

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on:

Monday 5th February 2024

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

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

Also in attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk), a Member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, 2 Members of the Youth Offending Team from SBC and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sandle (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 8th January 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Outstanding Historical issues – no further information or update available

Wanborough Allotments – no progress to date

Signs for the skate park now installed. Resurfacing of the skate ramps completed.

Code of conduct training – Cllrs Curtis and May attended the training on 9th January 2024. The training was very enlightening, with many questions being asked and responses given. Cllr Curtis encouraged all Cllr's to attend the next session when it becomes available.

Footpath clearing – The Insurers have confirmed that the Parish Council would become automatically liable if it undertook footpath clearance and risk assessments etc., would be needed. If the maintenance was to stop, then there needs to be a clear hand over back to the Borough council, ideally confirmed in writing.

IRPP Recommendations for Parish Allowances 2023-24 – Cllr's Roy, Sandle and Walker to email the Clerk to formally confirm that they wish to forego their allowances.

Action – Cllr Roy/Sandle/Walker

Naming of a footpath – being considered by SBC

5. Public forum

No questions or comments received from members of the Public.

6. Police Matters

The neighbourhood Policing Team Member confirmed speed checks in the area are still ongoing and work is continuing with problem youths in the area.

7. Chairs Verbal Update

Covingham Park School – A productive Meeting with the new Head and two of the Governors took place on 15th January. It was confirmed that the school had joined the Blue Kite Academy Trust in November 2023. The rumours circulating that the former Caretaker accommodation was being used to house asylum seekers was untrue. Responsibility for the hedge was acknowledged and it was accepted that it needed further attention before the end of February. The Governors would like a representative from the Parish Council to join them. The School are looking to erect a community noticeboard within the school grounds which the Parish Council will be welcome to use.

8. Clerks Verbal Update

The meeting invitation received from SBC to progress discussions around how SBC could devolve work to the Parishes was cancelled and re-arranged for 19th February 2024 with Chairs and Vice Chairs now included on the invite.

9. Parish Maintenance Engineers

- **Monthly Reports** – Another busy month with an increase in the amount of litter picked and an increased amount of fly tipping. There has also been a increase in the amount of disgarded large N20 cartridges.
- **Grounds Maintenance Matters**
The Grounds Maintenance Contractor has now started the additional works as identified in Ocotber 2023.

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/OUT/23/1514 (8th February)

Location: Redlands Phase 2, Redlands Farm Wanborough Road Swindon SN4 0AA

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of up to 80 dwellings and open space with all matters reserved other than means of access.

Resolved: The meeting agreed for the following comment to be submitted;
Covingham Parish Council formally objects to this proposal due to the Southern Connector Road not being in use. Assurances were given and it was always understood that in any later applications it would be a condition of the approval that the Southern Connector Road be stipulated as the route for construction traffic. Until such time as the Southern Connector Road is open for use, all applications should be refused.

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

The meeting noted that no comments had been submitted.

c) To note any decisions:

Application: S/HOU/23/0873

Location: 13 Passmore Close, Covingham, SN3 5EP

Proposal: Erection of a porch and replacement of Conservatory roof – Granted.

Application: S/HOU/23/1449

Location: 33 Peregrine Close, Covingham, SN3 5BJ

Proposal: Conversion from attached garage to habitable room – Granted.

12. Financial Matters

- a) To approve Finance Statement and payments approval list

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

- b) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation

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

13. Consultation on ward boundaries for Swindon

To discuss the consultation inviting proposals for new council ward and ward boundaries for Swindon Borough Council.

Resolved: The meeting agreed to not submit any comments on the consultation. Cllr Curtis confirmed that individual responses can be submitted. The consultation closes on 18th March 2024.

14. SBC/Parishes draft protocol

To discuss and comment on the SBC/Parishes draft protocol

Cllr Curtis explained that the protocol has been drafted to aid in the communication between SBC and Parishes, improve service delivery and strengthen local decision making. The protocol will be underpinned with Annexes.

Resolved: The meeting agreed in principle to the protocol with more work required to the annexes.

15. Underpass Graffiti Project

A Member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and a member of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to explain the project further.

The aim of the project is to encourage children to walk from Covingham Square shops to school in an underpass which is more bright, colourful and appealing. The project is fully funded by the YOT. Children from an art workshop which is held in Swindon and attended by those from Covingham, have started to design drawings for the project which will be positive themes and aspirational messages. The project will be led by a well-known local street artist and overseen by the YOT at SBC. This project is in partnership with NEL Parish Council due to the boundary line location. The Neighbourhood Policing Team Member and the YOT will be attending the next NEL meeting on 20th February to seek their approval for the project.

Resolved: Cllr Wichall proposed proceeding with the project. Cllr Kay seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

16. The Handy Mag

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

- Skate Park ramp repairs
- Underpass project

17. Matters for consideration

No matters for consideration or future agenda items were raised.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm

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