

to review the planning documents to see if there are any conditions implemented and the outcome of the initial queries.

One of the Parish Council's Maintenance Engineers was also present and reported a noticeable increase in household waste being disposed of in public litter bins following coverage in the Swindon Advertiser earlier this year. In addition, instances of bulk dog waste being left beside dog bins prior to collection have been observed.

The Maintenance Engineer also noted that the second phase of tree planting as part of the flood alleviation project has enhanced the area. He raised a query about whether drainage is present in the corner of Covingham Park. The Chairman confirmed that advisors from Trees for Climate and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had carefully selected and planted trees and hedgerows designed to naturally absorb water and thrive in those conditions.

6. Police Update

No Police personnel in attendance and no updates received.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Covered the Clerk's annual leave 19th March – 13th April 2026.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

No updates.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Members noted the reports.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters** – The Grounds Maintenance Contractor would like to conduct a site visit with Parish Councillors at Covingham Park to discuss the mowing regime for the Trees for Climate area and agree a way forward for the new season. *Action: Cllr Ricketts, Sandle and Parsons agreed to attend the site visit and report back findings.*
- **Trees in Covingham Park** – Consider replacing the three vandalised trees in Covingham Park suggested to plant in the autumn months to get a healthier bare root. Decision can be made closer to autumn.

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

- **Data Protection & Governance** – No updates. Still working on the website improvements such as layout. All other documents are fully accessible.

11. Planning Matters

- a) **To consider any planning applications** – No planning applications have been received.
- b) **To note any comments from the Planning Working Party submitted between meetings** – No comments have been submitted.
- c) **To note any decisions made by Swindon Borough Council** – No decisions have been made by Swindon Borough Council.

12. Financial Matters

- a) **Members approved the Schedule of Payments for April 2026.**
Proposed: Cllr D Kay; Seconded: Cllr L Sandle
Vote: Agreed unanimously.
Resolved: To approve the Schedule of Payments as presented.

- b) **Members noted the monthly accounts reconciliation as at 31st March 2026.**

13. Southern Connector Road Update – Public Event

Cllrs Bates, Curtis and May attended a meeting hosted by Vistry to discuss concerns from Covingham residents. Residents reported increased traffic, including large lorries and construction vehicles, along with further pressure expected from ongoing and future development in the Eastern Villages.

Swindon Borough Council has reviewed data from Speed Indicator Devices, provided by the Parish Council and recently installed speed strips on Merlin Way, though these do not differentiate vehicle types. Two Swindon Borough Ward Councillors were also present at the event. The road is expected to be resurfaced once construction is complete.

A nearby bridge requires repair, and part of the road may be opened for construction traffic, although the land is not owned by Swindon Borough Council. Increased family housing has led to more children walking and cycling in the area, while loose gravel and general wear have affected road conditions.

Despite previous assurances, no short- to medium-term remedial action is planned, and signage indicating the road would open in 2023 remains in place.

14. Wanborough Allotments Draft Agreement

Members received an update confirming that all points raised by Covingham Parish Council had been incorporated into the Draft Agreement document. Following a lengthy discussion, Members agreed that some further points needed to be clarified, therefore, the document could not be approved in its current form and requires further review. *Action: Chairman and Cllr Hawkes to discuss further and provide a response back to Wanborough Parish Council.*

15. Request for Flower Box in Linnetsdene

Members received a request for a Flower Box in Linnetsdene. Members agreed that this request was consistent with other roads off Covingham Drive. Members accepted the request and instructed the Maintenance Engineers to purchase the materials.

Proposed: Cllr D Kay;

Seconded: Cllr S Wichall

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

Resolved: To accept the request for a Flower Box to be installed in Linnetsdene.

16. The Handy Mag

- Call out for Community Event Ideas
- ATB Skate Park Event

17. Matters for consideration

Cllr D Kay – Advised that this was her last meeting as a Parish Councillor, as she has not put her name forward for the May elections. Reciting that it was an honour and a pleasure to have served on the Parish Council.

Cllr L Sandle – Advised that this was also her last meeting as a Parish Councillor, will continue to carry on doing the maintenance of the flower boxes for the remainder of this year in a voluntary capacity.

Flowers were presented to both Councillors to thank them for their dedication and support during their term of office.

The meeting ended at 20:06

Signed.....

Date.....