



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 3rd June 2019
At 7pm in Covingham Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present: Cllrs Bacon, Benfield, Curtis (Chair), Hawkes, Ricketts, Sandle.

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk) and one member of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Waywell (unwell) and Cllr Wichall (work related).

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Curtis reminded members that they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered at the beginning of the meeting and during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Cllr Hawkes stated that item 6 from May's meeting regarding National Government Guidance is still to be added to the website with a link from the Facebook Page **Action - Cllr Hawkes**

Covingham Car Park – would continue to be monitored

Covingham Square Clean Up – Another weekday afternoon clean up to be arranged

Action - Cllr Curtis/Sandle

5. Public forum

One resident attended the meeting - no questions or issues raised.

6. Chairs Verbal Update

Cllr Curtis had recently seen a presentation given by the Group Manager from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service about the Safe Drive, Stay Alive campaign that is shown to all teenagers from schools in Swindon. The Group Manager is willing to attend Parish Council meetings to publicise the programme to a wider audience. The meeting agreed to extend an invitation to the September meeting. **Action - Clerk**

Open Space Audit - has been completed and submitted

Councillor Vacancies – the formal Casual Vacancy process will be followed and the vacancies will be listed shortly. **Action – Cllr Curtis/Clerk**

7. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Cllr Hawkes commented on the excellent standard of the work carried out which was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Curtis reported that the stepper, a piece of the adult exercise equipment, has been damaged.

The supplier has been informed and asked for advice

Action - Cllr Curtis

8. Reports from Parish Council Working Parties and Committee's

- **Environment Working Party** - Three planters have been replanted, one requires repair on Kingfisher Road South. **Action – Maintenance Engineers**
- **Data Protection & Governance** - The Council address is still showing incorrectly on Google. Cllr Hawkes is trying to correct it however, Google are not cooperating. Cllr Hawkes to continue working on the correction. **Action - Cllr Hawkes**
- **Planning Working Party** – no report was provided

9. Planning Matters:

To consider any planning applications:

Application: S/ 19/0703

Location: Land East of The A419, Between Commonhead Roundabout and Land North of Wanborough Road, Swindon Wilts

Proposal: The construction of a new road, to link the A419 Commonhead Roundabout to the proposed New Eastern Villages (NEV) development including improvements to the existing Commonhead Roundabout and Pack Hill, new junctions with Pack Hill, The Marsh and Wanborough Road, new footway/cycleway and associated earthworks, drainage works and landscaping.

Resolved: The meeting agreed that comments from the Planning Working Party to be submitted:

Covingham Parish Council supports construction of the Southern Connector Road.

The road is an essential link between the New Eastern Villages and the M4 motorway and is needed to prevent additional traffic from using the roads in Covingham.

This road needs to be constructed before the southern part of the NEV development actually starts so that all development traffic can use the Southern Connector Road. The alternative is that construction traffic will have to travel through Covingham with all the problems associated with such traffic. There are already Traffic Regulation Orders in place restricting the movement of heavy traffic through the parish and without the Southern Connector Road the orders are likely to be removed to permit development traffic.

The Parish Council and others have reservations about the actual design and construction of the Southern Connector Road. Covingham and adjacent localities suffer from flooding. The Southern Connector Road will be built across a flood plain and the flood zones in the area. If there is only limited funding, or a too hurried approach to the design and construction, then the road could act as a dam, with restrictions to the normal movement of water during a flood event. Instead of flowing to the North East, waters would be forced North and South along the boundary of the route of the Southern Connector Road causing increased flooding to Covingham to the North, and Wanborough to the South.

10. Financial Matters

- a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed approval of the Finance Statement and payments approval list. Cllr Ricketts seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

- b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation

Resolved: The meeting agreed that the accounts were in a healthy position.

11. Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Report for 2018/19 as prepared by Auditing Solutions had been received and was positive with no advisories or actions needed.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed acceptance of the report. Cllr Sandle seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

12. Limited Assurance Review

It was **resolved** to approve and sign:

- (a) Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
- (b) Accounting Statements 2018/19

The Meeting noted that the period for the Exercise of Public Rights would be from Monday 1st July until Friday 8th August 2019.

13. Cole Close Car Park

Cllr Curtis had contacted the Church who had confirmed that there were no events or functions held there during the week to create the car parking issues that had been raised by residents. The situation would be closely monitored to try and ascertain the owners of the vehicles. Cllr Curtis will also liaise with the occupiers of the former Patheon building.

14. fuelGenie Business Card

To consider the provision of a fuelGenie Business card for the purchase of fuel and oil for the Parish Council van.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed the provision of the fuelGenie fuel card. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

15. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

16. Matters for consideration

Cllr Hawkes enquired as to whether there should be a meeting in August. Cllr Curtis explained that during the conversation with the Church, they had confirmed that rooms were available and at similar rates as to what were currently paid, therefore an August meeting was possible. **Action – Cllr Curtis**

Changing the venue of the regular Parish Council monthly meetings would be added to the July agenda for formal discussion and if appropriate, agreement.

Play Equipment – Cllr Curtis asked if it would be advisable to approach play equipment companies for estimates of costs to understand the amounts needed taking into account the poor condition of the floor and the attention required. The meeting agreed to approach three companies.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

Signed..... Date.....

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