

# Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

---

## **Present:**

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

## **In attendance:**

Gemma Cheal (parish clerk), Jo Tomlinson, Ward Cllr Julian Price and Ward Cllr Richard Hurley, members of the public

## **134. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Two nominations received. Ballots were collected and verified. Cllr Osbourn was elected as Chairman.  
Two nominations received. Ballots were collected and verified. Cllr. Benfield was elected as V. Chairman.

## **135. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr L Thompson.

## **136. Declaration of Interests**

None.

## **137. Police matters**

No representative of the police present. Ward Cllr Hurley reported that speed watch had taken place on both Covingham and Kingfisher Drive. Over 40 people were stopped. All incidents were dealt with by persons receiving a warning or a fixed penalty fine.

## **138. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record subject to one amendment to the list of attendees.

## **139. Matters arising from the minutes**

Minute reference 120: Report received from Cllr Short on drainage on Covingham Park footpath. Waiting for quotes to come in from contractors to provide drainage solution to the problem. Ward Cllr Hurley confirmed Section 106 money can be used for this work. The chairman requested written confirmation of this. Ward Councillors to provide answer in principle for the June meeting.

#### **140. Public forum**

None.

#### **141. Roles and Committees**

The Parish Council resolved to appoint the following Committees:

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Persons agreed</b>
Vice Chairman	ClIr Benfield
Press Officer	ClIr Benfield
Environment Committee (including Allotments)	ClIr Benfield, ClIr Sandle & ClIr Hayward
Finance Committee	ClIr Benfield, ClIr Haigh, ClIr Sandle, ClIr Wichall & ClIr Short
Highways & Recreation Committee	ClIr Godbold, ClIr Fitchett, ClIr Wichall ClIr L Thompson, ClIr Curtis & ClIr Davis
Parish Plan Committee	ClIr Curtis, ClIr Parry, ClIr Wichall, ClIr Godbold, ClIr Short & ClIr Haigh

#### **142. Allotment Update**

ClIr Benfield reported progress on the Pickards Field allotment site in Gorse Hill. Clerk to contact persons on the allotment waiting list to see if they would like a plot at Pickards Field. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council are organising the project and will allocate available plots to residents of Covingham currently on the waiting list. Clerk to contact Paul Russell (Stratton Clerk) about having a contract in writing.

#### **143. Environmental Committee**

Community Payback Scheme: Clerk to clarify the cost of the scheme and group numbers. Grass to be cut back on the path ways around the 2 parks in Covingham.

Councillors asked Ward Councillors for a programme of works for Covingham, to include street cleaning and grass cutting. Information to be given to the Clerk.

ClIr Benfield reported on the recent Eastern Localities meeting.

#### **144. Lorry Watch Update**

ClIr Osbourn to chase response from Ward ClIr Heenan on traffic report on Merlin Way that was sent to the Borough. No response received to date.

#### 145. Financial matters

The financial summary and cheque list were approved. Members received budget v spend information from the Clerk for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

The Parish Council agreed to support Covingham Park Primary School again this year with a grant for the annual school awards.

#### 146. Planning Matters

None.

#### 147. Correspondence

Received to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013:

From	Subject
C Jardine, Property Services, SBC	Lease of Covingham Park
Director of Law & Democratic Services, SBC	Notice – Application for stopping up of land at Dorcan Way, Swindon on 20 <sup>th</sup> May
Wilts Association of Local Councils	Newsletter – May 2013

#### 148. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Davis raised the issue of dog mess and over grown grass on pavements in the parish.

Councillors discussed the danger of trees over hanging garden walls and fences which is a hazard to pedestrians. The responsibility for contacting property owners lies with Swindon Borough Council.

Cllr Haigh mentioned vehicle damage to the park. Terry (parish council groundsman) has a job number for the reported problem and will re-assess the issue.

Cllr Sandle reported on school parking.

Cllr Godbold mentioned litter problems caused by strong winds blowing recycling waste in the Parish.

Cllr Benfield commented on the lovely planting for the 'Covingham in Bloom'. Councillors noted thanks to residents and to Terry (parish council groundsman) for their help with planting. Councillors noted that some dog walkers had allowed dogs to urinate on the blooms.

Members agreed for Terry (parish council groundsman) to purchase new work clothes.

Close of meeting: 9.05pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**