

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 2014
In Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present:

Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Benfield, Cllr Foss, Cllr Short, Cllr Davis, Cllr Wichall, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Curtis, Cllr Sandle,

In attendance:

Gemma Cheal (parish clerk), Grace Martin (National Flood Forum), Members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Parry, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Godbold, Cllr Stanbury and Cllr Fitchett

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

Cllr Osbourn introduced Grace Martin, Community Resilience Officer in Swindon for the National Flood Forum. Grace will be a guest speaker at the 2014 Annual Assembly. Grace gave a brief introduction about her work, the aim of which is to help people prepare before a flood and to provide support afterwards. Grace spoke about the 'pathfinder project' in the East Locality and discussed local educational work taking place. The Community are being encouraged to raise issues through drop in sessions. A key focus for Grace is the Flood Action Groups. Members agreed for a leaflet to be created to publicise the Annual Assembly on 14th April 2014.

3. Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2013

Minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Members noted that Street Smart have carried out a litter pick in Covingham.

Cllr Foss informed councillors that a litter pick is to be arranged with the school.

5. Public forum:

A member of the public asked a follow up question on behalf of Gareth Hawkes regarding culvert issues. Mr Goodenough of the Wanborough anti-flood group provided members with photographs showing the impact of the recent high rainfall at Acorn Bridge on the A420. Mr Goodenough commented that the Borough have not mentioned any of the flooding problems in their draft 'CIL' document. **ACTION:** Clerk to follow up with SBC.

6. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following report from the Clerk:

Register of Members Interests

The register of members' interests is currently out of date. Members have been asked to complete a 'general notice of registrable interests' form to complete our records. This information is required to go to the Monitoring Officer at Swindon Borough Council.

Parish Council Vacancy

Currently one vacancy on the parish council.

Community Payback

To date, Community Payback has not quite completed grass cutting around the path at Smitan Brook. Groundsman to continue to monitor progress.

Response from Swindon Borough Council on Eastern Villages SPD

An email has been received acknowledging our response to the Eastern Villages SPD. Wording received as follows: 'I confirm we have received your representation. However, we would not expect to respond until all representations have been taken into account. I am sorry you did not receive confirmation following your subsequent e-mail to the forward planning team. Please note, the Master planning and Design team are dealing with the EV application(s) and progressing the SPDs.'

Dog Bin Update

Swindon Borough Council are not able to offer Covingham a spare dog bin. Clerk to order new dog bin and post as agreed at the January parish council meeting.

Update on Actions from December meeting:

Litter problems. Clerk has contacted Richard Hurley, Cabinet Member for Street Smart reporting problems, in particular on Dorcan Way from Messenger roundabout to Smiths. Waiting for a reply (now complete).

7. Police Matters

The Police have been monitoring traffic along Merlin Way in both marked and unmarked cars. To date, no vehicles have contravened the weight restriction. Where residents have been able to provide a registration number of offending vehicles, the Police have written to the registered keeper/company advising them of the experimental order and the alternative route vehicles should be taking.

Recorded crime has been low over the last month. There have been a few minor thefts but none of these appear to be connected.

8. Reports from Parish Council Committee Chairs:

The following reports were received and noted:

- Environment Committee (Chair Cllr Sandle):

Allotments

Nythe: Communication received from Dale Heenan inviting us to the next Nythe Allotment meeting. Cllr Curtis and Cllr Benfield will attend on our behalf.

Pickards Field: Hreod Burna Parkway, who are the Conservation Group for Pickards Field, have finally been accepted by the Charity Commission, they are now waiting for their charity number, which will enable them to move forward. They envisage there being about 40 full size plots, although they expect some will to be divided into half plots.

Best Garden: Posters have been displayed on our notice board plus The Handy Mag. closing date being the 28th February, after this date we will evaluate interests to decide our way forward.

Trees: Looking at locations within Covingham Parish, suitable for planting more trees, which can be obtained free from the Woodland Trust. We have received a response from a resident of Covingham who would be interested in having a tree planted outside their house.

Speed Watch: Discussed, was not well received or attended due to the lateness of notification & the location of the training being Devizes.

- Finance Committee (Chair Cllr Benfield):

Asset Register

This was agreed and the layout was as previously suggested by the council.

As the past records of some purchases were unavailable the best guess was made on some of the assets. It would be fair to say the auditor's main concern was the complete the lack of any register rather than the content.

Out turn Statement.

This was examined in detail and the projected underspend for 2013/2014 is looking very healthy and currently this does not include the insurance payment for the damaged play equipment.

Insurance Claim

A police incident number has been obtained, Terry has supplied photographic evidence and the Clerk is trying to find the original invoice for the equipment.

Suggestions for improved Financial Control were discussed.

Parish Council Budget for 2014/2015

Our precept application statement has now been signed and forwarded to Swindon Borough Council. Swindon Borough Council have confirmed the governments council tax support grant will be pass ported in full to all parish councils.

- Highways and Recreation (Chair Cllr Short):

Cllr Short and Cllr Osbourn met with Bernie Brennan, Head of Highways and Engineering at Swindon Borough Council. Cllr Short and Cllr Osbourn were assured that action would be taken on outstanding maintenance works for Covingham, including gully cleaning. Half the gullies were cleaned in 2012 and half in 2013. A clear programme of works must be agreed on every delivery service we received from Swindon Borough Council. No progress has been made to date on the drainage issues. The skate park equipment will be moved when weather improves. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Bernie Brennan regarding unresolved drainage issues and an agreed programme of works for Covingham.

- Parish Plan Committee (Chair Cllr Curtis):

Cllr Curtis has made contact with the Chair of Wanborough Parish Council to try and progress joint working with regards to the Eastern Villages development. Cllr Curtis and Cllr Benfield will attend the February Wanborough Parish Council meeting on 24th February. Members agreed that the Planning Committee would make a formal statement regarding the Eastern Villages development after consultation and in agreement with Wanborough Parish Council.

9. Planning Matters

Application Number: S/14/0097 Proposal: Erection of front porch Location: 12 Verney Close, Covingham, SN3 5EF DECISION: No objection	Planning Application Number: S/14/0109 Proposal: Erection of a front porch Location: 10 Verney Close, Covingham, SN3 5EF DECISION: No objection
--	--

10. Financial Matters

- **Approve financial summary and cheque list:**
The financial summary and cheque list were approved and signed.
- **Receive and agree Asset Register:**
Updated Asset Register was accepted by members.
- **Consider the following grant requests:**
Dorcan Church: Members resolved to award £200 to support the holiday club.
Victim Support: Members resolved to decline the grant request due to the nationalisation of the charity.

Cllr Short asked the Clerk to contact 'BIOS' who would like to be considered for a grant from Covingham Parish Council in the future.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following received correspondence

Received from	Subject
Dorcan Church	Grant Request
Victim Support	Grant Request

12. Matters for consideration

Members noted problems with people driving across grass verges to access their driveways. Cllr Sande agreed to write to Ward Councillor Hurley regarding the issue.

Cllr Curtis pointed out a constant droning noise that has appeared since the opening of the new Morrison's Supermarket. Cllr Curtis to contact Environmental Health with concerns.

Cllr Haigh pointed out that the fence is deteriorating at the entrance to Covingham on the left hand side coming from the A419. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact English Heritage who are responsible for the maintenance of the fence.

Meeting closed at 20:49.

Signed by Chairman: