

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th June 2015
In Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present: Cllr Sandle, Cllr Benfield, Cllr Curtis, Cllr Davis, Cllr Foss, Cllr Osbourn, Cllr Fitchett,

In attendance:

Gemma Cheal (parish clerk), Cllr Sumner, Chair of Wanborough Parish Council, members of the public

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Wichall, Cllr Haigh and Cllr Short

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2015 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Item 6: Councillors discussed the delay to improvement works at Covingham Square and noted that the works have now gone out to tender and a date has been set.

Cllr Curtis commented on the number of NO2 cartridges found in Covingham (reported by the Parish Handyman) and informed members that the cartridges will be in the Legal High Bill, making them illegal. The issue has been reported to the Police. North Swindon Police have put information out to warn parents of the dangers via their Facebook page.

Members discussed production of 400 flyers to go to residents of Redrow estate. Members agreed for Cllr Benfield to arrange printing of the flyers with Orchard Press. Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle will deliver to residents.

5. Public forum

One member of the public present who raised concerns about construction traffic as a result of the Wanborough development. Resident also asked about the re-painting of the bus shelters as they are looking tired. Members informed the resident that the Parish Council has plans to re-paint the bus shelters. This will be discussed later on in the meeting under Item 11.

6. Presentation from Chair of Wanborough Parish Council regarding Lotmead Planning Application

The Chairman welcomed the Chair of Wanborough Parish Council, Cllr Gary Sumner to the meeting. Cllr Sumner gave a presentation on the 2 planning applications at Lotmead (see Item 12, Planning Matters for planning application information).

The main concerns for Covingham are regarding construction traffic, increased traffic flow generated by the new homes and the lack of school places in both Wanborough and Covingham for children who will be living in the new homes. There are currently no available spaces at Covingham Park Primary School and Wanborough School

The Parish Council also noted concerns about a potential flooding risk. Cllr Sumner asked the Parish Council to object to the planning application for the 200 dwellings based on the above information

and asked that the Parish Council request for the necessary infrastructure to be put in place before planning permission is granted for the 2,600 dwellings.

ACTION: Clerk to write to letters of response outlining objections to Swindon Borough Council, with copies to the Chair of the Planning Committee.

7. Clerk's Report

Members received the following report from the Clerk:

Parish Council Insurance Our Parish Council Insurance has now been renewed for another year.
Finance I met with Cllr Benfield to discuss the audit update, adjustment to cost centre codes to reflect flower box maintenance, HMRC update information and a draft contract for the Parish Handyman.
Audit update I have been putting together a finance file over the last few weeks. This will have been passed to the Internal Auditor by 8 th June. We are required to submit our Annual Return Form to the external auditor by 22 nd June 2015. A notice of 'Electors' Rights' has been placed on the website.
Bin replacement 2 new waste bin liners have been ordered. The bottom of the red waste bins was coming away so required replacement. 2 incorrect bins were ordered initially which will be returned to Earth Anchors.
Handyman Holiday John will be on holiday from 17 th to 23 rd June. John will empty the bins before he takes holiday and as soon as he is back. There should not be any need for additional emptying for this period.
Report from Handyman for May <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collected and disposed of 8 N2O cartridges this month2. Waste bin at skateboard park was set on fire over first bank holiday weekend3. 15 rivets replaced in skateboard park4. Made up 5 new planters5. 3 fires in Covingham Park over w/e 15 & 16th May6. Dam in stream at Partridge Close reported to E.A, cleared within 48 hrs7. Restaked tree in Covingham Park8. Resealed roof on lock up, which was still leaking in places9. With DB's help, disposed of old lawn mower Signed: John Ricketts Date: 29th May 2015

Members agreed for Cllr Curtis to review and amend Contracts for the Clerk and Handyman.

8. Verbal Update from the Chairman

The Chairman informed members that he has been in correspondence with Swindon Borough Council Officers regarding the issue previously reported at Sandpiper. Clarification will be received on whether or not an Order will be placed with the owner of the property.

9. Police Matters (Update from local neighbourhood policing team)

No report received this month. The Chairman agreed to contact the Police.

10. Adult Exercise Equipment

Cllr Osbourn informed members that 3 companies had originally been contacted to quote for the equipment. 2 of the 3 companies attended a site visit at Covingham Park and provided quotes for the adult exercise equipment as follows:

Company 1 (Fresh Air Fitness): Price: £10,419. Benefits: Can offer 5 year guarantee.

Company 2 (Caloo): Price: £10,000 excluding VAT. Benefits: Same company that installed the equipment in Quarry Road, the company specialise in adult exercise equipment and they can provide 3 lots of equipment on 3 sites around the park.

Cllr Osbourn proposed to accept the quote from Company 2 (Caloo). This was seconded by Cllr Foss. All members voted in favour of the proposal. The motion to purchase the equipment from Caloo was therefore carried.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Swindon Borough Council to seek permission for installing the equipment on Council owned land.

11. **Reports from Parish Council Committee Chairs:**

- Environment Committee (Chair Cllr Sandle):

Members received the following report from Cllr Sandle:

Allotments

Nothing to report

Cllr Benfield attended the Nythe parish council meeting in May 2015.

Street Boxes

The Handyman has installed the additional five boxes, which are now planted– Two at the entrance to Kingfisher Drive – Merlin Way, two at the entrance to Covingham Drive - Merlin way & one at the entrance to Covingham Road – Dorcan Way.

The Handyman did originally agree to water the boxes – which do require a lot of watering on a regular basis, one thing I overlooked when I asked the handyman to carry out this task for us, was the fact that his property is on a water meter, which means he is being charge for the extra water used on the parish behalf. Due to this oversight Cllr Benfield & I have taken on the watering role & purchased a 25 litre water container. Should anyone wish to help with watering our boxes, it would be much appreciated.

Sunflower

Unfortunately this project did not prosper – due to the walls foundations etc. The Handyman has suggested the possibility of installing boxes against wall. If council agrees, I may pursue this venue again next year.

Bus shelters

Is there any reason why our bus shelters are a dull green? Can they be painted an inviting colour? – The Handyman has agreed to undertake the painting if agreed by the parish.

Waste bins

The Handyman has highlighted the need /requirement for additional waste bins – suggested area – Merlin Way – The Handyman has agreed to empty any additional bins if installed.

- Finance Committee (Chair Cllr Benfield):
No report this month.
- Recreation (Chair Cllr Haigh and Cllr Osbourn):
Report covered above regarding adult exercise equipment.
- Parish Plan/Highways Committee (Chair Cllr Curtis):
No report this month.
- Covingham Flood Group report (Cllr Curtis):
Members noted that the next multi-agency meeting will take place on 20th July 2015. An update will follow after this meeting. Members noted that this will be the 8th anniversary of the bad flooding in Covingham.

12. Planning Matters

Application Number: S/OUT/15/0754

Re: Outline Planning Application (with means of access off Wanborough Road not reserved) for up to 200 dwellings (Use Class C3) with open space, landscaping and associated road and drainage infrastructure to form the southern part of Lotmead Village.

At: Lotmead Site, Eastern Villages, Swindon, Wiltshire

Application Number: S/OUT/15/0753

Re: S/OUT/15/0753 | Outline Planning Application (with means of access off Wanborough Road not reserved) for the demolition and/or conversion of the existing buildings on site, and redevelopment to provide up to 2,600 dwellings, up to 1,765 sqm of community/retail uses (Use Class D1/D2/A1/A3/A4), up to 3,000 sqm of business/employment use (Use Class B1), a primary school, open space, strategic landscaping and other green infrastructure (including SUDs and areas for nature conservation), other associated road and drainage infrastructure, indicative primary access road corridors to the A420 and improvements and widening of existing route off Wanborough Road to provide pedestrian, cycle and bus access.

At: Lotmead Site, Eastern Villages, Swindon, Wiltshire

Outcome: As discussed under Item 6. Clerk to write formally to Swindon Borough Council outlining objections to the planning applications.

13. Financial Matters

- Approve financial summary and cheque list:
Members approved the financial summary and cheque list. Members resolved to once again grant £75 to Covingham Park School for head boy and head girl awards. This cheque payment will be added to the July schedule.
- Approval of the Annual Return:
Members approved the Annual Return.
- Consider and grant requests received (current grant money available £900):
Members noted correspondence received from the Dorcan Church requesting a donation of £50 to go towards bulb planting. Cllr Foss proposed £50. This was seconded by Cllr Davis. All members voted in favour of awarding £50 to the Dorcan Church.

14. Correspondence

Members noted the following received correspondence

Received from	Subject
Dorcan Church Warden	Grant request for £50 towards bulbs
Wroughton Parish Clerk	Code of Conduct Training for new councillors
Thamesdown Transport	Changes to Thamesdown services
Aon Insurance	Confirmation of renewal of Parish Council insurance

15. Matters for consideration

Cllr Sandle mentioned a bin located near Ravenscroft that is overflowing with dog waste and enquired about whether or not an additional bin is needed. The Clerk agreed to talk to the Handyman. Cllr Sandle informed members that she will carry out an internal tree survey for Covingham.

Cllr Benfield informed members that he recently met with the family of Mr and Mrs Goodwin formerly of Heronscroft. Mrs Goodwin recently passed away and requested before she died that she would like to have a plaque in their memory on the seat. The family are happy to replace the seat with a new one, or pay to have the existing seat and its surround refurbished and obviously meet the costs of the plaque.

Members noted that the seat is metal with no sign of rust, although some works will be required to tidy it up. Members noted that the family will pay for the works agreed for the family to go-ahead with the works and installation of the plaque.

Meeting closed at 20:50