

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2011
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr J Day, Cllr P Davis, Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr E Godbold, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr B Osbourn, Cllr W Reddaway, Cllr L Sandle, Cllr S Wichall

Parish clerk: Jo Wheeler (parish clerk)

76. Apologies

Cllr A Foss, Cllr P Bennell

77. Declaration of Interests

None

78. Police matters

PC Newman was welcomed to the meeting. He provided an update the for last month:

- Crime has been very low in the last month. The anti social parishioner who was committing a large proportion of crime in the parish has moved out of Covingham.
- The police service in Swindon is being restructured as part of cost savings. Covingham, Nythe and Stratton St Margaret will form one area. This will mean a reduction in administration work.
- The cost saving means some police stations will be closed. Stations aren't used as much now, especially with increase of mobile phone and internet use.

PC Newman was thanked for attending the meeting.

79. Minutes of the Meeting 13th December 2010

The council approved the minutes of 13th December 2010 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

80. Matters arising

Cllr Haigh asked about the inadequate parking at Covingham Square. Cllr Osbourn informed the council that an inspector will be examining the disabled parking bays to make ensure they meet legal requirements. He also reported that the bins have been removed from the grass area.

81. Public questions

None

82. Localism Bill

All councillors were sent a link to information on the Localism Bill, which is expected to impact many parish councils in a positive way. Cllr Benfield pointed out the right to veto excessive council tax rises. No other observations were made. Agreed to re-visit at a later date.

83. Expenses paper

Cllr Benfield presented his draft councillor expenses paper. The council agreed the paper, with one amendment: 3d) motorcycle mileage allowance is 24p per mile.

84. Recreation and Amenities Group report

The parish council viewed drawings of recommended skateboard equipment for Covingham Park. Parish clerk to draw up a specification and advertise the opportunity to suppliers.

Cllr Sandle pointed out that one of the reasons why the play park was moved to the present area was because of complaints from parishioners of youths congregating in the area, causing damage & intimidating people walking past when dark. PC Newman suggested some lighting, on a timer, to illuminate the area and reduce the risk of this happening. Parish clerk to investigate the feasibility of lighting in the area.

Cllr Benfield suggested that the Receptions and Amenities Group may wish to look at other sites where similar skateboard equipment has been installed. All agreed.

85. Planning matters

Application number	Location	Details	Parish council response
S/10/1890	1 Covingham Drive	Erection of a 2m. high garden wall and covered area to side	No objections
S/10/1836	4 Covingham Square	Change of use from sandwich bar (class A1) and cold food takeaway to hot food restaurant/ takeaway (class A5)	Object: not being in keeping with the area, nor would it maintain the balance of shops at the square.

86. Financial matters

The December financial summary and January cheque list was approved.

87. Budget & precept

Cllr Haigh presented the Finance Committee's draft budget. The council's 2011/12 precept of £38800 was agreed.

88. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Benfield agreed to send Cllr Day information about bus times, so the website can be updated.

Cllr Benfield asked about the progress of allotments, Cllr Osbourn replied that Ward Councillor Heenan hadn't provided a response yet.

Cllr Fitchett agreed to look into the feasibility of using volunteers to operate speed equipment in Covingham.

Cllr Day reminded everyone to send information, articles and updates to her to add to the website.

Cllr Wichall commented that there were plenty of waste bins around the parks but not enough around the streets.

Cllr Osbourn discussed the complaint received about dog waste in the park. The parish clerk will produce some information to publish on the website.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed:

Date: