



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on:

Monday 5th December 2022

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

Present: Cllr Bates, Curtis (Chair), Hawkes, Kay, May, Ricketts, Sandle, Walker, Wichall

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bacon (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 7th November 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Covingham Park extension of lease – no progress.

How Healthy is your Parish initiative – Ongoing

Firecrest wooded area and the play area – Identified works will be completed before Christmas, the same applies to The Owlets. Still no response regarding removal of the play area by SBC or the question re the overgrown trees.

Redrow Estate and HGV's – Temporary signs installed in a similar way to advertising banners. Reports received of HGV drivers seeing signs and asking residents for directions of how to get to Dorcan Trading Estate. A positive result achieved.

Footpath to play area – The Parish Council has been offered enough pavement slabs to enable a footpath without any gaps to be laid. The size and weight of the slabs should deter any attempts of vandalism as previously experienced. Materials should be available by the end of the week.

Grass verges, Piccadilly roundabout – Email resent asking when the grass verges will be finished – Ward Councillors have escalated the issue.

Heroncroft, missing tree – The resident that asked the question has been informed of the decision by the Parish Council to agree to cover the associated costs of the materials and planting of a tree, but not the tree.

Commemorative bench – Derek's family informed of the Parish Council's agreement to take care of the installation of a donated bench by the Memorial Area.

Graffiti art on the skateboard park equipment – PCSO has been asked for more information as agreed at last meeting. Details to be provided early Spring next year.

5. **Public forum**

The Maintenance Engineer enquired as to what type of tree the residents of Heronscroft were considering purchasing as a replacement. Cllr Curtis confirmed the replacement would be similar to a Kanzan Cherry Tree.

Concerns were raised regarding how slippery the surface of Firecrest play park is becoming especially in wet and icy conditions, despite the moss and leaves being cleared. Cllr Curtis explained that still no response has been received from SBC regarding complete removal of the play area.

SBC have repaired the cracks on the footpath around Covingham Park but concerns were raised over how long these repairs will last.

6. **Police Matters**

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

7. **Chairs Verbal Update**

Street Sweeping- will be taking place on Tuesday 13th December, Wednesday 14th December and Thursday 15th December. A message will be posted on the Facebook page asking residents to ensure vehicles are not parked on the roads on these days.

Police pop-up event 9th December 10am – 1pm in Covingham Square. Cllr's Kay, Walker, Bates and Curtis to attend once confirmation is received from the Police that the event is still going ahead.

Wanborough Allotments – Meeting held on 14th November. 66 plots, 25 of which are occupied by Covingham residents. No vacancies, but a waiting list of 9 people, all Covingham residents. Numerous plots currently not being maintained due to issues with access from Covingham, therefore assumed that they are Covingham residents. As properties are being sold off plan on Redlands and with Lotmead not far behind, the assumption is that those areas will fall within Wanborough Parish Council's boundary. As priority is given to Wanborough residents when allocating vacant plots, the suggestion was made for Covingham Parish Council to look for its own allotment site. The legal agreement that was reached when Wanborough and Covingham Parish Council was split into two regarding allotment provision, cannot be found.

Resolved: Cllr Wichall proposed seeking locations for the Parishes' own allotment site. Cllr Kay seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed. To be actively pursued in 2023.

Swindon Local Councils Forum – Main topic of conversation around the Parish/SBC protocol document, specifically relating to some additional words - 'Volunteers to undertake statutory duties'. An item at the Chairs & Clerks Engagement meeting on 12th December has been added asking for clarification of this statement.

8. **Clerks Verbal Update**

Nothing to report.

9. **Parish Maintenance Engineers**

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month including the clearing of 227 drain gullies. As usual a excellent job done.

- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**

To approve the costs for the additional works identified during annual walk around.

Resolved: Cllr Ricketts proposed the additional works be completed for the cost of £2,084.50p + VAT. 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**
Cllr Hawkes explained the ISP is moving the Covingham Parish Council account to a new and better server. Cllr Hawkes will provide full details as required.
- **Planning Working Party**

Foxbridge North- SBC lost the planning appeal.

Traffic Order- A proposed Traffic Order has been received for Terncliffe and Martinsfield which is part of SBC's School's safe environment zone project, which will help improve road safety for Children attending Covingham Park school. The Parish Council welcomed the proposal.

Cllr Hawkes attend the Lotmead Reserved Matters drop-in session held on 24th November providing the detail of the development including the 200 homes that will have access to and from the site via Wanborough Road. These residents will have a method of accessing a bus gate by the Southern Connector Road to allow access to the District Centre. A suggestion was made to reposition the bus gate at the Wanborough Road end, which would give these residents access to the district centre and other areas served by the Southern Connector Road.

NEV Liaison Meeting - Reserved matters applications are expected for South Marston & Rowborough, Great Stall East and Lotmead in early 2023. A planning application is currently being considered for North of the Redlands site although this is outside of the NEV allocation which is a key concern for SBC. SBC are still awaiting the decision from the Supreme Court regarding Symmetry Park. The current works being undertaken on Wanborough Road are to provide key connections and a safe route with access in to Redlands. No definitive end date has been provided.

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications.

Application: S/HOU/22/1568 (16th December)

Location: 15 Pheasant Close, Covingham, SN3 5HT

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side 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 had been submitted.

c) To note any decisions:

Application: S/HOU/22/1329

Location: 2 Verney Close, Covingham, SN3 5EF

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension and garden shed- Granted.

Application: S/HOU/22/1421

Location: 39 Merlin Way, Covingham, SN3 5AN
Proposal: Erection of a two storey/single storey rear extension- Granted.

Application: S/HOU/22/1260
Location: 10 Robinson Close, Covingham, SN3 5EE
Proposal: Erection of a conservatory to rear- Granted.

Application: S/HOU/22/1293
Location: 29 Robinson Close, Covingham, SN3 5EE
Proposal: Erection of a two 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 Wichall 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. Speed Indicator Device

The three quotations were obtained for 2 Speed Indicator Devices that can be rotated around 8 different locations with data capture ability. The quotations were circulated to all Councillor's prior to the meeting.

Resolved: Cllr Wichall proposed proceeding with ElanCity based on the recommendation from Liddington Parish Council. Cllr Kay seconded the proposal which was agreed with a majority vote and 2 votes against.

Cllr Curtis explained that once the Speed Indicator Devices are installed and working, that all Councillors get involved in the maintenance requirements, downloading of data and the moving of the devices.

Resolved: Cllr Kay proposed an operational working party be formed to manage the Speed Indicator Devices effectively and to ensure worthwhile data is collected. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal which was agreed with a majority vote and 1 vote against.

Cllr's Wichall, Walker and May volunteered to be on the Operational Working Party.

14. IRPP Recommendations for Parish Allowances 2023-24

To discuss and consider the recommendations from the Swindon Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish Allowances for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

Resolved: Cllr Kay proposed that the Cllrs forego the Parish Allowances recommended by the Swindon Independent Remuneration Panel. Cllr Hawkes seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed as the Parish Councillors believed that any money paid by the residents should be used for the benefit of the residents.

All Councillors are required to email the Clerk to formally confirm that they wish to forego their allowances.

Action - All

15. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

16. 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: Draft Budget

17. Draft Budget

First look at draft budget - To look at the draft budget proposal for 2023/24 - draft figures were discussed. Cllr Kay proposed approving the draft budget at January's meeting, Cllr Ricketts seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

18. Matters for consideration

Cllr May raised concerns over the amount of mud, due to the building works, on the Wanborough Road and Merlin Way. Clerk to contact the Cabinet Member responsible for the strategic roadworks raising the concerns.

Action- Clerk

Cllr Kay asked if there had been any further updates regarding Dorcan Brook Bank that is still fenced off. Cllr Curtis confirmed there has been no further updates, but the bank is still being monitored by the Parish Council on a regular basis.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

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