



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on;

Monday 7th March 2022

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

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Roy (unwell), Cllr Kay (unwell) 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 14th February 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.

Speed Indicator Device – No progress to date.

Dorcan Brook Bank, St Pauls Drive – Still outstanding- covered under item 10.

SBC Youth Offer – No news from SBC

Dog bin, Kestrel Drive – completed.

Firecrest – Works completed.

Basketball nets – completed.

Memorial Area – Unveiling date confirmed for 2nd April 2022 at 11 a.m. Concrete base and stone to be laid on 1st April. Cllr Waywell (and others) will be in attendance to advise on location to the tree. The grass cutting Contractor has confirmed that either wrought iron fencing or an ornamental hedge defining the area is not a problem but requested either stone/gravel or mulch for inside the area.

5. Public forum

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

6. Police Matters

No update provided.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Swindon Local Councils Forum are investigating Parish Council initiatives being stalled by Swindon Borough Council. Three issues - unexplained delay in the request for a licence to install objects on a Highway to facilitate the speed indicator devices; no progress on the request submitted on 9th November 2018 to expand the area of Covingham Park included in the lease; asset transfer for Firecrest play area, which was originally started in January 2017 have been submitted for inclusion.

Thermofisher – SBC has given permission for employees to continue to use Cole Close car park until end of April only, after that fixed penalties will apply.

Crescent, Covingham Square – Meeting to take place with the Contractor on the 9th March (weather dependent) to agree re-planting. **Action- Cllrs Benfield/ Curtis/Sandle/Waywell.**

8. Clerks Verbal Update

ATBShop will be holding their Free Skate Park event in Covingham Skate Park over the Easter Half Term after the success of the previous sessions held in the summer 2021, dates and times to be confirmed.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another very busy month for the Maintenance Engineers, including a 50% increase in the litter picked due to Storm Eunice and the clearing of fallen branches on pavements. Cllr Bacon, Curtis and Ricketts cleared 9 bags of litter from a hedge, that had been blown out of recycling boxes in Nythe during the storm.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
No matters needed addressing.

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

- **Environment Working Party**
All the flower boxes are looking good.
- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**
North of A420 (South Marston and Rowborough) - Actively working with the developers on discharge of conditions and preliminary work for reserved matters

South of A420 - Symmetry Park - High Court date set for hearing of 12th July 2022. SBC still working with the developers behind the scenes to reach an agreement before the hearing

Great Stall East - No progress

Lotmead - Proactive work on reserved matters for archaeology, drainage, Southern Connector Road and detailed design. Discharge of conditions application due. Two developers involved and now looking to increase the number of affordable housing.

Redlands - Half of properties consented – work progressing.

Land north of Redlands – No news from pre-application. Concerns with policies.

Foxbridge – North - Meeting held between SBC and the Developer at the end of January without a decision being made. Developers then issued of Notice of Intention to Appeal due

to perceived delay by SBC in not determining the application. SBC had to make a rushed decision and refused permission on 2 counts of which drainage was not one of them. Cllr Hawkes raised serious concerns about the level of understanding by SBC of the way that the two parts of Foxbridge drained and the impact one has on the other. He also raised the lack of action taken regarding the instability of the bank on Dorcan Brook which had been reported to SBC on numerous occasions and was continuing to deteriorate further. Cllrs Curtis and Hawkes were advised to write to the Head of Department who was responsible for both issues asking for a detailed explanation of the drainage on Foxbridge and the lack of attention to the problem with Dorcan Brook bank.

Cllr Curtis proposed that the letter should be a joint response from the Chair of Covingham Parish Council and Cllr Hawkes in his capacity as Chair of Covingham Flood Group. The meeting agreed this as the best way forward **Action – Cllrs Curtis/Hawkes**

Foxbridge – South – not resolved

Inlands Farm – appeal dismissed

Land North of Wanborough Road – live pre- application

Health Care facilities – Regular discussions to discuss spec of what's to be included

Thames Water – Legal agreement to finalise, once completed assures infrastructure

Southern Connector Road – Delayed, will now be completed by the end of the year

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications

Application: S/COND/22/0296 (18th March)

Location: New Eastern Villages, Southern Connector Road, Swindon

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3 (Construction Phasing Plan), 4 (Construction Method Statement), 5 (Construction and Environmental Management Plan), 11 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) and 26 (Traffic Management Plan) from previous permission S/20/1538 - Phase 2B (Main Construction works).

Resolved: The meeting agreed that there are no comments to submit on these conditions.

Application: S/HOU/22/0281 (21st March)

Location: 7 Kestrel Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DP

Proposal: Erection of a two storey and single storey rear extension.

Resolved: The meeting agreed that there is no objection to this proposal

Application: S/HOU/22/0280 (22nd March)

Location: 43 Kestrel Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DP

Proposal: Erection of single storey front, side and rear extensions.

Resolved: The meeting agreed that there is no objection to this proposal

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

The meeting noted that no comments were submitted.

c) To note any decisions

Application: S/HOU/21/1962

Location: 4 Larksfield, Covingham, SN3 5AD

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

Application: S/HOU/21/1845

Location: 2 Verney Close, Covingham, SN3 5EF

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

Application: S/HOU/21/1955

Location: 5 Poltondale, Covingham, SN3 5BN

Proposal: Erection of a single storey conservatory and canopy to rear- Granted.

Application: S/HOU/22/0059

Location: 17 Gilling Way, Covingham, SN3 5EQ

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side and rear extension and roof lantern to rear- 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. Admission of Public and Press: To resolve in accordance with Standing Order 3 (c) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: Grounds Maintenance Tender Document and Process.

15. To agree and approve the Ground Maintenance Documents, and the Timeframe / Process.

Cllr Benfield commented on how excellent the Tender Document is. Cllr Ricketts is trying to source a suitable map of Covingham Square to include in the document.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed that the Ground Maintenance Documents, and the Timeframe / Process be approved. Cllr Waywell seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

16. Matter for consideration

Cllr Bacon raised concerns that the gate in the Junior Play Park does not close correctly, and with the area around the park being used by dog walkers this could cause a dog to enter the playground.

Cllr Ricketts explained the mechanism on the gate is only 18 months old, and a new mechanism is approximately £300.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed purchasing the new mechanism. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed. **Action- Clerk**

Dog Fouling- Cllr Curtis explained about a recent Facebook post regarding a dog fouling on a residents driveway and not being cleared up. This video has been passed to the Ward Councillor, who

previously stated that a video is enough evidence to lead to a prosecution, for forwarding to SBC. Cllr Curtis to put a statement in The Handy Mag regarding dog fouling. **Action-Cllr Curtis**

Cllr Curtis will also do a Facebook post regarding the Precept for 2022-23, making it clear that the Councillors of Covingham Parish Council do not take their allowances.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm

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