

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
on **MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2017** at **6.30pm**
at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair)
Cllr Nick Martin (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Matthew Courtliff
Cllr Stephanie Exell
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Ellen Heavens
Cllr Vinay Kumar
Cllr John Lenton
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Peter Stoddart
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Matt Walker

Officers:

Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Fourteen

Public Session:

Mr Roger Ogle voiced support for the mass bulb planting scheme discussed at the Leisure and Amenities Committee. Mr Ogle indicated that debate on Facebook suggested that communication from the Parish Council about its intentions for the local area could be improved. The Chair confirmed that the Council did intend to bring out a report to update residents, the website should be up and running and residents should see an improvement. Public Noticeboards were also in progress for Shaw and Freshbrook village centres, which with the website, should enable residents to access all they need to know.

A resident indicated that rather than spending £10,000 on bulbs it would seem that a more fundamental priority would be to tidy up the area such as Westlea Park, muddy pathways, debris and grass in gutters. The Chair confirmed that there is a lot going on. The planting is budgeted for so is not happening to the exclusion of other things.

A resident expressed concern that there was experience of mindless vandalism at Freshbrook village centre which might be a problem for a noticeboard. The Chair noted with thanks.

A resident asked what influence the parish has with Swindon Borough Council particularly with gutters. How can we get the roadsweeper out? The Chair replied that the Parish has some influence particularly with the line of communication with Swindon Ward Councillors. Comments are noted.

117. **Apologies**

Cllr Timothy Makofu
Cllr Keith Williams

118. **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

No declarations.

119. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24 July 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

120. **Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 104) that the Council agrees expenditure of £10,000 to spring bulb planting schemes determined by the Leisure and Amenities Committee be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2nd August 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

121. **Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee**

Councillors noted that if questions brought to a Committee in the Public Participation session, sit within the remit of a different committee, then the Participant should be advised on the correct Committee and those questions redirected accordingly.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 14 August 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

122. **Minutes of Finance and Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 114) to approve an amendment to the West Swindon Parish Council Financial Regulations adopted on 18 May 2017 be approved as follows under *Section 6. Instructions for the Making of Payments*

6.o. Any corporate credit card opened by the Council will be specifically restricted to use by the Parish Manager and/or Clerk/RFO and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £1000.

6.p. Transactions and purchases made using the corporate credit card will be reported to the council and shall be subject to automatic payment in full at each month-end.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 115) to approve the *Licence to Occupy the*

West Swindon Library Premises at a cost of £9,000 per annum be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 14 August 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

123. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Tim Swinyard updated that a Planning Application had been submitted to build at Brook Cottage within Lydiard Park and asked that everyone consider raising an objection. The Parish Manager was working on a report on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Nick Martin reported his membership of the Swindon Borough Licensing and Planning Committees. This was noted.

Cllr Mary Martin reported that extended access into libraries was currently on trial in the North Swindon library. The West Swindon library would be next. This would enable library members to have free use of the library outside of library staffed hours.

Cllr Exell introduced Jane Frances from Toothill Community Centre who gave a report to the Council, a copy of which is attached as **Appendix A**.

Cllr Nick Martin reported that play areas presented an interesting challenge in terms of quality and maintenance. Many probably require imminent investment by the Parish Council.

124. Reports from Parish Council Representatives

None.

125. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that he has assisted a number of residents including assisting an elderly resident's dialogue between housing benefit and Swindon Borough Council.

126. Website

Councillors considered a report from the Parish Manager, a copy of which is attached as **APPENDIX B**. Cllr Gattapur queried providers responses to data security and document uploader

RESOLVED that Doughty Software be appointed to set up a website for the West Swindon Parish Council subject to satisfactory answers to Cllr Gattapur's queries.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council