

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL** on **MONDAY 26 November 2018** at **6.30pm** at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Stephanie Exell

Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair)

Cllr Ellen Heavens

Cllr John Lenton

Cllr Nick Martin (Vice Chair)

Cllr Mary Martin

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Twenty

Public Session:

Mr Phil Smith, Service Manager – Planning Policy introduced Swindon Borough Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Assessment. Mr Smith indicated that it was an early process to consider sites that may or may not be suitable for future development. Many comments had been received to date including over 100 comments from residents in West Swindon. Submissions had been making very valid planning reasons for challenges to development. It was an informal consultation at this stage however all members of the public can still submit comments to the Council's Planning Policy team.

Resident asked if lack of available infrastructure is taken as a consideration?

Mr Smith indicated that it was a common comment and would be part of the considerations, which may also include can development bring infrastructure with it? Mr Smith responded to a number of comments about development in West Swindon including retaining a noise bund between Great Western Way and Bodiam Drive, the need for more genuinely affordable social housing, enhancing existing areas such as Toothill Garden Village.

Mr Smith was asked to explain what constitutes green open space. Mr Smith explained that in the Local Plan local green spaces were identified by EN3 an open space audit.

The Chair was asked to update on progress regarding the review of the Streetsmart services contract. The Chair advised this was under active discussion including another meeting with the Senior team.

Meeting start 7.10 pm

201. Apologies

Cllr Suresh Gattapur, Cllr Vinay Kumar, Cllr Timothy Makofu, Cllr Tim Swinyard, Cllr Keith Williams

202. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

203. Minutes of the previous meeting

Note correction to the draft minutes reference Planning Committee (Minute 179).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22 October 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

204. Minutes of Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 189) that the Payment Schedule for November of nine payments totalling **£ 150,424.72** be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

205. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 14 November 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

206. Update from the Parish Council Chair

The Chair advised that there had been no external meetings but progress was underway to meet the goals to review the Streetsmart contract. Budget review was progressing and refurbishment of three out of four planned play area improvements were underway. The second phase of litter bins had been completed and an unexpected gypsy encampment on Eastleaze field had been dealt with promptly.

The Parish Council was reviewing play areas with a consultation for Shelfinch/Markenfield on the Parish Council website. The Parish would be reviewing the green areas and looking at viable ways to protect our local environment.

The Parish Council had sought to protect car parking provision around Shaw Village Centre particularly in respect of the development of Pilgrim Close. The Parish Council had secured sufficient provision for the site.

207. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Mary Martin reported that under the Children and School Attainment portfolio, one of the goals is to ask people to consider looked after children. Swindon needs a good selection of fostering options. Many positive aspects to fostering and any assistance to promote fostering would be gratefully received.

208. Reports from Parish Council Representatives

None.

209. Draft Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment

Cllr Exell introduced the item. Councillors noted the question of leasing public open space in order to protect it, and whether commercial sites were fully visible. Councillors reviewed sites in West Swindon on the SHELAA.

RESOLVED that a letter be produced to promote awareness of the SHELAA for residents in Rannoch Close, Nuffield Close, Bodiam Drive, Idovers Drive/Oakham Close/Kirkstall Close/Queenborough.

RESOLVED that comments be submitted to the Planning Policy team.

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Meeting suspended 7.30 pm

210. Admission of Public and Press

In accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public were temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: HR – Staffing & Recruitment.

Standing Orders resumed 7.40 pm

RESOLVED that the appointment of the Parish Manager as recommended by the Finance and Staffing Committee be agreed.

RESOLVED that the draft contract be approved subject to agreed amendments. The Contract includes access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

RESOLVED that the Assistant Clerk hours be increased to 30 hours per week.

The meeting closed at 7.52 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council