



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on;

Monday 1st November 2021

At 7pm in the former Library room at St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Covingham

Present: Cllr Bates, Bacon, Benfield, Curtis (Chair), Hawkes, Kay, Khan, Sandle, Waywell.

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk), one member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ricketts (unavailable) and Cllr Wichall (unavailable)

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 4th October 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Covingham Park extension of lease – no action from SBC

Firecrest play area – no action from SBC

Gateway on Kingfisher Drive – SBC's response to the questions raised by some residents and Cllrs:

1. Difference in the bricks used - brick manufacturers change the style of their bricks in life cycles so there is always an element of closest match etc when trying to source similar bricks from a long time ago.

2. No coping stones on the new build - awaiting delivery. Due to Covid and Brexit there is a delay on these items coming in.

3. Fenced off area with surplus building materials left on site has now been removed.

A question was also asked about the coping stones that fell from the gates at the other end of Kingfisher Drive that Highways took away with the intention of reinstating. They cannot be located at Waterside, which is disappointing to hear. A suggestion has been made for SBC to provide replacements to enable the Parish Council to arrange for the columns to be reinstated as originally designed.

Speed Indicator Device – licence to instal objects on a highway application still being progressed by Swindon Borough Council

Memorial Area – memorial stone has been delivered. The tree will be planted on November 23rd. To comply with the advice given to allow the roots of the tree to settle and establish themselves, the stone will not be laid until January or February. An unveiling ceremony will be held once both are in place by Cllr Derek Benfield, in his capacity as Freeman of the Parish, along with the Funeral Director. Once the date has been confirmed an announcement to be made on the website, the Facebook page and in The Handy Mag to allow as many residents as possible to attend.

Dorcan Brook Bank, St Pauls Drive – Outstanding. Photos were taken in mid-October and again on Monday 1st November after the heavy rain, and emailed to two SBC Officers raising serious concerns about the condition and stability of the bank behind the railings on St Pauls Drive opposite Brind Close.

5. Public forum

No questions or comments were received from members of the public.

6. Police Matters

The Neighbourhood Policing Team confirmed that another PC has been assigned to the area, which means there will be a more targeted approach.

The anti-social behaviour taking place at Firecrest Park, Covingham Park and Covingham Square is being closely monitored with extra foot patrols in those areas.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team explained that there had been a recent report of racial abuse in the area, and that this will not be tolerated. Anyone who witnesses any form of racial abuse is to report this to the Police via 101.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Thermofisher – A meeting has been arranged with the General Manager on 8th November.

Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner – Cllr Curtis met with him and the Neighbourhood Policing Team on Friday 8th October when multiple issues were discussed. The Community Safety Forum to be reintroduced with a different focus. The meetings will be smaller with fewer attendees and area specific. Covingham Parish Council to be linked with Nythe, Eldene and Liden Parish Council.

SBC Youth Offer – Cllr Kay attended the meeting on 19th October. At this point in time as there is no definitive plan, it is difficult for Covingham PC to comment or to commit to any involvement. Next meeting due to be held on December 10th, the outcome from that to be discussed at a subsequent meeting assuming there is something specific to base any decisions on.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Cllr Curtis had received an email, that had been sent to the Chairs of all Parish Councils in Swindon, from the Police and Crime Commissioner detailing his ideas and plans for the future of Community Speedwatch. He was suggesting a more supported model with a dedicated team for enforcement purposes, with the aim of making it self funding. A full Consultation will be carried out, further details to follow. The Parish Council to discuss off line if this will have an impact on the current plans for the installation and use of Speed Indicator Devices.

Action - Cllr Curtis, Bates, Kay and Hawkes

8. Clerks Verbal Update

The VAT Reclaim amount has now been received.

Clerk's Forum- The Community Governanc Review (CGR) was discussed at the recent Clerk's Forum held on 21st October and it was noted that the CGR committee are meeting on 2nd November to consider the Parishes input and from that will write to each Parish.

The renewal of deeds was also discussed and it was noted that Parish Chairs and Clerks to receive correspondence regarding this matter within 3 weeks.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers, the key items noted were 36 drains cleared of leaves, which was excellent news due to the recent extreme weather. The removal of offensive graffiti from the junior play park and skate park, which is disappointing.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
No matters needed addressing.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Cllr Benfield and Cllr Sandle planted Polyanthus and Daffodils at the East end of Kingfisher Drive. Cllr Benfield collected the Bluebells that were kindly donated by a resident, and these will be planted by the working party, alongside Daffodil bulbs at each gateway on Wednesday 10th November.
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**
Nothing to report

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

The meeting noted that no applications were received.

b) To note any comments from the Planning Working Party submitted between meetings.

The meeting noted that no comments were submitted

c) The meeting noted that the following decisions had been made:

Application: S/HOU/21/1413

Location: 6 Cole Close, Covingham, SN3 5BU

Proposal: Erection of a single storey front extension- granted.

Application: S/HOU/21/1251

Location: 19 Ravenscroft, Covingham, SN3 5AE

Proposal: Erection of single/ two storey side and single storey rear extensions- granted.

Application: S/HOU/21/1289

Location: 8 Tealsbrook, Covingham, SN3 5AU

Proposal: Erection of a rear single storey and two storey side extension- granted

12. Financial Matters

a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

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

b) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation

Resolved: The meeting noted that the accounts were in good order.

13. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

14. Matters for consideration.

Cllr Kay noted that there are some very nice and healthy plants among the weeds in the crescent in Covingham Square and that before the Contractor clears the area, an announcement be made on Facebook should any residents wish to collect any plants from the area rather than the plants going to waste.

Action - Cllr Curtis/Clerk

The meeting closed at 8:29pm

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