

# Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

---

## **Present:**

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr P Bennell, Cllr J Day, Cllr P Davis, Cllr A Foss, Cllr E Godbold, Cllr D Haigh,  
Cllr B Osbourn

Parish clerk: Jo Wheeler (parish clerk)

## **89. Apologies**

Cllr L Sandle, Cllr S Wichall

## **90. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Foss declared an interest in the grant application from Covingham Park Primary School.

## **91. Minutes of the Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The council approved the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

## **92. Matters arising**

Parish clerk has arranged for Southern & Scottish Electric to look into the feasibility of installing security lighting at the proposed skate park.

Cllr Benfield asked about the inadequate disabled parking at Covingham Square. Cllr Osbourn reported that parking bays have been marked out.

## **93. Public questions**

None

## **94. Core strategy**

The council discussed Ward Cllr Heenan's email, which summarised the new core strategy:

*The old Core Strategy has been replaced with one that aims to build around 30% less houses (around 17,000). The target for the eastern development area is now around 7000/8000.*

*The new Core Strategy explicitly refers to dealing with flooding, and the impact of transport on Covingham. If these issues aren't resolved then development won't happen. Construction will more likely begin in 10 years. The Core Strategy is high level, and the detail is to follow. If the economy won't support building houses then the Core Strategy will extend, so it might be at least 20 years before the development happens.*

Cllr Haigh commented that a major problem will be with carrying out work in flood risk areas.

Cllr Foss welcomes the reduction of proposed new houses in the east, but there are still a number of concerns, especially with infrastructure.

The parish council agreed to invite ward councillors and MPs to the annual assembly in April, so the core strategy can be discussed with parishioners.

#### **95. Planning protocol and parish charter**

The council endorsed the planning protocol and parish charter. The parish charter sets out how parish councils and the borough council aim to work together across the two tiers in local democracy and service provision. The planning protocol is an agreement between the borough council and parish councils on planning matters.

Cllr Benfield commented on the lack of attendance of ward councillors at parish council meetings. Ward Cllr Heenan replied that he meets regularly with the chairman to discuss local and council issues, and he can't always make parish council meetings due to clashes with other meetings. He agreed to attend the annual assembly and to continue regular contact with the parish council, via the chairman and clerk.

Cllr Benfield asked for an update on village green status. Cllr Heenan replied that legislation states that land already leased to parish councils cannot be awarded with village green status. The borough council solicitor is looking into the problem.

#### **96. Recreation and Amenities Group report**

The group had recently visited a local skate park to inspect the layout and quality of equipment. Tenders for the park will be invited in February and evaluated at the March meeting. Cllr Haigh pointed out that the skate equipment surfaces will need replacing periodically. Cllr Foss asked whether surface is suitable for children to ride scooters on, as well as skateboards. The council will be looking for equipment that is suitable for scooters, skateboards and BMX.

## 97. Planning matters

Application number	Location	Details	Parish council response
S/11/0089	1 Ravenscroft Covingham Swindon SN3 5AE	Erection of single storey rear extension.	No objection
S/11/0059	49 Kestrel Drive Covingham Swindon SN3 5DP	Erection of a two storey side extension.	No objection
S/11/0001	19 Larksfield Covingham Swindon SN3 5AD	Erection of a two storey side extension and rear dormer	No objection

## 98. Grant applications

Hanover Court Club: approved £200

Covingham Park Primary School: agreed to re-visit at the March meeting

## 99. Financial matters

The financial summary and cheque list were approved.

## 100. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Day asked about the basketball hoop. Parish clerk has chased this up with Swindon Commercial Services.

Cllr Davis reported that the 'keep clear' signs by the turning circle in Martinsfield are not clear enough. Parish clerk to report to Street Smart.

Cllr Godbold asked that we publicise the need for household waste to be contained, especially with the high winds.

Cllr Haigh reported an incident of a partially sighted parishioner tripping over a cable box along Dove Trees. BT took prompt action and repaired the problem within 24 hours.

Cllr Benfield informed the council that he has completed a flood survey for Swindon Borough Council on behalf of the parish council.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**