

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held online on **WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2020** at **6.00 pm**

Present:

CLlr Mike Burtenshaw
CLlr Nigel Gibbons
CLlr Geoff Gould
CLlr Prakash Khaitan
CLlr Tim Makofu
CLlr Mary Martin
CLlr Nick Martin
CLlr Tim Swinyard
CLlr Caryl Sydney Smith (Chair)
CLlr Keith Williams

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager), Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)

Public: Four

Public Questions: None

Meeting start: 6.04 pm.

354. Apologies

None.

355. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Noted that Cllr Nick Martin is a member of Swindon Borough Council's Planning Committee and will therefore not participate in planning matters. Noted that Cllr Tim Swinyard is not a member of this Committee.

356. Update on Workforce Response to Coronavirus Restrictions

The Parish Manager updated on a draft statement, previously circulated, setting out the Parish Council's response to the coronavirus restrictions. A copy appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager indicated that this document would set out what the Parish Council determines as essential services for the contracted workforce.

A number of amendments had been submitted to include, once weekly visits to play areas, flytipping collection where it can be managed by a single worker, and, public realm cleansing as and when staff resources allow.

RESOLVED that the statement be approved with the proposed amendments.

357. Flytipping Issues

The Parish Manager circulated a report highlighting a recent resurgence of household flytipping. A copy of the report appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager indicated that the temporary cessation of green waste collection and closure of the household recycling centre had possibly contributed to recent evidence of tipping. It is particularly prevalent in copses and woodland areas although there are examples all over West Swindon. A number of options are available to the Parish Council including promoting reporting, using signs in hot spots and working closely with Swindon Borough Council enforcement. Councillors discussed the problems locally.

RESOLVED that one area (Maxey Close copse) be used as trial for signs. Letters discouraging flytipping be sent to properties close to known hot spots. West Swindon Community Facebook be used to highlight activity and the threat of enforcement.

358. Bins and Benches

The Parish Manager reported that there were requests for benches outstanding. Nominated locations were

- top of Shaw Ridge Linear Park looking down to Romney Way
- Kiln Park or Bloomsbury Park (volunteer reward grant)

Councillors noted the challenges of benches in parks potentially contributing to perceived anti social behaviour.

The Parish Manager updated that the Parish Council had run out of bins due to a number of recent replacements. Cllr Makofu highlighted that requests for bins in Toothill park remained outstanding.

One area that has been identified as a problem hotspot is Frankland Road, alongside Hagbourne Copse in Blagrove. This has been highlighted by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) as a growing challenge. HGV drivers regularly park alongside the copse and have been seen to break through the hedgerow and use the copse for littering and toileting. WWT volunteer litter picks have been unable to stay on top of the problem and the area is leased privately which restricts the Parish Council options for a response.

Councillors agreed that this nature reserve is blighted by litter and detritus. A potential solution would be to restrict the long stay parking of vehicles on this road.

RESOLVED that Cllr Gibbons liaises with SBC Streetsmart to agree a location for Shaw Ridge Linear Park.

RESOLVED that the Assistant Clerk liaises with the Freshbrook volunteer to agree a bench location.

RESOLVED that an additional bin for Toothill Park is revisited and that the Parish Manager secures a small number additional bins for the Parish Council to replace stocks.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager writes a letter to Swindon Borough Council Highways highlighting the established negative impact of heavy goods vehicles parking on Frankland Road and requesting that restrictions be introduced.

Meeting closed at 6.45 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 May 2020 6.00 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Planning & Environment Committee