

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th June 2011
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr P Davis, Cllr J Day, Cllr A Foss, Cllr E Godbold, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr B Osbourn, Cllr W Reddaway, Cllr L Sandle

In attendance: Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Ward Councillor Heenan

13. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr P Bennell, Cllr D Fitchett and Cllr S Wichall

Cllr Osbourn welcomed parishioner Leslie Thompson who is interested in becoming a parish councillor.

14. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Benfield declared an interest in the letter for a grant application delivered to the council that evening. The application will be discussed at the next meeting.

15. Police matters

Cllr Osbourn read out a monthly report from PC Newman:

From 1st May to now there have been:

- two attempted burglaries - both via insecurities (windows)
- one burglary where a TV was stolen again access via a window
- theft of a bike from a shed
- damage to play equipment at Covingham Park
- theft of a bike from outside the Co-op
- sexual offence

The Messenger public house has been spoken to after breaching its licensing conditions with regards to drunken disorder. Several changes have now been installed at the location:

- * no entry or re-entry to the venue after 2300 hrs
- * a clothing standards policy;
- * banning known trouble makers
- * obtaining details of those already barred from other venues in the locality

PC Newman has noted an e-mail about bikes riding around the park and he has circulated this to his colleagues who cover the area.

16. Minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2011

The council approved the minutes of 9th May and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

17. Matters arising

9: Covingham School asked for the approx rainfall figures to help make a decision on the parish council's request for drainage for the park. The parish clerk agreed to check average rainfall in the area and send this to Cllr Foss.

12: Cllr Osbourn has reported the tree growth covering the vehicle activated sign on Merlin Way to Swindon Borough Council.

18. Public questions

None

19. Recreation and Amenities Group report

An official opening of the skate park was suggested. Everyone was pleased about the high usage and popularity of the park.

Cllr Osbourn reported that he had met with a representative from Swindon Commercial Services (SCS) to discuss the long delays and problems with the basketball area project. SCS agreed to reduce the invoice by £750.

Parish clerk has ordered signage to say the park is not to be used after 9pm, following a complaint from a parishioner about the park being used late at night.

20. Planning matters

No planning applications received

21. Financial matters

The financial summary and cheque list were approved. The council approved the annual accounts and signed the annual return.

22. Grant applications

Dorcan Church: agreed not to award grant as unsure about what development plans are for the site in the near future.

Wiltshire Victim Support: agreed £250

23. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Reddaway reported overgrown brambles encroaching on the pathway on the way to the shops. The path backs onto the school field (North fence), between Ravenscroft and Larksfield.

Cllr Haigh reported a significant amount of dog mess on Merlin Way. Agreed to publish another article warning people about fines for those who don't pick up after their dogs.

Cllr Foss stated that the car park at the shops look great but the disabled bays aren't enforceable as there isn't any signage.

Cllr Benfield asked about the S106 contribution. There is approx £25,000 left of the funds. Agreed to consult parishioners on what they would like the money spent on and discuss at the next meeting.

Cllr Benfield asked about District Cllr Heenan's suggestion in the Advertiser to create a new parish council with Coleview and Nythe. Cllr Heenan explained that at this early stage he is consulting with residents about the problem with higher council tax for Coleview and Nythe residents (as they are part of Stratton Parish Council which has much higher costs). He said that there would be little impact on Covingham parish council at the moment. The council agreed they have nothing to decide on at this early stage but resolved to discuss at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:

Date: