two scheduled cuts were not carried out due to the extreme heat, based on advice provided by the Contractor. A decision needs to be made as to how the banked value can be utilised.

Cllr Curtis explained that the recent fires that have been started in the open space and wooded area in Firecrest Play Park are a major cause for concern as this area backs onto properties. The area is also used for anti-social behaviour and suggested the banked value be used to remove the hedging and open up the area making it less attractive for these types of incidents.

Resolved: Cllr Kay proposed removing the hedging and opening up of the area at Firecrest play park. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

10. 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.

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications.

Application: S/HOU/22/1260 (20th September 2022)

Location: 10 Robinson Close, SN3 5EE

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory to rear

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/22/1197

Location: 5 Martinfield, Covingham, SN3 5BA

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension

Resolved: The following comment was submitted – Covingham Parish Council has no objections to this proposal

c) To note any decisions:

Application: S/TC/22/0828

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 - Swindon Borough Council hereby determines that prior approval of the Local Planning Authority is REQUIRED and GIVEN for the siting and appearance of the development proposed in the above application.

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 - Granted

Application: S/21/0866/TB

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

Proposal: Installation and operation of a natural gas Combined Heat and Power system, external exhaust stack and associated infrastructure - Granted.

The Parish Council was disappointed with the decision that this application had been granted and the majority of the concerns raised in the objection appear to have been ignored. An external Consultant, employed by the applicant to address the concerns about car parking off site, provided a factually correct report although did not appear to take into account the reality of the situation generally and more specifically at peak times.

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 the monthly accounts reconciliation

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

13. Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Report for 2021/22 as prepared by Auditing Solutions had been received and was positive with no advisories or actions needed. The Meeting thanked the Clerk and confirmed it was an excellent report.

14. Redrow Estate

To consider the purchase of appropriate signage warning of 'No access to Dorcan Trading Estate' due to the number of HGV's experienced in recent months and parked cars being damaged- Cllr Curtis has been in regular contact with Ward Cllr Parry and SBC regarding the problems with HGV's. A request for appropriate signage was considered small works by SBC so will not be done imminently. The cost for the Parish Council to purchase two metal signs to clip to the railings on the bridge will be £100.

Resolved: Cllr Bacon proposed proceeding with the purchase of the signage and for Cllr Curtis to email Ward Cllr Parry and Highways to make them aware of the location of the signs. Cllr Hawkes seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

Action - Cllr Curtis

15. S137 Grant Request

To consider a grant request towards the hosting of Silver Sunday Event

Resolved: Cllr Bacon proposed not to contribute due to the request not fulfilling the requirements for the Parishes policy for section 137 grant requests and the lack of visibility, the restriction on ticket sales and lack of transport arrangements to convey residents outside of Liden to the event. Cllr Sandle seconded the proposal which was agreed with a majority vote.

16. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

17. Handy Mag Article

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

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reporting incidents to the Police

18. 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: to review and consider the recommendation from the Tender Panel for the Grounds Maintenance contract from April 2023 – March 2026

19. To receive the recommendation provided by the Tender Panel for the Grounds Maintenance Contract commencing April 2023

The Tender Panel provided an analysis of the two Tender documents received for the Grounds Maintenance Contract, one from Covingham Parish Council's current Contractor and one from another company, based on the criteria identified and their recommendation.

Resolved: Cllr Bacon proposed acceptance of the recommendation which was to select Covingham Parish Council's current contractor. Cllr Kay seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

20. Matters for consideration

There were no matters raised for consideration.

The meeting closed at 9:04pm

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