

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL on
MONDAY 25 November 2019 at 7.00 pm at
WEST SWINDON LIBRARY

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Nigel Gibbons - Chair
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Timothy Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin – Vice Chair
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)
Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)

Public: Eight

Public Session:

A resident asked for an update on the bmx track. The Parish Manager indicated that work was still ongoing to secure external funding to support the application. Quotes were required which were proving difficult to secure.

A resident asked if Councillors could move the bin by the play area in the middle of Shaw Ridge which tends to get flooded by a nearby spring. The Chair advised that it would be reviewed. The resident also advised that flooding on the Shaw Ridge footpath also occurred behind Chandos Close and might relate to the nearby culvert. The Chair advised that the grounds team would be tasked to investigate.

A resident asked if any progress had been made with missing fencing in Jersey Park which needs replacing. The Chair advised that site visits had been made and the area would be improved over the next few months. It was also asked that the dead tree be investigated.

A resident asked for it to be noted that the work was progressing very positively. Westlea school had recently borrowed litter picking kit for a school-led litter pick and volunteer planting at Westlea park and work on the pond had really made a difference.

Mr Roger Ogle from Peatmoor Woodland Group invited Councillors to attend a Sunday open session to see the work of the group. The session is on Sunday 1 December, 10.30 am to 1.00 pm.

A resident advised that following on from the previous meeting, it would appear that there are no recycling points for energy saving light bulbs at either Asda or Sainsburys. Councillors offered to take the bulbs for recycling.

A resident asked how many fines had been issued to residents in West Swindon for flytipping related offences. Cllr Mary Martin advised that it is a challenge for a warranted officer to witness the offence occurring and often there is no direct evidence linking flytipping with a specific person or address. The Parish Council does send out letters to a local area advising against flytipping from time to time. The Chair advised that this is a matter for Swindon Borough Council to respond to and a response would be directed back to the resident in due course.

A resident asked for an update on Mead Way. The resident was advised that delays were occurring due to gas works and would probably create delays up to March 2020.

Meeting start 7.20 pm

224. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Umar Ali and Cllr Suresh Gattapur due to work commitments.

RESOLVED that the apologies are accepted and approved.

225. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith declared an interest in Toothill Big Local as a member, Cllr Nick Martin indicated that he would not be voting on planning applications that would be subject to consideration by the Parish Council's Planning & Environment Committee.

226. Minutes of the previous meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 October be confirmed and adopted.

227. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Exell noted with reference to Min. 211. that any proposals for tree planting in the Bodiam Drive area would be advised to secure opinion from local residents.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 06 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

7.26 pm. Cllr Tim Swinyard joined the meeting.

228. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 217) that 9 Payments totalling £149,012.53 be approved

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 06 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

229. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

Cllr Exell noted with reference to Min. 222. consultation would be important in relation to any proposals for Kiln Park. The Chair confirmed this would be in order.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Monday 11 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

230. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Sydney Smith reported that Toothill Big Local were holding public consultation sessions that week at Toothill Church, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm on Tuesday and 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Thursday.

231. Update from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Philpot raised the issue of The Watchers statue at Toothill Village Centre following a meeting with the local policing coordinator and in response to social media. Cllr Williams reported that Swindon Borough Council Property Services were reviewing what might be the best steps including a replacement. The Chair noted that the Parish Council were extremely supportive reinstatement subject to Swindon Borough Council's consideration of the options.

Cllr Makofu reported that the Toothill Youth Club had been launched and looked to have been well attended. Councillors agreed that with the mix of science, arts and crafts, table tennis and other activities, the club looked to be getting off to a good start.

232. Grants Report

The Assistant Clerk introduced the Grants Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

Councillors discussed the policy and made a number of general points including that grants that were likely to require a repeat revenue expenditure should potentially be funded out of a different budget and that projects such as the Youth Club should be considered across the wider budget.

RESOLVED that the draft Grants Policy be adopted for implementation in 2020-21.

233. Consultation on BT programme of intended public payphone removals

Councillors received a communication from Swindon Borough Council's Planning department regarding a current British Telecom consultation on the proposed removal of payphones in West Swindon, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

7.55 pm Standing Orders suspended

Short discussion on the usefulness of payphones. Number of points noted that pay phones were generally unclean, possibly used for drug related communication, often prone to vandalism and current BT data may not show the full picture of usage.

7.58 pm Standing Orders resumed

RESOLVED that all Councillors noted the report and requested that additional information be sought as follows:

- number of emergency calls per payphone
- number of incoming calls received
- summary of the consultation be posted in public noticeboards to encourage people to make their views known to Swindon Borough Council's Planning.

8 votes in support. 4 abstentions.

234. VE Day 75 8th - 10th May 2020

Councillors received and considered a communication in relation to the 75th Anniversary of VE day in 2020, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. General agreement that this is something that the Parish Council would be keen to support.

RESOLVED that options for VE day be considered further and brought back to a future meeting for wider discussion and a decision

235. Commemorative Scheme

Councillors considered an options report setting out a draft Parish Commemorative Scheme from the Parish Manager, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. Councillors agreed that it might be popular with local residents and could be extended to trees, bins, planters etc.

RESOLVED that that an administrative charge should also be included and further work undertaken to cost up and detail other commemorative options.

Date of next meeting: Monday 16th December 2019, 7.00 pm, West Swindon Library.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council