



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on:

Monday 5th June 2023

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

Present: Cllrs Bacon, Bates, Curtis (Chair), Hawkes, Kay, May, Ricketts, Sandle, Walker and Wichall.

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

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

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 15th May 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Grass verges, Piccadilly roundabout – no progress to date

Dorcan Brook bank – no further information provided by SBC

Allotments – Cllr Hawkes explained that Cllr Heenan has responded positively to the last email. Next step is to formally write to the Clerk for NEL Parish Council to secure a lease for the land.

Tree on the corner of St Paul's Drive and St Andrew's Green – Grounds Maintenance Contractor has inspected the tree and confirmed that it is dead in parts and has been for some time but does not pose a risk. It will be picked up during the annual review process and identified as part of the additional works programme for later in the year. A resident has also raised an issue with a tree on Avocet Green which will be dealt with at the same time.

Speed Indicator Device- The Neighbourhood Police Team member to arrange a meeting with Cllr Hawkes to look at the data and decide the best way to present this information to the Police. The latest Speed Indicator data reports were circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The maximum speed recorded was 95MPH on Covingham Drive.

Skate park street art – Cllr May explained that from the recent Facebook post calling for street artists, 4 people had responded who wished to volunteer. All of the artists provided examples of their work and met Cllr May on site to view the pieces of equipment that were being proposed and given the limitations with regards to the content of the art work. The paint required for the artists to use is in the range of £300-£400.

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes proposed proceeding with the project with sketches to be presented at the next meeting for the Council to be able to approve the designs. Cllr Kay seconded the proposal and was agreed with a majority vote.

5. Public forum

The member of the public in attendance raised concerns over the recent planning application S/23/0495, Change of use to operational land and construction of a new wastewater terminal pumping station, access, landscaping and associated works. The Parish Council agreed to respond appropriately.

6. Police Matters

The Neighbourhood Police Team member had looked at the crime report for the last 28 days in the area. While there was nothing of major concern, residents needed to be made aware that there has been recent activity of vehicles being “tried” whilst parked on driveways and history shows that once this starts it becomes a regular occurrence. There has been a noticeable reduction in drug related issues and gangs in the area.

Cllr Ricketts raised concern that the Maintenance Engineers are regularly having to remove smashed bottles from the skate park and play areas, which indicates that there is anti-social behaviour taking place.

The Neighbourhood Police Team are planning on holding a Community Event on 29th July 2023, 11am – 2pm, in Covingham Square. The event will provide the opportunity to speak to the local Neighbourhood team, with activities for the children and security bike marking.

The Police are urging residents to report incidents/suspicious behaviour. The more information received, the more intelligence is built and operations can then be planned. Residents can report incidents via 101, online and also via Crimestoppers.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Nothing to report.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

Nothing to report.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers with an excellent job being done. There has been an increase in the number of discarded N20 cartridges.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
No matters needed addressing.

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

- **Data Protection & Governance**
Nothing to report.
- **Planning Working Party**
SBC are holding a Planning and Enforcement training and briefing session for any Councillors interested in attending.

11. Planning Matters:

a) To consider any planning applications.

Application: S/23/0495 (13th June)

Location: Land Off, Merlin Way Covingham

Proposal: Change of use to operational land and construction of a new wastewater terminal pumping station, access, landscaping and associated works.

Resolved: A request for an extension of time to be submitted to enable the Planning Working Party to consult with the Flood Group and the Environment Agency before drafting a response.

b) To note any comments from the Planning Working Party submitted between meetings.
Application: S/22/1834
Location: 25 Finchdale, Covingham, SN3 5AL
Proposal: Change of use of utility room to dog grooming parlour.
Resolved: The following comment was submitted – Covingham Parish Council has no objections to this proposal

c) To note any decisions
The meeting noted that no planning decision had been received.

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 Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed
- b) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation
Resolved: The meeting noted that the accounts were in a healthy position.

13. The Handy Mag

The meeting agreed to put the following into the Handy Mag article

- Covingham Skate Park Artwork
- Police Community Event
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Memorial Area – unwanted items

14. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

15. Matters for consideration

Cllr Kay raised concerns over the amount of containers/urns and artificial flowers left at the Memorial area as it is not in keeping with the intention of the area. The meeting agreed to remove and store the containers/urns so they can be collected by those who left them there. This will be communicated via the Facebook page and in The Handy Mag article. **Action - Cllr Curtis**

The meeting closed at 8:03pm

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