

Covingham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5th February 2018
In Covingham Park Primary School, The Harriers, Covingham

Present: Cllr Curtis (Chair), Cllr Willis, Cllr Sandle, Cllr Pagington, Cllr Benfield (Vice Chair), Cllr Waywell

Also in attendance: Emma Kingsley (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Benfield

2. Consider co-option of Parish Councillor

Cllr Benfield proposed that David Waywell was co-opted onto the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Sandle and unanimously agreed.

3. Declaration of Interests

None

4. Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2017

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2017 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr Kevin Parry has confirmed the new version of Neighbourhood Watch is similar to how it worked previously i.e. a co-ordinator for each area with street reps for each road that signs up. The co-ordinator will update residents via email. They are also looking at holding meetings where they can all come together and receive police reports, share experiences and good practice. New signs can be ordered at a cost of £30, replacement signs for £5. **Action – Cllr Curtis**

Residents Email – As reported at the previous meeting a conversation has now taken place with a local resident who is a Parent Governor at the school that was keen to replace the play equipment. He will be attending the February meeting with a view to possibly joining the Parish Council.

Council Tax Care Leavers – The Clerk responded to the Council Tax Care Leavers questions as discussed by the councillors at the December meeting.

Stratton Reclaim - The handymen visited Stratton Reclaim to source wood for the flower boxes following a recommendation at the December meeting from Cllr Bacon, who suggested that pricing seemed to be cheaper than where currently sourced. The wood was more expensive but was cut to size, saving time and labour

Christmas Meal

The Christmas meal was a successful and enjoyable evening, thanks to Cllr Sandle for arranging the event.

Community Speedwatch – An email has been received from the Community Speedwatch co-ordinator to confirm that the names of the volunteers have been forwarded to the Police for security checking. As there are sufficient numbers the training will take place in Swindon rather than at Police HQ in Devizes

Bench from the Co-op Good Causes Fund – this has been ordered and is due to be delivered the last week of January.

Bollards – No update received as yet from the Nythe, Eldene and Liden Clerk as to the reasoning behind the excessive cost per bollard

Recycle Bins in Covingham Square – SBC confirmed the week before Christmas that they were unable to remove the bins as the in-house equipment could not cope with the weight and size of the bins, so need to hire-in suitable equipment.

6. Public forum:

As no members of the public were present, the Council continued with the meeting

7. Clerk's verbal update

There has been a continual struggle with getting access to the bank. The Mandate address has now been changed and as of today, 08/01/18, the pin for the card has been received. It is hoped the card and card reader will follow shortly.

8. Verbal Update from the Chair

Dog bins – Cllr Parry has received several complaints from Covingham residents about the condition of the footpath that runs at the back of the Redrow Estate due to dog mess. The decision was made by Nythe/Eldene/Liden PC to remove the bin that was in place. He is asking Covingham Parish Council to install a dog poo bin. Cllr Curtis has requested that all complaints should be forwarded to either Emma or her so that we can understand who is complaining.

The lid from one of the dog bins in Smittanbrook Park is missing and can't be found so needs replacing. The Meeting agreed that a new dog bin should be ordered as a matter of urgency

Action- Clerk

9. Covingham Clean up Day

To coincide with the Great British Spring Clean, which is a campaign with a simple aim: to bring people across the country together to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and beaches. It was agreed that Covingham Parish Council will use a Clean up day to support the event on Saturday 3rd March.

Action - Clerk

Cllr Sandle made counsellors aware that on St Pauls Drive there had been a collection of water. On inspection it was discovered that leaves were covering the drain, so Cllr Sandle removed these to enable water to run freely. Following this it was suggested by Cllr Sandle that drains and gutters should be the focus during the Clean up day supporting Keep Britain Tidy.

It is not clear whether the road sweepers have been out throughout Covingham, confirmation needs to be sought from SBC and the Contractor. The Councillors decided that gully suckers should also be used.

Action – Clerk/Cllr Curtis

10. Handymen Report

Cllr Benfield praised the Parish Handymen for their report and suggested that their job title was demeaning to the job they actually fulfill, going above and beyond their job description. It was proposed by Cllr Benfield that their title should change to Covingham Parish Maintenance Engineers. All Cllrs were in favour.

Action – Cllr Curtis/Personnel Committee

11. Training

Due to big changes with regard to data protection, the Clerk and Cllr Hawkes seek approval to attend the WALC Data Protection Training. This was proposed by Cllr Benfield with all other Cllrs in agreement, approving both the training and travel cost.

Action – Clerk/Cllr Hawkes

12. Reports from Parish Council Committee Chairs:

- **Environment/Recreation Committee (Chair Cllr Sandle)**

No update

- **Parish Plan/Highways Committee (Chair Cllr Hawkes)**

As Cllr Hawkes is currently away Cllr Benfield updated Cllrs that a group had been formed by local residents in Stratton who are concerned about the impact the additional traffic from the NEV will have on the area. They will be holding a public meeting at Stratton St Margaret Parish Council on the 21st January at 2pm at Grange Leisure Centre.

Cllr Curtis made members aware that on Tuesday 23rd January in Coleview Community Centre there is a drop-in event about the NEV in its entirety, with planning and transport representatives attending.

- **Covingham Flood Group Update (Cllr Curtis)**

The next meeting of the flood group is later in the month, an update will be provided at the February meeting.

- **Website Working Party Update (Cllr Hawkes)**

No update

13. Planning Matters:

Application No: S/OUT/17/1990

Proposal: Outline Planning Application for up to 1,800 no. homes, 10 form entry secondary school, and a 2-form entry primary school with sports pitches; a sports hub, green infrastructure; a local centre up to 1000sqm (use classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and D1) and associated works

Location: Great Stall East, Eastern Villages, Swindon

Resolved: the Parish Councillors agreed that the following response be submitted:

We note that the sports pitches are to be placed in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Is the true extent of the flooding that occurred in 2007 really known and understood?

Traffic modelling – as the final design of the White Hart improvements are not yet known, any data currently available is hypothetical as there is no way of knowing the full impact of the additional traffic. Traffic modelling should also be relevant to the developments occurring eastwards which will have an impact on the A420. The transport analysis does not take account of roads in close vicinity of the area such as Covingham and the effect of rat running due to stoppages on the main highways.

As Covingham Parish Council has already stated on numerous occasions, we are not against development. All we ask is that the infrastructure is put in place first to ensure that the already stretched facilities in Covingham are not pressurised to the detriment of the local residents. We would also request that the NEV is looked at in its entirety so that construction is not started on the individual developments without any forward thinking for what services and infrastructure are needed to accommodate the residents of these areas.

14. Financial Matters:

- **Approve financial summary and cheque list**

Resolved - The Finance Statement was agreed unanimously **Action- Clerk to specify details of expenses**

- **Grant Request**

Cllr Benfield proposed that the grant request of £250 to be used on a sensory room for the pupils at Covingham Park School. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Sandle and unanimously agreed. **Action- Clerk**

- **Draft budget for 2018/2019**

The precept increase of 6.5% was proposed by Cllr Benfield. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Sandle and unanimously agreed. **Action - Clerk**

Cllr Benfield informed Cllrs that he will add a statement about the increase in The Handymag column. **Action- Cllr Benfield**

15. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received

16. Matters for consideration

Cllr Willis enquired further about the Tree Planting to commemorate the first world war. Cllr Curtis informed Cllr Willis that when she made enquiries, it was Covingham Parish Council would be kept informed of any decisions made by SBC. **Action – Cllr Curtis**

Cllr Benfield suggested having a meeting prior to the Clean-up day, to support Keep Britain Tidy, details to be confirmed at the next meeting

The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm

Signed.....

Date.....