

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th October 2012
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr Benfield, Cllr Foss, Cllr Godbold, Cllr Haigh, Cllr L Kellaway, Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Short, Cllr S Wichall

In attendance:

Jo Tomlinson (parish clerk)

51. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr T Davis, Cllr D Fitchett, Cllr L Thompson

52. Ward Councillor Doreen Dart

Parish councillors expressed their condolences to the family of Ward Councillor Doreen Dart, who passed away on 5th October.

53. Declaration of Interests

None

54. Police matters

Cllr Osbourn reported that there has been an increase in thefts from garages in Coleview, Nythe and Covingham. He reminded everyone to keep their cars and garages locked.

55. Co-option of parish councillors

Resolved to co-opt Corrinna Allen, Terry Hayward and Kevin Parry onto the parish council.

56. Minutes of the meeting on 3rd September 2012

The council approved the minutes of 3rd September 2012 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

57. Matters arising

46: Cllr Foss reported that the brambles have been trimmed twice. The school were not able to cut the hedge fully because of the nesting birds, this will happen in the October half term.

47: Cllr Osbourn reported that the Swindon East Locality Lead Mr Nazakat Ali will be attending the next meeting to discuss the Merlin Way Lorry Watch Scheme.

50: Cllr Godbold reported that the VAS sign is still not working. Cllr Osbourn offered to chase the matter. She also mentioned the inconsiderate parking and Cllr Benfield agreed to cover this issue in his news article.

Cllr Short has spoken to the Swindon Commercial Services area manager, about the poor quality of grass cutting and weeding. He requested their service standard, schedule of rates and specifications.

58. Forward Planning, Recreation & Highways Committee

Agreed to spend up to £300 on bulb planting.

59. Annual report on the skate-park

Cllr Osbourn handed out his report on the skate-park. The report showed that the problems experienced in the park when the equipment was first installed have dissipated. The park has been patrolled regularly by police. There have been a few reported incidents. The report showed that brighter lighting around the park would help people feel safer about using the park in the evening and early mornings.

Cllr Hayward commented on the fact the children have been good at clearing away litter and keeping the area safe and tidy. Some users of the skate-park have asked if another piece of equipment could be installed. The parish council agreed that the users of the skate-park would have to prove they can look after it before anymore equipment is purchased.

All agreed dog fouling is the big problem in both the parks.

60. Planning matters

The plans for the new vicarage site are available on Swindon Borough Council's website.

61. Financial matters

The monthly financial summary and cheque list were approved.

Cllr Benfield asked for a quarterly budget report. Agreed to start quarterly budget reports from April 2012. Cllr Benfield asked about the colour cartridge on the summary sheet, which had been used to produce the Covingham leaflets.

62. Matters for consideration

Cllr Sandle and Cllr Benfield attended the Wanborough Allotment Society meeting. They reported that the two waiting lists (Covingham and Wanborough) will be amalgamated and

anyone on the waiting list before September 2012 won't be pushed down the list (by Wanborough residents getting preference). Cllr Osbourn reported that Stratton St Margaret parish council is making progress with obtaining allotment land at Gorse Hill. The space should be available by the end of November. Parish clerk will be contacting all the allotment holders to ask if they would be interested in a plot at Gorse Hill.

Cllr Godbold reported that the Merlin Waste drivers have been driving over the grass to empty dog waste bins.

Cllr Short offered to look at the flooding problem in the park, as the parish council still hasn't received a report from Drain Master for the survey they carried out in the summer.

Cllr Foss reported that the school fete was successful. Cllr Parry, Cllr Sandle and Cllr Benfield also attended the event, and Cllr Foss hoped a few more could attend next year.

Cllr Wichall expressed concern over the problem of dog waste and people letting their dogs run around out of control around the parks.

Close of meeting: 9.05pm.

Signed:

Date: