

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th July 2013
in Covingham Park Junior School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr Benfield, Cllr Foss, Cllr Godbold, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Parry, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Fitchett, Cllr Wichall

In attendance:

Gemma Cheal (parish clerk), Ward Cllr Heenan, Ward Cllr Price, Parish Council Groundsman and members of the public.

164. Apologies

Received from Cllr Curtis, Cllr Davis, Cllr Short and Cllr Haigh

165. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Parry declared an interest in item 176, grant request from The Dorcan Academy.

166. Police matters

PC Frank Key was not present at the meeting. Detection rates had been received from PC Key as previously requested by a member of the public for the period 01/04/2012 – 01/04/2013. Concerns were expressed about figures for the number of undetected rates for burglaries in Covingham.

167. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June were signed as a true and accurate record.

168. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 153: Members noted quotes had been received from Cllr Short for drainage works at Covingham Park. Quotes received were as follows: £4800 + VAT, £5125 + VAT and £5930 + VAT.

Cllr Benfield asked Ward Cllr Heenan for a definitive answer on whether the remaining Section 106 money (£5,000) can be used for this work.

Ward Cllr Heenan confirmed that the money can be used on leisure and culture. In order to provide leisure services at Covingham Park, the drainage works need to be completed. Therefore, this is an acceptable use of the money. The Borough will pay £2,500 - £3,000, with the Parish Council paying the remainder.

ACTION: Ward Cllr Heenan agreed to talk to fellow ward councillors as it is a Borough decision to make. This will be picked up outside of Parish Council meeting.

Item 155: Cllr Benfield pointed out the parish boundary extension is in 2015. Changes will take effect from the next set of parish elections in 2015. The Parish Council can set a shadow precept for those areas from 2014.

169. Public forum

No questions or comments.

170. Chairman's report

Members noted that an item had been placed on the agenda for the consideration of additional equipment at the skate park area at Covingham Park. To be discussed under Item 174.

171. Election of chairpersons for Serving Committees

Chairpersons were elected as follows:

- Finance Committee: Cllr Benfield
- Highways & Recreation Committee: Cllr Davis (to be confirmed).
- Parish Plan Committee: Cllr Wichall
- Environment Committee: Cllr Sandle

172. Reports from Committees

Environment Committee Report from Cllr Sandle:

- Allotments update: Cllr Benfield attended the AGM at Hreod Burna Parkway Preservation Group. New allotments at Pickards Field in Gorse Hill have been put on hold. Wanborough have added some additional plots.

Cllr Heenan and the Environment Committee will discuss the possibility of acquiring additional allotments for Covingham residents on land owned by Swindon Borough Council on Greenbridge Road.

- Trees along Dorcan Way: The Woodland Trust will be replacing the trees at the start of the next growing season. Officers have inspected the sight.

ACTION: Cllr Hayward will investigate trees that look dead at Smitan Brook.

- Forward planning for the Environment Committee next year: Members discussed the idea of having a 'best garden' competition in Covingham. Environment Committee will look at this idea further.

173. Update on Community Payback scheme

Clerk reported that the Community Payback Team have underestimated the amount of time needed to cut back the grass on pathways around Covingham Park and Smitan Brook. Some progress has been made to date. Additional dates have been scheduled in to complete the work at the previously agreed price of £125.

174. Skate Board Area – Extra equipment

The Chairman thanked Cllr Benfield and Cllr Davis for meeting with a representative of the skate park equipment company, Lightmain.

The Chairman informed the Parish Council that a quote had been obtained for additional skate park equipment as the Parish Council had promised the local children that additional equipment may be installed if they took care of the skate park. The children have done a good job looking after the equipment. The chairman would like to honour the promise made to them.

A quote was received in writing for the following additional equipment:

- 1 no 2 Bay Inline Ramp c/w driveway, steps and grind rail (0.6m high): £7,000
 - 1 no 2 Bay High Wave Ramp (2.5m wide x 0.6m high): £6,000
- Total: £13,000 plus VAT and installation.

The Chairman has negotiated this quote to £12,350 with free supply and installation plus VAT which can then be reclaimed. Lightmain can install the equipment in a day. The cost of installation is £2,500.

Cllr Benfield, pointed out that the precept will be frozen until 2015-16. Cllr Benfield asked the Parish Council to be mindful of future spend, taking into consideration inflation of current projects and additional work that the Borough Council may ask the Parish Council to take on.

The Chairman proposed for the Parish Council to accept the offer from Lightmain for the purchase of 2 pieces of equipment at the negotiated cost of £12,350 including installation and supply of new equipment, Plus VAT to be reclaimed. This was seconded by Cllr Godbold.

The council voted for the proposal. All voted in favour, with one objection from Cllr Benfield. Motion carried.

ACTION: Chairman to contact Lightmain to confirm order.

175. Lorry Watch Update

Ward Cllr Heenan gave an update on the proposed traffic regulation order on Merlin Way between its junctions with Covingham Drive and Kingfisher Drive. Borough Council members are in agreement on the traffic regulation order. However there will be a shortfall in funding as previously reported. A consultation is due to take place on the proposal.

Members felt the proposal made by the Borough Council is unsatisfactory as the scheme would not prevent lorries coming in to Covingham.

Members resolved to take no definite decision at this stage and will work with Swindon Borough Council to try to improve and extend the scheme that has been agreed.

Funding will be discussed with the Borough after the consultation.

176: Finance Matters

- Grant request from The Dorcan Academy:
Members resolved to defer a decision on the grant request due to lack of information received from the Chair of Governors.
- The financial summary and cheque list were approved by councillors.
- Members received first quarter accounts statement. Cllr Benfield and the Clerk will action suggested improvements to the format for the second quarter statement.

177. Planning Matters

Application Number: S/13/0832RO

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory

Location: 37 Partridge Close, Covingham, Swindon, SN3 5EU

DECISION: No objection

Planning Application Number: S/13/0529

Proposal: Change of use from office to ultrasound scanning suite (class D1)

Location: Unit 4, Dorcan Business Village, Murdock Road, Swindon, SN3 5HY

DECISION: No objection

178. Correspondence

Members noted the following received correspondence:

- Police report from PC Frank Key.
- Grant request from The Dorcan Academy.
- Email correspondence from Wanborough Parish Council to Swindon Borough Council regarding the Eastern Villages Supplementary Planning Document.
- Letter from Swindon Borough Council regarding lease of Covingham Park and land at Smitan Brook.

ACTION: Clerk to respond confirming no income is received on the land.

- Quote for drainage works in Covingham for: £4800 + VAT.
- Quote for drainage works in Covingham for: £5125 + VAT.
- Quote for drainage works in Covingham for: £5930 + VAT.

179. Matters for Consideration

Cllr Sandle pointed out that the sign at Covingham Park needs to be updated as it has the wrong telephone number.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Enterprise Works.

Members agreed for a copy of the article produced by Cllr Benfield on behalf of the Parish Council to go up on parish notice boards.

Members noted that Cllr Benfield and Cllr Hayward had attended an East Localities meeting. Cllr Benfield expressed his disappointment with the lack of opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

A member of the public asked what is happening about Speedwatch in Covingham. Ward Councillors updated that this had been put on hold due to the Police Crime Commissioner elections and the decision taken to review Speedwatch. This has now been on hold for 12 months. Swindon Borough Council will keep Speedwatch under review. The Chairman reminded members that the police had recently carried out a speed check in Covingham.

ACTION: Chair of Highways to pick this up.

Members agreed for a formal application to be made to Swindon Borough Council to secure an agreement from them about access to Section 106 money to pay for drainage works at Covingham Park.

Members noted that Cllr Hayward's computer will be up and running again in two weeks.

Close of meeting: 21:37

Signed:

Date: