



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019**  
At 7pm in St. Paul's Church and community Centre, Covingham

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

**Also in attendance:** Laura Evans (Clerk) and two members of the public.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received as all Members were in attendance.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

**4. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

Cllr Ricketts provided an update on the Tender process. Four out of the six invitations to tender had been received, plus two additional companies had submitted bids. Cllrs Ricketts, Waywell and Bacon opened the documents in the presence of the Clerk. Three companies have been shortlisted for consideration and further investigation. A meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> August with Cllrs Bacon, Ricketts and Waywell, to prepare a recommendation to be presented to the Full Council at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**National Government Guidance** on paving front gardens has been posted on the website under Local Information - **Resolved**

**Cole Close Car Park - Resolved**

**Local Plan Review** – The website is not particularly user friendly which makes it difficult accessing the documents.

**Environment Working Party – Planters** - Cllrs Benfield and Sandle confirmed that the planter on Kingfisher Drive still requires repair. A better option may be to replace completely prior to the autumn planting.

**Action - Maintenance Engineers**

**Brambles on Covingham Drive Footpath - Resolved.**

**Incorrect Council address on Google** – Covingham Church Management Committee were in agreement with the proposal to use the Church for regular sessions and the business address changed to there. It has now been passed to the Diocese for final approval.

**5. Public forum**

One of the residents in attendance complimented the Parish Council as the safety and inspection of the play park equipment was given a high priority.

The resident also asked the difference between road sweeping and gully cleaning. Cllr Curtis explained that the roads are swept by a contractor, employed by the Parish Council, except the four main roads of Covingham which are the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council. All gully cleaning is Swindon Borough Councils responsibility.

## 6. **Chairs Verbal Update**

Cllr Curtis had attended a meeting in support of Wanborough Parish Council with Swindon's Bus Company regarding a new circular bus route that would take in Wanborough, Liddington, Covingham, Coleview/Stratton, Eldene and the Great Western Hospital. The bus company had not said no and have passed it to the new routes team at their Headquarters for investigation and assessment.

**Overhanging Trees** – The Parish Council has received several complaints regarding over hanging trees that are making some footpaths unpassable. The Maintenance Engineers have been trimming these back where they are able to, but due to the weather conditions are having to return within days as the branches are dropping again.

## 7. **Clerks Verbal Update**

**Play Park Equipment** - One quotation received, awaiting two more quotations.

ROSPA Play park inspection is due to take place in September. Maintenance Engineers to attend inspection.

**Action -Clerk**

**Emergency Plan** - Following a presentation from a Councillor Officer in February 2018, Swindon Borough Council have produced a template for an Emergency Plan. An offer has been made for one of the team to explain the process and help set up a plan. All Cllrs unanimously agreed not to pursue this.

## 8. **Parish Maintenance Engineers**

- **Monthly Reports** – Cllr Benfield commented that the work is very good which was unanimously agreed.

## 9. **Reports from Parish Council Working Parties and Committee's**

- **Environment Working Party** - Continuing to do a few hours every Sunday gardening and cleaning signs.

**Covingham Square Clean up** - Clean up arranged for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 10am – Cllr Benfield informed the Parish Council that he was approached by a parent of a young resident who wishes to help with keeping Covingham clean. Cllr Benfield to contact the parent of the resident to see if they wish to attend the Clean up.

**Action – Cllr Benfield**

**Allotments** - Cllrs Benfield and Sandle had attended the recent Wanborough Allotment meeting. The car park is being refurbished; a new notice board is being put in place and the Best Allotment Competition prize will be awarded at the Wanborough Show on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Some damage was caused on the allotments by Thames Water that is being rectified.

- **Data Protection & Governance** - The server went down a few weeks ago which was reported, but no explanation of the problem was given, just a response that it had been rectified by a reboot which is not helpful. No other issues have been reported.
- **Planning Working Party**- Cllrs Hawkes and Curtis attended the NEV Liasion Meeting. Very little update was provided. The High Court review into the decision by the Developers of

Symmetry Park identifying the main route through as a Private road and not a public road as detailed in the planning conditions, had found in favour of SBC and it would be classed as a public road.

Funding for the Southern Connector Road had been made via the HIF Bid process. SBC confirmed that the construction will still go ahead if the bid is not successful.

A recent attempt had been made to remove the Traffic Order that restricted all traffic from Merlin Way using Wanborough as a through route to Foxhill Crossroads, but was not successful. The Parish Council had no objections to the removal, as what the Traffic Order implied was that it was acceptable to use Covingham roads as an alternative route from the A419/A420 to Commonhead.

## 10. Planning Matters:

### a) To consider any planning applications

**Application:** S/HOU/19/0986

**Location:** 50 Bullfinch Close, Covingham, SN3 5HP

**Proposal:** Conversion of garage into a habitable space

**Resolved:** Covingham Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019, that it has no objections to this planning application.

**Application:** S/19/0703

**Location:** Land East of the A419, between Commonhead Roundabout and the land North of Wanborough Road, Swindon, Wiltshire.

**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. – Notice of further or other environmental information

**Resolved:** Covingham Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019, that it has no comments to add.

### b) To note any decisions:

**Application:** S/ HOU/19/0881

**Location:** 3 Ravenscroft, Covingham, SN3 5AE - The erection of first floor side and single storey front extension.

**Decision:** Permission granted.

**Applications:** S/HOU/19/0830

**Location:** 13 Merlin Way, Covingham, SN3 5AN - Erection of a single storey side and rear extension

**Decision:** Permission granted.

## 11. Financial Matters

### a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

**Resolved:** Cllr Benfield proposed approval of the Finance Statement and payments approval list. Cllr Sandle seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

### b) To receive Monthly accounts reconciliation

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed the accounts were in good order.

**12. Van Sponsorship**

The current sponsorship, which is providing free advertising for a local company, on the Parish Council van is not generating any financial benefit to the Parish and the contact details for the Parish Council also need updating.

**Resolved:** Cllr Ricketts proposed removal of the 'sponsorship' and to update the Parish Council details, Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. **Action - Cllr Curtis**

**13. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received.

**14. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Benfield raised concerns regarding the River Cole due to the excessive overgrown vegetation. Cllr Curtis confirmed that she had emailed the Environment Agency requesting confirmation of when the regular annual maintenance of Dorcan Brook and River Cole will be carried out. Cllr Hawkes also raised concerns that the water level gauge in the River Cole is not visible due to the overgrown vegetation.

**The meeting closed at 8:15pm**

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