

# Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

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## **Present:**

Councillors:

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr Y Bennett, Cllr P Bennell, Cllr J Day, Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr A Foss, Cllr E Godbold,  
Cllr D Haigh, Cllr B Osbourn, Cllr W Reddaway, Cllr J Ruddle, Cllr L Sandle, Cllr S Wichall,

Parish clerk: Jo Wheeler

## **16. Apologies**

Cllr P Davis – illness

## **17. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairman reminded Councillors of their obligations to declare any interests, and of their obligations under the Code of Conduct. None were declared.

## **18. Minutes of the Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

The council approved the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

## **19. Matters arising**

Parish clerk confirmed that 1 Brind Close has been reported to the Enforcement Officer.

## **20. Finance matters**

The cheque list was approved.

Monthly financial statement was approved.

## **21. Matters arising from public questions**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## **22. Covingham Square**

Cllr Osbourn provided an update from Swindon Borough Council:

The officer who is overseeing the work has had a meeting on site with the contractor to decide on the works required. They have decided the best way forward is to kill off the current weeds which have grown up in place of the bushes. It will take approximately 2 weeks for this to completely clear. New top soil will be brought to site and evenly raked over and seeded. The new top soil will be of a higher quality than existing and the grass seed should take better. They are going to try seeding rather than turfing, as previously proposed.

The car park project manager is meeting Swindon Commercial Services next week to discuss the autumn / winter programme. The present plan is to carry out the works in October or

November this year, but this will depend on fitting it into other works required in the current year's programme.

Cllr Benfield suggested bulb planting in the square, along the path and around trees. All agreed.

### **23. Wanborough Allotments:**

Cllr Osbourn reported that Ward Councillor Heenan is waiting to hear from Thames Water about water supplies to potential land. Cllr Heenan is looking for some land on Swindon Borough Council's mapping system.

### **24. Grant awards**

Discussion about who is eligible for a grant from the parish council. The council agreed that any organisation in the Borough can apply for a grant. There is a criteria that states grants are awarded to organisations where residents will benefit.

### **25. Website**

All agreed that Cllr Day would update the website with documents sent in by other councillors and the parish clerk. Parish clerk to request regular crime figures from the police.

### **26. Parish Plan**

All agreed to postpone talks of developing a parish plan until further clarification is received about the boundary review.

### **27. Boundary reviews**

Cllr Osbourn reported that the Boundary Commission would like to review the parish within the next 18 months.

Cllr Benfield expressed concerns about the boundary review. These will be discussed at further meetings.

Agreed that Parish Clerk, Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Foss and Cllr Benfield will attend the presentation at Swindon Borough Council on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The presentation will explain what the boundary review is and how it will work.

### **28. Recreation and Amenities Group**

All reported on positive feedback of the new basketball area in Smitan Brook Park. Agreed the additional £800 for the new basket ball hoop.

Parish clerk to ask Swindon Commercial Services to paint the existing basketball hoop to match the new one.

Covingham Park – agreed that the parish clerk will look into grants to fund the new area in Covingham Park. To be reviewed at the September meeting.

### **29. Road surface survey**

Discussed the response from Swindon Borough Council. Cllr Benfield to publish our request and the response from the borough council in the parish magazine.

### **30. Planning applications**

None received

### **31. Matters for Consideration:**

Cllr Benfield concerned that residents aren't aware of all the work the parish council has done. Agreed that Cllr Benfield will be the parish council press officer and prepare an article for the Stratton Outlook, and other publications following each meeting.

Cllr Foss reported that beer bottles have been smashed around the Covingham play area.

Cllr Sandle asked about the bramble bushes around the school parameter. Cllr Foss to report to the school.

Cllr Ruddle reported the fireworks that are being let off in the park in the middle of the night.

Cllr Godbold reported that the bin in the park is overflowing, suggested some extra bins in the park. Handyman to find out where litter is most prevalent.

Cllr Godbold reported on two positive replies to the adult exercise equipment consultation. Parish clerk commented on the replies she has received about the equipment following the resident consultation; two objections and two in support.

Cllr Bennell showed concern that the police haven't replied to her concerns.

Cllr Day asked whether the council have located a white line machine. Cllr Osbourn and parish clerk cannot find one to date. Cllr Bennett will ask Liden Football Club if we can borrow theirs. Cllr Reddaway will also try and borrow one from a local club.

Cllr Wichall reported that the new trees are wilting in the hot sun. Parish clerk to contact the contractor to check whether tree watering is part of the contract. In the meantime councillors agreed to water the trees.

Reported on complaints about the grass cutting. Parish clerk to report to Swindon Commercial Services.

New dog bin is required, as existing one is rusting and in disrepair. Parish clerk to order a new bin.

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm.**

***Signed:***

***Date:***