

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at 6.00 pm. on WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

#### Minutes

#### **Present:**

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw  
Cllr Steph Exell  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Geoff Gould  
Cllr Tim Makofu  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Trish Philpot  
Cllr Tim Swinyard  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams (Chair)

#### **Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager), Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)  
Adam Gatier & Sheila Morley (Swindon Housing Company)  
Susan Irving (Hazelwood Academy)

**Public:** Eight.

#### **Public Question Time:**

Resident asked for a bin request to be noted for the crossroads between Peatmoor Lagoon and Peatmoor copse (gravel to tarmac path)

Cllr Makofu asked why the additional opening at Shelfinch toddler play area had not been completed. The Parish Manager indicated that the changeover to the new depot and absorbed a lot of time and resources but the project was not forgotten about and should be reinstated in the near future.

Meeting started 6.10 pm.

#### **727. Apologies**

Cllr Ali due to Ramadan, Cllr Gibbons due to family commitments.

All apologies received were approved.

#### **728. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

Noted that Cllr Gould was not a member of this Committee and would not be voting.  
Noted that Cllr Sydney Smith is a school governor at Oliver Tomkins school in relation to

Item 4.

Noted that Cllr Exell is a member of Central Swindon North Parish Council and Sports Hub project in relation to Item 7.

**729. Sparcells Toddler Play Area**

The Chair advised that Swindon Housing Company representatives were attending to provide an update on the proposed relocation and answer any questions. Mr Adam Gatier introduced the proposal and advised that the primary purpose of the relocation was to rectify problems with drainage on the current toddler play area site. The new design would include a rubber crumb surface and existing equipment would be relocated to the new site (warrantees would not be affected). The old toddler area would then be relevelled and reseeded. Project costs would be met by Swindon Housing Company. Delivery planned for mid July.

Mr Gatier advised that there were no plans for further housing on this site. Consideration had been given to remaining on the existing site however engineers had identified the new location as the optimum site to address the drainage issues.

6.15 pm Standing orders suspended to allow public questions.

6.15 pm Cllr Swinyard joined the meeting.

Residents asked a range of questions including

- whether the play area could be relocated closer to the youth play area
- whether there would be issues relating to subsidence for a neighbouring property
- any mitigations against late night useage

Mr Gatier advised that these matters would be taken into consideration. If a new location is viable closer to the other facilities, a new site proposal would be circulated to the Parish Council.

Once completed and inspected, the play area will be transferred over to the Parish Council.

6.30 pm Standing orders reinstated.

The Chair thanked Mr Gatier for his presentation.

**730. Hazelwood Academy Update; Primary Careers Programme and Volunteering - Susan Irving**

Ms Irving gave a presentation on the ethos and work of Hazelwood Academy, a copy of slides appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The school is keen to ensure that where possible that opportunities to extend pupil experiences is helped. Exposure to potential future pathways would be particularly helpful such as talks from businesses, visits to workplaces and information about job markets.

A number of suggestions were put forward including

- engaging with litter picking activities (Toothill Friday club)
- understanding the day to day work of the Parish team
- West Swindon Sculpture Trail could be taken in parts and linked to educational activities around the images
- promote democratic involvement through a youth council

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council links and supports Hazelwood Academy with future

activities.

6.47 pm Cllr Philpot left the meeting.

**731. Litter bins**

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out littering behaviours and the current list of public bin requests. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Cllr Makofu highlighted a missing request – Dunwich Drive to Bodiam Drive. List of bins included:

- entrance to Simply Gym
- Aldi at Shaw Road(propose swap out red dog bin)
- Bess Road play area
- Spencer Close subway
- Flint Hill bus stop
- Shaw Ridge behind Grandison Close (if existing bins can't be shuffled)
- Sparcells footpath to Shaw Forest
- Mead Way subway (Claypits) to Shaw Forest (propose swap out small bin to Claypits play area)
- Frankland Road – Hagbourne Copse x 3
- Dunwich Drive to Bodiam Drive + Peatmoor lagoon to copse request

Requests that are not practical for installing or emptying at the current time

- footpath rear of Shaw Forest
- entrance to Saddleback Road

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager orders and installs bins as set out in the list above. Full sized bin costs estimated at £258 per bin.

**732. Social Media and Communications**

The Parish Manager circulated a report highlighting a social media and communications update. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. This followed public questions on raising the profile of the Parish Council.

Councillors considered the current levels and methods of social media, whether a Social Media Officer would be a useful addition to the team, and, the route for residents to report issues. It was noted that content, consistency of the message and communicating through different channels were important factors.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) Reporting concerns and issues on Facebook or other social media is not practical. Residents should be directed to email, phone or use the online reporting form.
- b) Regular weekly updates should be posted sharing information about Parish Council activities on all the communication options available.

**733. External Funding Update**

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. **Correction to the report:** The report noted the voluntary fundraising for the pump track project by Cllr Makofu (£360.00) and Cllr Gattapur (£3634.00).

The report identified a range of external funding opportunities that could be applied to in order to secure further funding for the Rivermead Track. These funding streams follow different formats and timeframes and many have refocused towards priorities that support communities as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

Councillors highlighted the importance of the skills of the Funding Officer for Central Swindon North Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Parish Manager be authorised to apply for external funding from relevant sources during 2021, with the assistance of the Pump Track Working Party as required
- b) an update to be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

*Date of next meeting:* Wednesday 12 May 2021 6.00 pm.

Meeting closed 7.17 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee