

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th September 2011
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

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

In attendance: Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Laura Kellaway, members of the public

37. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr S Wichall

38. Declaration of Interests

None.

39. Police matters

Due to annual leave PC Jack Newman was unable to attend the meeting. His monthly report of police activities was circulated (report attached).

40. Minutes of the meeting on 11th July 2011

The council approved the minutes of 11th July and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

41. Matters arising

Speeding buses along Merlin Way: Cllr Osbourn will report at the next Neighbourhood Task Group meeting on 28th September.

Vicarage site: parish clerk had contacted the agents who confirmed that the auction for the sale of the site had ended. The highest bid had yet to be accepted.

S106 money: Ward Cllr Heenan will meet with Cllr Wichall to take this forward

1 Brind Close: problem with dangerous and inconsiderate parking by the occupants. Parish clerk to report to Swindon Borough Council Planning Enforcement Officer. Agreed to publish an article on problem parking in the parish in general.

Transfer of park land to community land trust: Cllr Wichall to work with Ward Cllr Heenan and provide an update at the next meeting.

42. Co-option of parish councillor

Resolved to appoint Laura Kellaway as parish councillor. Laura Kellaway used to be a parish councillor and she was welcomed back by everyone.

43. Public questions

Two members of the public raised concerns over the skate park. They reported:

- A high volume of litter on the grass, footpaths and in the skateboard area.
- Older children taking rubbish out of the bins and throwing at each other.
- Older children bullying the younger children to stop them using the skateboard facility.
- Children shouting and swearing at people passing by.
- Skateboarding on the grass being pulled along by a kite stopping dog walkers using the park.

The council discussed the matter for some length. As well as these complaints the council has also received positive feedback, stating that the park well used and benefits local children.

The parish council had already tackled the problems by arranging for extra policing, installing new litter bins and agreeing to install some warning signage.

All agreed to monitor the park for 12 months and review at the parish council meeting in September 2012. The members of the public agreed to this. The chairman stated that the park had only recently been installed and usage would decrease as the novelty wore off, especially during the winter weather.

44. Recreation and Amenities Group report

Following the last agenda item the council agreed to install two signs stating that the park cannot be used after dusk.

45. Planning matters

New planning application: 24 Finchdale Covingham Swindon SN3 5AL
Erection of a single storey side extension - no objections

46. Financial matters

The financial summary and cheque list were approved.

47. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Godbold reported the increase in dog fouling on Smitan Brook park. Parish clerk to find out whether dog fouling is a civil or criminal matter, and what can be done to prosecute offenders.

Cllr Haigh has seen Swindon Borough Council carrying out tree work in Covingham but wants to find out the plan of action for trees in the parish.

Reports of speeding traffic on Merlin Way, Kingfisher Drive and St Pauls Drive. Concerns that many drivers are ignoring the Vehicle Activated Signs. Agreed that training a councillor to operate a speed gun would be too expensive (in excess of £1000). The chairman agreed to raise the speeding problem with the police at the next Neighbourhood Task Group meeting, on the 28th September.

Item 47: Cllr Benfield and Cllr Kellaway expressed concerns of potential flood risks caused by blockages in the feeder ditch to the Dorcan Stream, adjacent to Partridge Close. Councillor Kellaway had found out that the maintenance of the feeder ditch is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council. She is arranging a meeting with the responsible officer from the council and the Environmental Agency. Cllr Benfield to attend as well.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:

Date: