

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
on **MONDAY 18 DECEMBER 2017** at **6.30pm**
at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Nick Martin (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Matthew Courtliff
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Ellen Heavens
Cllr Vinay Kumar
Cllr John Lenton
Cllr Timothy Makofu
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Peter Stoddart
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Matt Walker
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers:

Joyce Holman (Clerk)
Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Five

Cllr Nick Martin chaired the meeting.

Public Session:

A resident reported that the security certificate on the Parish Council's website had expired. The Chair indicated that this would be resolved as a matter of importance.

Mr Gould enquired when would the Streetsmart contract be out for procurement. Councillors indicated that work was underway but as it involved the procurement of specialist services, the Parish Council would be enlisting independent professional advice.

Mrs Pinson asked for an update on illegal parking. Councillors indicated that the surveillance car had been active in school safety zones in West Swindon but not a lot of pavement parking had been recorded.

Mrs Pinson reported that work had been undertaken very quickly to repair paving slabs by the pelican crossing at Asda and requested that side arm work be considered for the end hedgerow by Westlea School. The Chair replied that this would be reported.

Meeting start 6.37 pm

242. Apologies

Cllr Stephanie Exell
Cllr Nigel Gibbons

243. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Swinyard declared a personal interest in the Planning and Environment Committee Minute ref: 235 relating to Chandos Close and took no part in the discussion thereof.

244. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 November 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

245. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

246. Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 11 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

247. Minutes of Finance and Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

248. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Courtliff reported that he alongside Cllr Swinyard and Cllr Sydney Smith had supported litter picking activities and would look to engage with volunteer groups to help carry other local activities.

Cllr Williams reported that the Planning and Environment Committee had considered a major planning application for battery storage facilities at Mannington. This would help sustain capacity in the local network. Work would be starting in March and the impact on Mannington with improvement road works already scheduled had been highlighted.

249. Reports from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Heavens reported that the Swindon Area Committee of WALC had received communication relating to share income from advertising sponsorship posted on roundabouts maintained by Parish Councils. The Parish Manager had full details for circulation.

Cllr Williams reported that he had attended a meeting of the Rights of Way Committee. The majority of issues affected rural parishes however it was of local interest to note that the Thames Path has just opened at Lechlade.

Cllr Swinyard reported that the fencing installed at Toothill subway through the Leisure and Amenities Committee had been well received.

Cllr Makofu and Cllr Walker confirmed that terms of reference for relationship building in Toothill had been agreed and work was ongoing.

250. Report from the Chair

The Chair had submitted apologies for this meeting.

Councillor Caryl Sydney Smith joined the meeting. 6.51 pm.

251. 2018-2019 Budget and Precept Setting

The Parish Manager circulated a Budget Report which is attached as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager reported that the Finance and Staffing Committee had reviewed the budget for 2017 to 2018 and had set out a budget proposal for 2018 to 2019. The estimated Council Tax Base for 2018-2019 was estimated at 8,750. The Finance and Staffing Committee proposed that West Swindon Parish Council maintains the same Precept across each band as the previous year:

- Bands: A- £62.07
- B- £72.41
- C- £82.76
- D- £93.11**
- E- £113.80
- F- £134.49
- G- £155.18
- H- £186.22

This would result in a Precept total demand of **£814,796.00**.

The Parish Manager reported that the Parish Council had not been operational for a full financial year and as a result, there would be an underspend across the budget and this would be identified as either carry forward into next year’s budget or into Reserves. As a result, the Parish Council could propose expenditure 2018 to 2019 in excess of the Precept but within the planned expenditure and use of reserves determined by the Council. Councillors debated whether the Precept for individual bands should stay the same or whether it there should be a small increase to cover costs such as replacement play areas.

Cllr Courtliff proposed that the budget be set at a 1% increase. This motion was seconded but not carried.

RESOLVED that

- a) West Swindon Parish Council sets a Precept budget of £814,796.00
- b) West Swindon Parish Council updates the Reserves Policy to detail the General Reserves and Earmarked Reserves approved within the budget.

The meeting closed at 7.11 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council