



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on;

Monday 14th February 2022

At 7pm in the Small Hall at St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Covingham

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk) and two members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 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 10th January 2022 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 – No change made to the construction and no updates received from SBC re the questions asked about the missing coping stones from the gate at the other end of Kingfisher Drive.

Speed Indicator Device – No progress to date

Dorcan Brook Bank, St Pauls Drive – Still outstanding.

SBC Youth Offer – Ultimate decision now with Swindon Borough Council as to whether this will be progressed or not.

5. Public forum

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

6. Police Matters

The Neighbourhood Policing Team members gave an update on recent activity in the area and this included drug activity which is being pushed from another area close by, which the team expected and are dealing with proactively. There has also been a report of drug dealing in the play parks. The Neighbourhood Policing Team are urging residents to report any suspicious activity via 101 or using the online reporting system. These calls and logs are invaluable and helps to build the intelligence required. PCSO's are patrolling the areas in question.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

No update given

8. Clerks Verbal Update

No update given.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month, 21 drain gully's cleared of leaves.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
- **Kestrel Drive** -To consider purchasing an extra dog bin
Cllr Curtis explained that the Maintenance Engineers are emptying the dog bin every Thursday, in addition to the Contractor emptying the bin every Monday, due to high usage.
Resolved: Cllr Kay proposed purchasing the extra dog bin. Cllr Hawkes seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed. **Action- Clerk**
- **Additional work needed at Firecrest**
In response to an email received by the Clerk, Cllr Curtis visited the area in Firecrest and what was assumed to be a natural hedge and ornamental trees are actually very overgrown and intruding on a neighbouring garden. This area was not highlighted on the Transfer Deed, after further investigation it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. The Contractor visited the site and has quoted £1200 for the work to be completed.
Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed that the Contractor cut back the offending hedge. Cllr Kay seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.
- **Tender process for contract 2023-2026**
The meeting agreed to use the existing Tender document with modifications to cover the addendums to the contract in the last three years. Cllr Ricketts to draft the Tender document for approval at the March meeting. **Action- Cllr Ricketts**
- **Basketball nets in Smitanbrook Park**
Cllr Curtis explained that the Maintenance Engineers had been approached regarding replacing the basketball nets in Smitanbrook Park, as the court is being used regularly by a team for practice. The cost for replacing the nets is £20.
Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed purchasing the nets. Cllr Bates seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
Cllr Benfield confirmed that the five flowerboxes of the Parish Council have been planted and are growing nicely, Cllr Curtis commented on how lovely the boxes look. Cllr Benfield suggested organising a group of Councillors to clean the road signs, which was previously carried out a few years ago, but once the weather is nicer.
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Working Party**
Nothing to report.

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

Application: S/OUT/20/0160 (25th February)

Location: Land At Foxbridge Village, New Eastern Villages Wanborough Road
Wanborough Swindon.

Proposal: Outline application for mixed use development comprising up to 358 dwellings

and a mixed use hub of up to 1,550sqm (use classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5 and D1) with associated works. Details of the access from the Southern Connector Road to be determined with all other matters reserved (Revised details).

Resolved: The Planning Working Party to draft an objection letter to this proposal, and when submitted make the Borough Councillor's aware of the objection.

Action – Cllrs Curtis/Hawkes and Wichall

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

Application: S/HOU/21/1490

Location: 45 Kestrel Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DP

Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no objections to the planning application

Application: S/HOU/21/1845

Location: 2 Verney Close, Covingham Swindon SN3 5EF

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

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no comments to make or objections to this planning application

Application: S/HOU/21/1962 (19th January 2022)

Location: 4 Larksfield, Covingham, SN3 5DP

Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no objections to the planning application

Application: S/HOU/21/1955

Location: 5 Poltondale, Covingham, SN3 5BN

Proposal: Erection of a single storey conservatory to rear.

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no objections to the planning application

Application: S/HOU/22/0059

Location: 17 Gilling Way, Covingham, SN3 5EQ

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension and roof lantern to rear.

Resolved: The following comment was submitted: Covingham Parish Council has no objections to the planning application.

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/21/1490

Location: 4 Verney Close, Covingham, SN3 5EF

Proposal: Erection of a front porch- granted

Application: S/HOU/21/1867

Location: 45 Kestrel Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DP

Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions - 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 even with approval of the two spends discussed, that the accounts are still in a very healthy position.

13. Memorial Area

The meeting agreed to the 2nd April 2022 at 11am for the unveiling ceremony. The watering regime for the tree will be added to the Maintenance Engineers task sheet. The Contractor will be approached for suggestions on what is best to place around the tree i.e. hedging or gravel.

14. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

15. Matters for consideration

Cllr Bacon had been approached by a resident in Pheasant Close with concerns to lorries turning around in the close. The road signage needs to be better and show this as a 'No Through Road'. This will be reported to Swindon Borough Council.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – The meeting agreed to encourage residents to hold street parties to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The meeting closed at 8:03pm

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