

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at 6.00 pm.
ON MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT WEST SWINDON LIBRARY

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (Vice Chair)
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams (Chair)

Also in attendance: Cllr Geoff Gould

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Six

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith chaired the meeting.

Public Participation:

A resident reported that an abandoned van had appeared in the rear of the Toothill village centre car park. The Chair confirmed this would be reported.

A resident reported that a number of issues had been raised and were still outstanding. These included poorly synced grass cutting machines, overgrown pathways and grass edging, presence of nettles, glass and rubbish by Tewkesbury Way bridge, poorly managed wildflower meadows. Cllr Gibbons indicated that these matters had been looked into and were resolved where it was agreed to do so. The resident requested additional benches on the Shaw Ridge footpath. The Chair noted the request.

A resident reported that at a previous meeting, the use of glyphosate chemicals was raised and an action recorded to ascertain what other options were available to the Parish. The Parish Manager indicated that this information had been requested from Streetsmart but nothing had been reported as yet. The resident indicated that this was not satisfactory. The Chair advised that the matter would be chased and that a direct written response would be provided.

A resident reported that he had studied reports on the use of glyphosate which is used internationally and most often in agriculture. Generally the evidence of whether it is harmful is undecided and there is an open verdict. Strictly following the usage and

health and safety instructions should keep it safe. The public could be notified when it is in use.

A resident asked if it was possible to have a collection point for energy saving lightbulbs in the library. The Chair advised that there were collection points at Asda and Sainsburys but that the request would be passed on.

Meeting started 6.30 pm.

219. Apologies

Cllr Trish Philpot & Cllr Exell – illness, Cllr Ali – work commitment

RESOLVED that apologies received were approved.

220. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Gould indicated that he was not a member of this Committee but was a member of the Allotments Working Party. See also Minute 223.

221. Play Inspection Reports

The Parish Manager advised that alongside the weekly local play inspections, an annual independent inspection is undertaken. All 21 play area sites were inspected and a formal report completed for each one. The Parish Manager circulated a summary of the key findings in an accompanying report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager indicated that generally missing bolt covers and monitoring of wear on chains and ropes were common, minor faults to all play areas of all ages. In this year's Independent reports, a number of play areas were identified as having moderate risks. The majority of these would be resolved as part of the play refurbishment plans. Two areas that require action are the grass matting at Whitehill Park and the damaged rubber mulch surface at Mead Park. Both are likely to have cost implications and are likely to need specialist support to amend the surfaces.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager be tasked to ensure responses are made to the findings in the reports.

222. Allotment Pricing

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Clerk setting out comparative costs for allotments across Swindon, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors agreed that due to the short supply of allotments, priority needed to be given to West Swindon residents on the waiting list. Councillors suggested that some residents may be content with a quarter-size plot or some of the full size plot holders may be interested in downsizing their existing plot. It was noted that work is underway to assess alternative sites for new allotments and it was requested that one of those sites to be considered is Kiln Park. Councillors agreed that there should be an increase in the annual allotment fee as fees had been unchanged for a number of years.

RESOLVED that

- a) Standard Rate Full Plot non Swindon resident be set at £70.00
- b) Standard Rate Half Plot non Swindon resident be set at £35.00
- c) Parish Rate for Full Plot, Parish resident be set at £48.00
- d) Parish Rate for Half Plot, Parish resident be set at £24.00
- e) the Parish Office canvass interest in smaller plot sizes and/or voluntary plot reduction

223. Grants Schedule

The Parish Manager circulated a report by the Assistant Clerk, drafting out a potential Grants Schedule, a copy appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Cllr Nick Martin and Cllr Tim Swinyard indicated they were associated with voluntary organisations Peatmoor Woodland Group and Dressability respectively, whom, may benefit from grants from the Parish Council.

The Parish Manager indicated this report was aimed to initiate discussion. The Parish Manager highlighted that this draft process did not necessarily support larger scale grant funding and/or annual grant funding e.g. library staffing hours Councillors noted the following observations;

- two fixed deadlines for the receipt of applications during the year could prevent the Parish Council from considering an excellent project if the grant receipt deadlines were not accessible to the applicant
- it is important to manage grant decisions within an agreed budget, but the Parish Council may want to ensure that it has an exceptional circumstances clause that opens up the opportunity to consider single grant applications in their own right
- it may be useful to include a cap on the maximum amount that can be applied for in each application process to ensure that there is scope to make multiple awards each time

RECOMMENDED that the Grants Schedule be revised as set out above and reviewed by Full Council.

Meeting closed 6.51 pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 05 December 2019 6.00 pm.

Signed:
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date: