

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th November 2012
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr Allen, Cllr Benfield, Cllr Davis, Cllr Fitchett, Cllr Foss, Cllr Godbold, Cllr Haigh,
Cllr Hayward, Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Parry, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Short, Cllr Wichall

In attendance:

Jo Tomlinson (parish clerk)

63. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Kellaway & Cllr Thompson

64. Declaration of Interests

None

65. Lorry watch survey

The council welcomed Robert Sanders (Highway officer) and Naz Ali (East Locality Lead). They discussed the requirements for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prevent large/heavy vehicles from using Merlin Way.

Survey: a survey will have to be carried out (by volunteers) to determine how severe the problem is. The council agreed to organise the survey for early 2013, and agreed on Monday 26th November for a training session.

Funding: each locality group has £8000 in funding for every ward. This funding would cover most of the costs of the TRO. The parish council would also have to contribute.

66. Public forum

A gentleman called Ady Goodenough introduced himself to the council and explained his plans for arranging a survey of the canal at Acorn Bridge (A420, South Marston) with specific focus on the culverts and flooding implications. Stratton St Margaret parish council is coordinating the project. He asked for support and a financial contribution. The council agreed that further discussion is required.

67. Minutes of the meeting on 8th October 2012

The council approved the minutes of 8th October 2012 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

68. Police matters

Cllr Osbourn reminded everyone to keep their houses and cars locked, following the recent increase in thefts from unlocked vehicles and homes.

69. Matters arising

Councillors reported that the dog waste contractors are still driving over the grassed areas in the parks.

Cllr Short has arranged for a manager from Swindon Commercial Services to inspect their standard of work in the parish.

The previous parish clerk contacted the parish council; he recalled the Environment Agency (EA) issuing an order in 2007 stating their responsibility for clearing Partridge Stream every year. The parish clerk has written to the EA to request a copy of the order and to ask them to carry out the work. Cllr Kellaway is also pursuing the matter.

The VAS in Kingfisher Drive has been repaired but the one in Covingham Drive still isn't working. Swindon Borough Council has ordered a replacement.

70. Forward Planning, Recreation & Highways Committee

Members of the Forward Planning Committee agreed to arrange a meeting over the next few months to produce a project plan (including requests for community levy money).

71. Financial matters

The monthly financial summary and cheque list were approved.

72. Matters for consideration

Cllr Osbourn announced that the parish clerk is leaving next year. The position will be advertised in January.

The next East Locality meeting is in January. The parish clerk has emailed details to councillors. Naz Ali has agreed to email parish councillors with any information that may affect the parish.

Cllr Godbold reported the problem of discarded grass cuttings. These are making the pavements slippery and dangerous. Cllr Short agreed to report to Swindon Commercial Services.

Ward councillors Hurley and Heenan confirmed that street lighting will not be switched off.

Cllr Sandle reported the large amount of rubbish scattered around the areas between Ravenscroft and Larksfield. Ward councillor Price agreed to include this on his list of streets that require cleaning.

Cllr Benfield reported that the falling leaves are starting to cause a problem. Parish clerk to contact Swindon Borough Council to request that the sweeper is used to help to clear them.

Close of meeting: 9.40pm.

Signed:

Date: