

# Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

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## **Present:**

Councillors:

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr P Bennell, Cllr J Day, Cllr A Foss, Cllr E Godbold, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr L Sandle, Cllr S Wichall

Parish clerk: Jo Wheeler, Terry Young (parish council groundsman)

## **32. Apologies**

Cllr P Davis – illness, Cllr B Osbourn – holiday, Cllr Y Bennett

## **33. 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.

## **34. Minutes of the Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

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

## **35. Matters arising**

Cllr Foss confirmed that the school had cut back the bramble hedge during the summer.

Cllr Benfield reported that some of the potholes in the parish haven't been marked because the council does not mark holes less than an inch deep.

Terry Young reported that there is still one seat to reuse from Covingham Square. Agreed to install the seat in Covingham Park. Parish clerk to investigate whether Swindon Borough Council are planning to install a cycle rack and seating outside the Co-operative shop at Covingham Square.

## **36. Finance matters**

The cheque list was approved.

Monthly financial statement was approved.

## **37. Public questions**

One member of the public attended the meeting and reported that the hedges around the school have been cut very roughly. She asked whether it was necessary to cut them so harshly and so early along Dorcan Way, especially as the hedge does not encroach onto a footpath. She informed the council that the RSPB advise against cutting hedgerows too early to protect nesting birds.

Parish clerk to seek guidance from the RSPB. Cllr Foss offered to make an enquiry at the next School Governors meeting.

### **38. Planning**

None

### **39. River and ditch clearance**

Cllr Benfield has noticed that the River Cole has been cleared. He asked whether the ditch that feeds into the Dorcan Stream needs clearing and who would be responsible for this. Parish clerk to contact Swindon Borough Council to find out.

### **40. Boundary review**

Discussed the Boundary Review briefing note circulated by the parish clerk. Cllr Benfield suggested that the parish council manages everything well and doesn't want it to change.

### **41. Recreation and Amenities Group**

Councillors confirmed that the young trees are looking healthier. Thanks to all councillors that watered the trees over the dry period.

Discussed the problem with the weeds growing through the tarmac in the newly laid basketball area. This has been reported to Swindon Commercial Services (SCS). All agreed that the parish council should have been warned by SCS that this may happen. Concerns that the weeds may cause the ground to break up which poses a safety risk. The parish council agreed to resolve this matter with SCS before instructing them to carry out other work in the parish. Parish clerk to chase up this matter with SCS.

SCS have also informed the parish council that the basketball hoops are on delay and Steve Balderstone (SCS) advised on the 24<sup>th</sup> August that they will take another six to eight weeks. The old pole would be refurbished when the new one is installed.

The football pitch is due to be lined in the next month.

### **42. Matters for Consideration**

Cllr Benfield raised concerns about the number of low hanging branches along pathways and the height of some of the trees in the parish. Some trees managed by Swindon Commercial Services are over 30 feet in height and this could pose a risk in a storm. He suggested that the Recreation and Amenities Group look at all the trees posing a risk.

Cllr Benfield confirmed he would include information on 'keeping warm in the winter', flu jabs and dog fouling in the parks in the next parish council article.

All agreed Autumn planting at Covingham Square to include crocuses in the borders and daffodils around the trees.

Cllr Haigh mentioned how useful the recent planning training course was. He suggested that other councillors may wish to attend future events to improve the council's knowledge on planning matters.

Cllr Day asked that Cllr Benfield send her articles to include on the website.

Cllr Bennell asked whether the seat in the park be painted green to match the others. All agreed.

Cllr Wichall reported a complaint about the dog waste collection in Smitan Brook park. The driver driving on the footpath and forced some pedestrians off the path. Parish clerk to speak to contractor to ask them to avoid driving over footpaths.

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm.**

***Signed:***

***Date:***