

# Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012  
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

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## **Present:**

Cllr Allen, Cllr Benfield, Cllr Foss, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Parry, Cllr Sandle,  
Cllr Thompson, Cllr Wichall

## **In attendance:**

Jo Tomlinson (parish clerk)

## **73. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Davis, Cllr Fitchett, Cllr Godbold, Cllr Hayward and Cllr Short

Cllr Kellaway sent her notice of resignation, with immediate effect.

## **74. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Parry and Cllr Foss declared an interest in Item 13: Covingham Park Primary School grant request because they are both governors at the school.

## **75. Police matters**

PC Frank Key reported a few burglaries and bike thefts in the area. They have been issuing stickers to remind people to keep their bikes locked.

## **76. Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

The council approved the minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and they were signed as a true and accurate record.

## **77. Matters arising**

65. Cllr Benfield asked whether the £8000 Swindon Borough Council have earmarked for the Lorry Watch scheme is part of the Community Infrastructure Levy fund/\$106 money. The parish clerk confirmed that the £8000 would come from the East Localities fund.

65. Cllr Foss stated that he would object to the parish council making a financial contribution to the Lorry Watch Scheme, because the preliminary survey results showed less than 1% of the traffic was HGVs. All agreed to wait for the full survey results before a decision is made.

69. Cllr Benfield commented that the VAS sign on Covingham Drive still isn't working. Cllr Osbourn agreed to chase the manufacturers, who had promised to order a replacement.

72. The parish clerk confirmed that she has contacted Streetsmart to request that the roads are swept.

#### **78. Public forum**

Ady Goodenough thanked everyone for their support for the planned survey of the canal at Acorn Bridge (A420, South Marston). The survey will be carried out on 11<sup>th</sup> December. He suggested that the parish councils may wish to set up a group to organise periodic clearing.

#### **79. Survey at Acorn Bridge**

Discussed in public forum. Resolved to make a contribution of £150.

#### **80. Lorry Watch**

Discussed in matters arising. Agreed to finalise the volunteer list, for the survey, at the January 2013 meeting.

#### **81. Parish clerk vacancy**

Resolved to appoint Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Wichall and Cllr Haigh as the recruitment and selection panel. Agreed that anymore people on the panel would be overwhelming for the candidate. The interview shortlist will be put together early January and interviews will take place late January/early February. The job has been advertised and CVs have been sent to the parish clerk and chairman.

#### **82. Forward Planning, Recreation & Highways Committee**

Agreed to set a meeting date for the Forward Planning committee in the New Year.

#### **83. Financial matters**

Resolved that the monthly financial summary and payments list be approved.

The council observed that the membership fee for the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils seems expensive, and questioned whether the benefits were worth the high membership fee. Agreed to renew membership this year, in preparation for the new parish clerk, and consider renewal again next year.

#### Grant for Covingham Park Primary School

The council asked for an estimate of the cost of purchasing a whiteboard. Cllr Foss agreed to find out for the next meeting.

Grant for Swindon Scrap Store

Resolved to award £250 to the Swindon Scrap Store

**84. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Sandle asked to make the allotment committee a regular agenda item.

Cllr Haigh asked about byelaws relating to dogs being kept on a lead. There have been complaints about off lead dogs worrying other dogs and owners in Covingham Park.

Cllr Parry replied that the only byelaw relating to dogs on lead is in the town centre.

Ward Cllr Price said that tackling the problem of dog fouling and out of control dogs is a priority for the East Locality.

Cllr Foss and Wichall commented that most dog owners are responsible and dogs require off lead exercise.

PC Frank Key has trialled a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for dog walkers (Dog Watch) in another area. This involves a number of dog walkers working together, and reporting suspicious behaviours and activities. The project has been hindered due to insurance requirements. He said he would keep the council updated.

Cllr Parry agreed to ask Swindon Borough Council if Frank's team can borrow some of their litter pickers.

Close of meeting: 9.10pm.

***Signed:***

***Date:***