

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th July 2012
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr D Benfield, Cllr A Foss, Cllr D Haigh, Cllr L Kellaway, Cllr B Osbourn, Cllr L Sandle,
Cllr S Wichall

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk)

24. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr E Godbold, Cllr L Thompson

25. Declaration of Interests

None

26. Police matters

PCSO Maria Giles reported that there had been a few burglaries, shed break-ins and incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area.

PC Jack Newman will be moving to Stratton and the new beat manager for Covingham will be PC Francis Kee.

27. Minutes of the meeting on 18th June 2012

The council approved the minutes of 18th June 2012 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

28. Matters arising

Cllr Foss reported that the problem parking at Swallowdale has returned.

Cllr Foss reported that Covingham Primary School are pleased with the two Jubilee benches donated by the parish council.

29. Public forum

The council welcomed three members of the public who expressed an interest in joining the parish council.

30. Code of conduct

The council resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct, which is in line with the principles of public life as set out in the Localism Act 2011: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

31. Parish boundary review

The council discussed the possibility of producing a joint leaflet, about Swindon Borough Council's parish boundary consultation, with Stratton St Margaret Parish Council. The council agreed to produce their own leaflet and invite parishioners to a public meeting, so they can discuss their views. Parish clerk to email draft consultation leaflet to councillors.

32. Parish mapping software

Cllr Benfield attended a session at Swindon Borough Council where he was shown a web mapping system called Parish Online. He explained that Parish Online can be used to map assets such as bus shelters, waste bins and play areas; it can also produce maps for consultations and events. The borough council are offering to cover the cost of the £20 set-up fee.

Resolved to purchase Parish Online software, at the cost of approx. £40 per year.

33. Allotment update

The council discussed the high number of parishioners on the allotment waiting list and the need to find suitable land for allotment plots. Agreed to work with Stratton St Margaret Parish Council to try and reinstate the old allotments at Small Pickards Field, Gorse Hill.

Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle are due to attend Wanborough Allotment Society's annual meeting in September.

34. Osprey Close play area

Cllr Osbourn explained that in 2006 the parish council transferred part of the play area (laying to the west of Osprey Close) to residents. The Land Registry has lost the original transfer registration document. The council agreed to sign a copy of the transfer registration form.

35. Merlin Way

Ward Cllr Heenan reported that Swindon Borough Council officers will support a community lorry watch scheme on Merlin Way. The scheme will help to provide evidence for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for a 7.5 tonne weight limit. He explained that this can be carried out once the current Oxford Road works have finished. Once the survey is undertaken a TRO can be progressed.

The parish council agreed to support this in principle and to help find volunteers for the Community Lorry Watch scheme.

Cllr Heenan explained that a TRO would cost around £10,000 (including signage). The parish council agreed to discuss the possibility of making a financial contribution at a later date.

36. Planning matters

One new planning application for an extension at 17 Dovetrees: no objections

37. Financial matters

The monthly financial summary and cheque list were approved.

Grant application: the parish council agreed to award £200 to a child who lives in Covingham. She is fundraising with other pupils at Dorcan Academy to spend a month in Kenya to carry out charity work.

38. Matters for consideration

Cllr Foss reminded everyone that the school fete is being held on 6th October. The school are keen to get the community and parish council involved.

Cllr Sandle reported that the hedge around the school is overgrown. Cllr Foss to report to school.

Cllr Haigh raised the issue of the poor quality of grass cutting (by Swindon Commercial Services) around Covingham and all over Swindon. Parish clerk to report to Swindon Borough Council.

39. Adjournment of public meeting

The meeting was adjourned to discuss the three parish councillor applications. The council agreed to invite all three applicants (Kevin Parry, John Short and Terry Davis) to the next meeting and co-opt them onto the council.

Close of meeting: 9pm

Signed:

Date: