

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th May 2010 in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr B Osbourn, Cllr S Wichall, Cllr D Benfield, Cllr P Bennell, Cllr J Day, Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr A Foss, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr J Ruddle, Cllr L Sandle

Parish clerk: Jo Wheeler, Parish clerk: Glyn Harris, PCSO Lisa Draper

1. Election of Chairman

There was one nomination, Cllr B Osbourn. The parish council resolved to elect Cllr Osbourn as Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year.

After signing the declaration of acceptance Cllr. B Osbourn took the chair.

2. Apologies

Cllr Y Bennett – family commitment; Cllr P Davis – illness; Cllr E Godbold – work commitment; Cllr W Reddaway – family illness

3. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman reminded Councillors of their obligations to declare any interests, and of their obligations under the Code of Conduct.

4. Police Matters

WPC Lisa Draper reported on a number of issues:

- The school has been visited about the daffodil theft
- Seven burglaries were reported in Covingham and Nythe
- There has been an increase in burglaries in Swindon, in particular distraction burglaries. Police are working with Trading Standards to prevent these kind of crimes.
- Swindon Borough Council are looking into the problem of bullet holes in the sign.
- WPC Draper has received a report of a strange white male hanging around Covingham Square toilets. Lisa will inform Neighbourhood Watch.

The council thanked WPC Draper for attending the parish council meeting on her day off.

5. Appointment of Officers

Vice- Chairman: One nomination was received for Cllr S Wichall. The council resolved to appoint Cllr Wichall as vice-chairman.

Finance Group: Cllr D Haigh, Cllr L Sandle, Cllr S Wichall and Cllr P Davis

Cheque signatures: The council resolved to appoint the following as signatories to the parish council bank accounts: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllr P Davis, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr L Sandle and the Clerk

Recreation and Amenities: The council resolved to appoint the following as members of the Recreation and Amenities Group: Cllr P Bennell, Cllr J Day, Cllr J Ruddle, Cllr Y Bennett and Cllr W Reddaway.

Forward Planning Group: The council resolved to appoint the following as members of the Forward Planning Group: Cllr. D Haigh, Cllr. A Foss and Cllr. S Wichall.

6. Confirmation of other Appointments for the coming year

The council resolved to re-appoint the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer.

7. Confirmation of subscriptions for the coming year

The council agreed the following subscriptions for the coming year:

Community First membership (£1421)

Society of Local Council Clerks (£95)

Clerk's & Councils Direct Journal (£10)

8. Minutes of the Meeting 12th April 2010

The council approved the minutes of 12th April 2010 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

9. Report on items not on the agenda

(09/147) A letter of acceptance for the quote has been sent to Swindon Commercial Services.

(09/151) A letter was sent to the Chairman of the Football Club to ask for confirmation of non-receipt of the cheque.

(09/151) Cllr D. Fichett commented that there are a number of children in the parish that attend football clubs and also require equipment. The chairman reminded everyone that other local clubs are welcome to submit grant applications.

(09/142b) Cllr. D Benfield asked if anything is happening with the missing panels and rusty posts as part of the Covingham Square project. The chairman replied that the rusty posts will be replaced during Phase Two of the project. The panels were not part of the inspection and should be reported to Swindon Borough Council.

(09/151) Cllr A. Foss informed everyone that the official opening of Covingham Park Primary School is Friday 25th June. He stated that donations are required for a Prize Draw. Any donations would be gratefully received.

10. Chairman's update

- a) Covingham Square Phase One is due to start next week. The chairman attended a meeting today to discuss the project. The seats outside the chemist are being

removed and the parish council has an opportunity to recycle these. All agreed to install them into the parks to provide extra seating.

- b) The Vehicle Activated Signs will be connected once Scottish & Southern Electric and Swindon Borough Council have resolved a minor issue.

11. Finance matters

All agreed that the financial reporting system needs an overhaul. Although the full accounts meet legal auditing requirements councillors require a simplified version for council meetings.

The cheque list was approved.

Annual financial statement was discussed and approved.

12. Matters arising from public questions

There were no members of the public in attendance.

13. Allotments

Glyn Harris read out some background information on the history of the Wanborough allotments. The parish clerk has asked WALC for legal advice and is waiting for a response. Agreed that Cllr. L Sandle would be the parish council allotments representative and will work with the parish clerk to move this forward. To be discussed at the next meeting, following on from WALC's advice.

14. Covingham Park improvements

Glyn Harris reported on the Covingham Park basket ball area. He met with Steve Balderstone, Highways Engineer from Swindon Commercial Services, at the site. They examined the site and Steve was appraised of the requirements. Steve suggested that it would be less expensive to install a new post and basket rather than attempt to move the existing one. He will provide a budget cost for re-surfacing the area in front of the new post. Further discussion required at the next meeting. They also viewed the skate board area and Steve Balderstone agreed to provide budget costs for humps.

15. Computer equipment

The council approved the quotation from Softcat Ltd of £1,891.90, for parish council computing and printing equipment.

16. Correspondence

Letter from Swindon Borough Council offering a printing service by the Hub. Clerk to keep on record for future print jobs.

17. Planning Matters:

The following planning applications were noted:

Application number	Location	Proposal
S/10/0450RM	14 Fitzmaurice Close SN3 5BS	Erection of a first floor extension over existing garage
S/DEM/10/0431HECO	The Vicarage, St Pauls Drive SN3 5BY	Prior approval for the demolition of a domestic property not in use

18. Matters for Consideration:

- Cllr D Haigh suggested that, although the hedge at Dorcan Way is not the parish councils responsibility, we organise a litter bin to go next to the seating.
- Cllr D Benfield informed everyone that the new ward councillor is carrying out a litter campaign in Covingham and Nythe.
- Cllr D Benfield reported on the state of the roads. Agreed to report problem areas direct to Swindon Borough Council.
- Cllr L Sandle asked whether we had a village green programme planned for Covingham Park. Chairman replied yes Ward Councillor Dale Heenan and parish councillors Cllr P Bennell and Cllr J Ruddle will all be working together on this programme.
- Cllr D Fitchett reported that the Bullfinch play area is in a state of disrepair. Parish council agreed that this is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council.
- Cllr J Day reiterated on the football pitch and suggested that the council should progress, especially as the weather is improving and the evenings are lighter.
- Cllr S Wichall reported that the dog bin on Dorcan Way is rusting at the bottom. Parish council groundsman to investigate.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Date: