

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2011
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

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

In attendance: Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Ward Councillor Heenan
Terry Young (parish council groundsman)

24. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr A Foss

25. Declaration of Interests

None.

26. Police matters

PCSO Jason Wines asked whether the parish council wanted to raise any issues:

The problem with motorbikes being ridden on the park was reported. He agreed to look into this.

The problem with speeding buses along Merlin Way was also reported. District Councillor Heenan stated that the Highways department have carried out a speed survey and the results would be ready in a few weeks. Cllr Heenan is also looking into the detail and costing of a community speed watch scheme.

Cllr Osbourn informed the council that he has been appointed as chairman of the Neighbourhood Tasking Group. He reported that Covingham has a low crime rate and doesn't have many problems compared to other areas.

27. Minutes of the meeting on 13th June 2011

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

28. Matters arising

Cllr Benfield reported that overgrown trees have been cut back, although the tree at the bus stop on Merlin Way is so overgrown it is causing a risk.

29. Co-option of parish councillor

Resolved to appoint Leslie Thompson as parish councillor. All welcomed Leslie to the council.

30. Public questions

Terry Young (parish council groundsman) asked about the selling off of the Old Vicarage site. He voiced concerns over losing the storage shed which is currently loaned to the parish council in return for cutting the grass. Agreed to look into the sale of the vicarage site.

31. Coleview & Nythe

Cllr Benfield read out an extract from a letter delivered to Coleview and Nythe residents from Ward Cllr Heenan about the high parish council rates from Stratton Parish Council. One potential option could be for Coleview and Nythe residents to join Covingham Parish Council.

- Cllr Benfield commented that Covingham Parish Council runs well and shouldn't be changed, especially as Stratton Parish Council are much larger and have more responsibility.
- Cllr Thompson commented that the letter was only a suggestion and it was early days, therefore the parish council doesn't need to decide anything yet.
- Cllr Wichall stated that getting bigger probably wouldn't benefit the parish council.

Ward Cllr Henan replied that there are other options including Coleview and Nythe setting up their own parish council or not having one at all. A debate on the matter wouldn't start for another year or so. The parish council agreed they are happy with the discussion and agreed there is nothing more to decide at this early stage.

32. Section 106 funding

The parish clerk had received three emails from residents with suggestions for spending the S106 money:

1. An all-weather football court (like the one in Nythe), bicycle racks/stands at Covingham Square shops and flower/shrub feature at Covingham Square shops
2. Adult exercise equipment for the park
3. Returning the space at the end of Larksfild, Ravenscroft and Falconscroft on Covingham Drive into grassed areas.

Parish councillor suggestions included:

- Improving footpaths (especially in Smitan Brook park)
- Increasing the size of Covingham play park
- Improve the basketball area in Covingham park
- More seating and litterbins in the parks
- Zebra crossing on Merlin Way
- Best garden competition

Cllr Heenan agreed to look into the feasibility of these suggestions and the Forward Planning Group would take it forward.

33. Recreation and Amenities Group report

Agreed that waste bin for the basketball area and litter signs are required to help to reduce the additional litter.

34. Planning matters

No planning applications received

35. Financial matters

The financial summary and cheque list were approved.

36. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Wichall asked whether the parks (currently leased from Swindon Borough Council) could be transferred to a community land trust. District Cllr Heenan to send information to Cllr Wichall.

Cllr Godbold commented on the litter along Lovell Close, agreed to report to StreetSmart.

Cllr Benfield commented on the fact Covingham aren't included in Swindon Borough Council's capital finding for highway maintenance.

Vehicles are being parked outside 1 Brind Close and are causing an obstruction and blocking driveways. Will report to the Planning Enforcement Officer.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:

Date: