

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held online on **MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2021** at **6.00 pm**

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Prakash Khaitan (Vice Chair)
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith (Chair)

Officers:

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

Public: Four

Public Question time

Resident asked why works to Mead Way were deemed to be necessary when the area has coped with full closure for months. Cllr M Martin commented that traffic volumes have been significantly reduced during this time due to Covid. Also no big events at Christmas at the outlet village or at Steam. Utility companies have caused delays but these issues are now resolved. The work is necessary.

Resident asked for an update on restricted access to the footpath at Eastleaze/Caronbridge Rd. The Assistant Clerk explained that there appeared to be confusion about the location between officers in the Highways department but it was being chased.

Meeting start 6.05 pm

637. Apologies

Cllr Keith Williams in another Committee meeting. Cllr Tim Makofu and Cllr Simon Firth – work and other commitments.

RESOLVED that apologies received are approved.

638. Declarations Of Interest & Applications For Dispensation

Cllr Sydney Smith (as a deputy) and Cllr Nick Martin are members of the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee.

639. Hagbourne Copse

The Parish Manager gave a verbal update and indicated that a site meeting had taken place with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. A number of tasks had been agreed to clean up the copse and to reduce the shrubbery height and density. This should reduce the volume that currently catches litter/bags. The verge is confirmed as highway verge so could accommodate bins.

The Swindon Borough Council grounds team will undertake works from 15th February coinciding with lane closures on Great Western Way. Councillors agreed that it was a long running problem.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Parish Manager writes to the parking enforcement team at Swindon Borough Council to request out of hours patrols
- b) bins are installed on a trial basis (x3)

640. LED Lighting at Hay Lane (as requested by Cllr Philpot)

The Parish Manager circulated a communication and report regarding a complaint about new LED lighting at the crossing on Hay Lane. A copy appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Swindon Borough Council recommended that the hedge row be raised to create a barrier to the lighting. The Parish Manager indicated that growth was slow and unlikely to produce a height and density that would serve the purpose suggested. The report set out a number of considerations to secure a viable barrier all year round. Councillors considered the options.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Parish Manager seeks confirmation from suppliers that there are no purchasable shields for these lights
- b) if there are no readily available shields, that Swindon BC Highways team be asked to consider creating a bespoke shield
- c) permission be investigated for the installation of a fixed barrier on the verge, and the Parish Manager to secure quotes for fencing for this purpose

641. Volunteer Tree Work

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting volunteer request to clear ivy from trees. A copy appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that this type of volunteering involves overhead activity, it would need a new risk assessment and consideration would need to be given as to training and tools. The options would be to encourage volunteer involvement and ensure it is within the confines of the working practice agreed by the insurers or to advise volunteers that this is out of scope.

RESOLVED that

- a) advice is sought from the insurers to clarify supply of tools and restrictions to be observed
- b) volunteers are advised that any activity would need to be part of a supervised session
- c) risk assessment and safe system of working is reviewed/updated

6.35 pm The Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow residents to comment.

6.38 pm Standing Orders reinstated.

642. Great Western Way

The Parish Manager advised that Streetsmart would be working on Great Western Way from the week commencing 15 February. Lane closures would be in place and as a result Swindon BC will undertake grounds maintenance and litter picking.

643. Planning Report

The Committee received the following applications in the Planning Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book and resolved as follows:

643.1 S/20/1697	Electron Building, Windmill Hill Business Park Swindon SN5 6PB	Refurbishment and remodeling of existing office building with works including corner glazing amendments, solar shading installation, curtain wall and rooflight replacement, extension of entrance lobby, external forecourt landscaping amendments, pathway improvements and resurfacing. No objection
634.2 S/HOU/21/0114	6 Byrd Close, Grange Park Swindon SN5 6JQ	Erection of a two storey side extension. No objection
643.3 S/HOU/21/0150	34 Furze Close, Swindon SN5 5DB	Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable space. No objection
643.4 S/HOU/21/0184	11 Bankfoot Close, Swindon SN5 5WZ	Erection of a single storey rear extension. No objection
643.5 S/HOU/21/0111	7 Titchfield Close, Grange Park Swindon SN5 6HS	Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable space. No objection

644. Works to Trees Consent

The Parish Manager circulated a notice from Swindon Borough Council Planning setting out consent to works on trees at Windmill Business Park a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information and the possibility of comments from residents in Hook Street.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10 March 2021.

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Planning & Environment Committee