



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on:

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

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

**Present:** Cllr Bacon, Bates, Curtis (Chair), Hawkes, Kay, Ricketts, Sandle and Wichall

**Also in attendance:** Laura Evans (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr May (unavailable) and Cllr Walker (unavailable). Apologies were **not** received from Cllr Roy.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

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

Outstanding Historical issues – LLFA (Local Lead Flood Authority at SBC) – no staff currently. Dorcan Brook bank escalated to Cabinet Member for update.

Naming of a footpath – no update

Eurobins – no further contact

Wanborough allotments – suggested date for working party meeting on 24th September although no formal notice received

Basketball court in Smitanbrook Park – Cllr May has approached 3 companies and had on site meetings. Awaiting quotes for consideration.

Creation of a natural flood alleviation area in Covingham Park – due to the lack of staff within LLFA, Cabinet Member asked to make a suggestion as to where to go from here.

School hedge – confirmation has been received that the hedge will be cut the second weekend of September.

Over grown hedge on footpath by Covingham Square – Facebook post with photos of several bushes/hedges/shrubs that were making the footpaths difficult to use, several of which have now been attended to.

**5. Public forum**

No questions or comments received from members of the Public, as none were present at the meeting.

## 6. Police Matters

No Police personnel were present at the meeting so no update provided.

## 7. Chairs Verbal Update

Toddler swing cradle seat has been wrecked again, probably by teenagers forcing themselves into it. Replacement cost is £340.

**Resolved:** Cllr Kay proposed a replacement cradle seat is purchased. Cllr Bacon seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. **Action- Clerk**

## 8. Clerks Verbal Update

Nothing to report.

## 9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – another busy month for the Maintenance Engineers. The drill the engineers use is not working and a replacement is required. **Resolved:** Cllr Kay proposed a replacement drill, that is fit for purpose, be purchased which was unanimously approved.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**  
**Kerb lines** – several emails and telephone calls received commenting on the positive impact this has had from grateful residents. One specific comment “it is great to see a Parish Council that put people and service first over politics”, was quite the compliment and confirmed what was important and what Covingham Parish Council stands for and tries to deliver.

The first round of hedgecutting is nearing completion.

The Contractor will begin the weed removal work on the hammerheads imminently.

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

- **Data Protection & Governance**  
Nothing to report
- **Planning Working Party**  
Nothing to report

## 11. Planning Matters:

### a) To consider any planning applications:

**Application:** S/HOU/24/0918 (12th September)

**Location:** 23 Robinsgreen, Covingham Swindon SN3 5AY

**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed there were no objections to this proposal.

**Application:** S/HOU/24/0980 (17<sup>th</sup> September)

**Location:** 29 Robinson Close, Covingham Swindon SN3 5EE

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey rear extension and front porch.

**Resolved:** The meeting agreed there were no objections to this proposal.

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

The meeting noted that no comments have been submitted.

### c) To note any decisions:

**Application:** S/HOU/24/0696

**Location:** 5 Merlin Way, Covingham, SN3 5AN

**Proposal:** Erection of a two storey side extension to incorporate garage and single storey rear 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 Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed

b) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation

**Resolved:** The meeting noted the accounts were in a good position.

**13. Transfer of Services update**

No progress with the Transfer of Services from SBC to parishes. The working party is reporting back to the SLCF forum next week.

**14. Memorial Bench Policy**

To review, agree and adopt the draft Memorial Bench policy

**Resolved:** Cllr Hawkes proposed approval and adoption of the Memorial Bench policy with the amendments discussed. Cllr Wichall seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

**15. Southern Connector, New Eastern Villages Street Naming Request from SBC**

To consider suggestions for the naming of the Southern Connector Road (SCR) that will run through New Eastern Villages (NEV)

The meeting discussed the name suggestions that were provided by SBC.

**Resolved:** The meeting liked the name The Palus for the Southern Connector Road.

**Action- Clerk**

**16. The Handy Mag**

The meeting agreed that the following should be included in the article:

- Vandalism of the toddler swing
- Tagging of the underpass
- The Parish Council would love to hear from residents

**17. Matters for consideration**

Cllr Bacon explained that the boards owned by Thermofisher by the footpath on Dorcan Way, have been tagged with graffiti and do not look nice and wondered whether Thermofisher will be removing these or if there is a way to make the boards look more presentable.

**Action- Cllr Curtis**

The meeting closed at 8:22pm

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