

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2017
In Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present: Cllr Osbourn (Chair), Cllr Sandle, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Foss (part of meeting), Cllr Benfield (Vice Chair), Cllr Curtis, Cllr Hawkes, Cllr Bacon, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Paginton

In attendance: Gemma Cheal (Parish Clerk), members of the public, Ward Cllr Dale Heenan

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Haigh and Cllr Foss (part of the meeting).

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 13 (Finance, Grant requests).

3. Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record, subject to an amendment to members 'present' at the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Public forum

No comments or questions from members of the public.

6. Clerk's Report

Members received and accepted the following report from the Clerk:

Purchases following play park inspection reports (agreed November 2016 Parish Council meeting):

- 10 x replacement bin liners, including 2 complete bins have been ordered (£1,164 inc. VAT).
- Various replacement parts for play parks have been ordered, including new seats and chains for swings, end caps, triangular platform replacement (£1,798.80 inc. VAT).

Delivery date to be confirmed. Parts will be delivered directly to John for installation/replacement.

Firecrest View play area

Swindon Borough Council have emailed to confirm that the inspections and maintenance of the play area within Firecrest View will transfer to the Parish Council from 1st April 2017. Swindon Borough Council will be looking to formalise this with Covingham Parish Council.

Handyman Report

Key notes to report from John this month:

Notes

1. 1 Rivet (s) replaced in skateboard park
2. 3 Syringes removed from St Pauls Drive (no needles)
3. 7 NO2 cartridges removed from Smitan Brook Park/Kingfisher Drive

Signed: John Ricketts

Date: 30th December 2016

For information, John has picked up 18% more litter than last year. John does not believe it is because he has been collecting litter on Redrow since April.

7. Verbal Update from the Chairman

The Chairman informed members that a meeting is scheduled with Ward Cllr Parry for Friday 20th January 2017 on-site at Covingham Park to discuss barriers for future prevention of travellers. The Chairman confirmed that plans and costings have been requested. Ward Cllr Heenan confirmed that

Swindon Borough Council will pay for installation of the bollards, but will not pick up any on-going costs.

- 8. Police Matters** (Update from local neighbourhood policing team)
No report from the Police this month. Members noted email correspondence circulated by the Clerk, reference an update from the North Swindon Community Policing Team.

9. The future of Covingham Library – Report back from the Library Working

The Covingham Library Working Party tabled the following proposal:

Covingham Parish Council are willing to support an organisation that will provide a library function to the residents of Covingham during the start-up and initial operation phases. The support will be in a financial capacity and with a member of the Parish Council as a representative to the management organisation to ensure the interests of Covingham residents are protected.

The financial support will be to a maximum of £3,600 per year for two years, i.e. 2017/18 and 2018/19. In October 2018, the working party to review ongoing support before further financial support is committed to.

Cllr Paginton asked about the money to the Church. Cllr Curtis pointed out that the Church has laid down what is required for the rent. The Diocese has agreed to take on the cost of cleaning – they still require rent for the use of the room.

Members resolved to agree the proposal made by the working party. Cllr Paginton voted against the proposal. Members resolved for Cllr Curtis to be the representative on behalf of the Parish Council. Members resolved for wording to go in the Handymag (ACTION Cllr Benfield). The Chairman thanked Cllr Curtis and members of the working party.

10. Transfer of Services from Swindon Borough Council to Covingham Parish Council – update from meeting with SBC Officers (Cllr Benfield/Cllr Short).

Members received the following update from Cllr Benfield and Cllr Short:

Rob Core confirmed that the figure of £14,735.00 was agreed by Cabinet and is based on the costs of delivery of services in the area. Last year the figure would have been £29,470 but this will be the 50% this coming April. Rob also confirmed that SBC will not be transferring the toilets to the parish as per our request. They are currently closed and it is likely they will remain so.

It was agreed that the Bring Sites are not the responsibility of the parish and Swindon Borough Council plan to remove these this year but until then they will be responsible for removing any waste left next to the containers.

It was agreed that the parish would undertake litter picking and bin emptying in the parish including the shopping areas but only if SBC provided a means of disposing of the waste on site. To do this SBC are proposing to provide two 1100 litre Euro bins with locking lids which will be emptied by their refuse trucks once per week. A suitable location is to be provided by the parish. Members discussed possible locations and agreed the most suitable location would be in Covingham Square. Currently waiting permission from property services

Grass cutting, hedge and shrub cutting will be undertaken by the parish.

Small incidents of graffiti and boot size fly tipping would also be undertaken (Not fly tipping by the Bring Site).

Low level trimming of trees from the ground using hand tools only.

Firecrest Play Area will also be transferring to the parish to take on maintenance and inspection from the 1st April 2017.

Members noted that the Parish Council has been funding the maintenance of Redrow, with no funding from Swindon Borough Council for 11 months. ACTION: Clerk to write to Ward Councillor Heenan detailing the above.

11. Reports from Parish Council Committee Chairs:

- Environment Committee (Chair Cllr Sandle):

Members noted that the Christmas tree has been well received by residents and the Salvation Army Carol Concert well attended and featured in the Swindon Advertiser. ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to G & L Evans, Funeral Services.

Christmas cards and vouchers have been distributed to residents that maintain the floral boxes. 2 thank you responses have been received. Members noted that the Wrenswood contact has now moved away. The Parish Handyman has wood to make flower boxes for Cornmarsh Way.

Cllr Paginton enquired about nesting boxes. Cllr Sandle agreed to look into this further.

- Finance Committee (Chair Cllr Benfield):

Covered under Item 13 (Finance).

- Recreation (Chair Cllr Haigh):

See Item 7 (verbal update from the Chairman)

- Parish Plan/Highways Committee (Chair Cllr Curtis):

Cllr Curtis informed members that a planning notification had been received for S/OUT/16/0021 (Revised documents for Redlands). Unfortunately; the notification was received after publication of the agenda. Members noted that the Parish Council had previously responded to the application and discussed the implications of traffic that will be forced through Covingham. Ward Cllr Heenan updated members on the current status of plans for the Southern Connector Road. Works will start in 2018 and will take 12 months to build and is fully funded. Ward Cllr Heenan and confirmed that the current weight restriction on Merlin Way is still enforced.

Members resolved for the Clerk to request a deadline for comments to the planning application (ACTION CLERK). Any comments from members regarding the planning application to be emailed to Cllr Curtis.

- Covingham Flood Group report (Cllr Curtis):

Cllr Curtis informed members of a recent major success for the Covingham Flood Group. In 2013 the Environment Agency and Swindon Borough Council tasked the Flood Group to identify possible flood attenuation sites. The group identified the Nythe Balancing Pond as one of the areas. Money has been found for improvement works which are due to start week commencing 16th January 2017. Members noted that there is a forthcoming agenda item to discuss the Environment Agency schedule for clearing the River Cole.

- Parish Website Working Party (Cllr Hawkes):

Cllr Hawkes informed members that the current software running on the website is out of date and will need to be upgraded to a different server. Members resolved to give permission to Cllr Hawkes to take a copy of the site.

12. Planning Matters

See agenda item 11 (Parish Plan).

13. Financial Matters

- **Approve financial summary and cheque list**
Members approved the financial summary and cheque list.
- **Receive Q3 budget statement**
Members accepted the Q3 budget statement.
- **Application for and approval of dispensation. Councillors that have not yet completed the form are required to apply for a dispensation to be able to participate in any discussion or vote concerning the setting of the Precept.** Members that had not yet signed an application for dispensation, completed the forms.
- **Approval of budget and precept for financial year 2017-18**
Members of the Finance Committee recommended that the Parish Council request the amount of £70,265.00 from Swindon Borough Council in Precept for the financial year 2017-18. Members resolved to request the amount of £70,265.00. Cllr Paginton abstained from the vote.
- **Consider and grant requests received (current grant money available £675)**
 - Letter received from Revitalise (respite holidays for disabled people and carers)
Members resolved to award £300 to Revitalise.

14. Correspondence

Members noted the following received correspondence

Received from	Subject
Revitalise	Grant request

15. Matters for consideration

Cllr Curtis commented on the number of complaints from residents in the future, regarding the transfer of services and implications that this could have on the Parish Clerk in terms of the Clerk possibly receiving resident complaints at her home address. How will the Parish Council deal with this in future?

ACTION: Clerk to write to Swindon Borough Council Officer Patrick Weir requesting that SBC retain responsibility of receiving telephone calls and complaints (ACTION CLERK).

Cllr Sandle commented on fence by the Dentist in Covingham and requested a letter regarding maintenance of the fence to be sent from the Parish Council (ACTION CLERK).

Cllr Benfield informed members that contracts from 1st April for parish maintenance will be signed in the near future.

Meeting closed at 20:48.

Signed (chairman):