

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **Monday 14th October 2024 at 6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Mustafa Dayan
Cllr Mustafa Ertas
Cllr Leon Grother (Chair)
Cllr Rose Llewellyn
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Sean Wilson (Vice Chair)

Officers: Steven Anns (Operations Supervisor), Paula Harrison (Parish Manager/Clerk)

Public: Seven

Public Questions

Roger Ogle asked for it be noted that a question about Nuffield Close play area was reported on the West Swindon Community Facebook and that it would be useful for Councillors to review play area provision across West Swindon. Mr Ogle suggested that the presence of natural springs on Shaw Ridge would benefit from improving the site with a land drain. *The Operations Supervisor advised that this would be part of any play improvements. The Parish Manager advised that the area by Claypits off Nuffield Close was categorised as public open space and had appeared on Swindon Borough Council's SHELAA as a site that had potential for housing development. As a result, it would not be within the Parish Council's remit to progress with the addition of a new play or sports provision. Permissions would need to be sought.*

A public question was submitted querying whether Community Payback could be used for the clearance of weeds. *The Parish Manager advised that this could be investigated.*

Cllr Wilson raised a question about a commemorative bench. Cllr Philpot queried the addition of a plaque for former Councillor Steph Exell. *The Parish Manager suggested that this would be better suited in the future Memorial/Tranquility garden to ensure that resident's benches were treated separately in accordance with the Commemorative Scheme.*

Meeting start 6.15pm

109. Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllr Swinyard and Cllr Gattapur Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20 May 2024: None.

110. Play Update

The Parish Manager circulated a report for consideration, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The report set out options for alternative play designs for Shaw Ridge Play area. The Operations Supervisor shared some links from play companies. The Parish Manager advised that the tender process benefited from either multiple sites being tendered simultaneously to get value for money or single budgets being declared to enable fair comparison between tenders.

RECOMMENDED that

- a) Council approves an outline budget for Shaw Ridge Play Area to be agreed as £100-125,000 to support the tender process to be initiated.
- b) that a working group for play refurbishment be created to review life span and the play refurbishment cycle for future budget planning and inform a Play Strategy

111. Grass Cutting Policy

The Parish Manager circulated a draft report setting out recommendations for grass cutting for 2025. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors also heard a request from a local resident Glynis Hales on behalf of the Edgehill Haven group, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Councillors debated the subject of grass cutting. It was requested that a trial area around Toothill pond was offered to the group in the first instance alongside an invitation to liaise with the local ward Councillors. An update be reported to a future meeting.

112. Natural Hedgerows

A request from a resident, Justin Jessen was circulated for discussion, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. Councillors debated the merits of cutting hedgerows and the cycle undertaken by the Parish Team.

RESOLVED that the Parish Team work on a biannual cutting cycle on natural hedgerows in public open spaces where there is no impediment to public access.

113. Parish Council Events

The Parish Manager showed the work of the team in preparation for marking Remembrance Sunday in November in the village centres. Councillors thanked the team for their work. The Parish Manager indicated that similar artwork could be created to mark Christmas and other events.

The Parish Manager sought clarification on participation in the Fire Service Christmas Open Day event on 14 December.

RESOLVED that the Parish Team posts relevant artwork in the village centres to mark

key calendar events and that the Council supports the Westlea Fire Station Christmas event.

112. Litter Picking Trial

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book and showed an example of the Two Minute Litter Pick boards commonly used to encourage participation in litter picking. It was suggested that this could be trialled at Shaw Forest Park in response to comments about litter picking on Facebook. It was agreed that this was a good initiative to trial and it was requested that Peatmoor Lake be the first trial point.

113. Bleed Kits & Defibrillator Update

The Operations Supervisor advised that all venues for the three Parish defibrillators had been visited and necessary photographs and information shared with the installers. It was being proposed that installation take place in the next 7-10 days. Councillors noted the update.

114. Climate Change - Carbon Footprint.

The Operations Supervisor circulated an outline of the Parish Council's carbon footprint based on current day information, a copy of which as **Appendix F** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information and asked for an update to be brought to a future meeting with recommendations on how to reduce the footprint.

115. Planning Report

Councillors received a Planning Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix G** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the following applications

S/AD/24/1006	Display of 1 no. internally illuminated fascia sign	Shaw Ridge Leisure Park Shaw SN5 7DN
S/24/1099/LZWI	Siting of a hot food vending vehicle	Land At Rivermead Drive Rivermead Industrial Estate, Swindon

RESOLVED that the Parish Council submits its previous objections to the siting of a hot food vending vehicle on Rivermead Drive.

116. Volunteer Meeting Summary

The Clerk summarised the notes from a meeting with volunteer groups, a copy of which appears as **Appendix H** in the Minute Book. The information was noted.

117. Graffiti Wall, as requested by Cllr Gattapur

Cllr Singh and the Parish Manager highlighted a request from Cllr Gattapur for a graffiti wall provision at Rivermead skate park area. Councillors debated the idea.

RESOLVED that a feasibility and costings report be brought to a future meeting.

Meeting closed 7.45 pm

Signed:
Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: