

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th December 2010
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr P Bennell, Cllr A Foss, Cllr E Godbold, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr B Osbourn, Cllr W Reddaway, Cllr S Wichall

Parish clerk: Jo Wheeler (parish clerk)

64. Apologies

Cllr Y Bennett, Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr J Day, Cllr P Davis, Cllr L Sandle

65. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Osbourn declared an interest in item 11: One Step Ahead grant application.

66. Police matters

The council welcomed PC Jack Newman. PC Newman reported that crime in Covingham is lower than in neighbouring parishes and that 20% of reported crime in Covingham is carried out by one person.

PC Newman discussed recent crime in the area, including car break ins and alcohol being sold to underage people at a local petrol station.

He warned of recent criminal activity involving a rogue trader posing as a window cleaner and asking for money for work that hasn't been carried out.

67. Minutes of the Meeting 8th November 2010

The council approved the minutes of 8th November 2010 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

68. Matters arising

Item 58: Cllr Osbourn reported the inadequacy of the disable parking bays at Covingham Square. This has been reported to Swindon Borough Council.

Cllr Osbourn hasn't yet received a response from Swindon Borough Council about examining trees around Covingham.

Cllr Osbourn confirmed that collection containers are only on the grass area temporarily.

Cllr Wichall confirmed that the website is now live. The council thanked Cllr Day and Cllr Wichall for their hard work towards developing the excellent site.

The council agreed that as they still haven't heard from Cllr Ruddle that she has left the parish council.

69. Public questions

None

70. Local Transport Plan

The draft local transport plan for Swindon was discussed. Cllr Benfield had prepared a response to the consultation document. All agreed to send this to Swindon Borough Council on behalf of the parish council.

71. Recreation and Amenities Group report

Cllr Osbourn reported that the Recreations and Amenities Group met with the two UK companies that supply suitable skateboard equipment. Both companies are sending more information and costing. Once the specification is drawn up, and agreed, the parish council will advertise the tender opportunity.

72. Planning matters

Council agreed no objection to the planning application S/10/1794CLMC (25 Finchdale).

73. Financial matters

The November financial summary and December cheque list agreed. Cllr Osbourn informed the council that the parish clerk is on salary scale point 29, following the six months employment probation period. All agreed.

74. Grant application

Application received from One Step Ahead. Agreed to award £500.

75. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Haigh discussed the recent dumping of household waste around public bins. This will be reported to the Waste Enforcement Team by the council's groundsman.

Cllr Haigh reported that he will investigate the problem with overgrown gardens.

Cllr Godbold reported that the man emptying the dog hygiene bins drove across the path again. Parish clerk to report.

Cllr Godbold informed the council that the Neighbourhood Watch group warned of cashiers in a local shop putting money through as cash back, and that people should check their receipts. She also reported a scam involving delivery companies, and that people should be suspicious of parcels being collected after being delivered in error.

Cllr Foss reported the problem with litter in Martinsfield. Parish clerk to ask the parish council groundsman if he could pay this area some attention.

Cllr Benfield has produced a paper about councillor expenses. All agreed the paper seems a good idea in principle. Finance Committee to examine.

Cllr Benfield asked whether there is a policy on harassment in the standing orders. Parish clerk advised that this should be covered in the code of conduct.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Signed:

Date: