

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held online on **MONDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2020** at **6.00 pm**

Present:

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

Officers:

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

Public: Three

Public Question time:

A query regarding fencing in Hadleigh Close was raised. The Assistant Clerk advised that ownership would be confirmed.

Cllr Makofu asked if there had been any follow up for the resident with planning concerns at Beaulieu Close. The Assistant Clerk provided an update response from the Planning Department indicating that there were delays to site visits as a result of the pandemic.

549. Apologies

Apologies for Absence received from Cllr Suresh Gattapur due to work commitments and Cllr Mary Martin would be delayed due to another meeting commitment. Apologies were approved.

550. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Sydney Smith and Cllr N Martin advised they were members of the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee.

551. Plastic Free Swindon

Councillors received a verbal update on the Plastic Free Swindon initiative from the Parish Manager who confirmed that the Parish Team had promoted initiatives requested by Plastic Free Swindon. The Parish Manager circulated a report and an email communication from the group, copies of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

552. Vehicle Tracking

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out potential costs to add tracking systems to the Parish Council's vehicles and machines, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the

Minute Book. Cllr Gould advised that he had secured a number of quotes, copies of which appear as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The purpose of telematics would be to be able to correlate any reports of damage or incidents which vehicle movements and assess effectiveness of working patterns.

Depending on the provider, overall costs would be in the region of £1500 per annum.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager liaises with the Services Working Party to introduce trackers to the Parish Council's fleet and expenditure up to £1500 per annum be approved.

6.21 pm Cllr M Martin joined the meeting.

553. Winter Shrub and Hedge Programme

The Parish Manager advised that there had been recent resident feedback expressing disappointment at the timing of the Parish Council's winter cutting programme. Each area in West Swindon receives a single annual cut which means that some shrubs/hedgerows may be cut in early Autumn (October) whilst others may be cut in the Winter (February). The schedule does not consider whether a shrub is in its prime or whether the cut could be delayed.

The single cut also means that shrubs are cut back hard so that growth 'lasts' until the next cut. It would also be more time consuming to complete parts of an area at different times of the cutting season. Councillors discussed the challenges of changing the winter cutting programme and noted that there were times when this approach is not ideal however the resources were limited. The Parish Manager advised that this could be under an annual review.

RESOLVED that the format of the winter cutting programme continues as planned for 2020-21.

554. Planning Report

Councillors considered planning applications set out in the report, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as **Appendix D** as follows:.

554.1 S/HOU/20/1332	16 Hadleigh Close, Westlea Swindon SN5 7BZ	Erection of a two storey side extension. Agreed:Positive endorsement
554.2 S/HOU/20/1349	5 The Forum, Westlea SN5 7DQ	Erection of single storey rear and single/ two storey side extensions. No objection
554.3 S/HOU/20/1373	8 Portmore Close, Sparcells SN5 5FB	Erection of a first floor side/rear extension. No objection
554.4 S/HOU/20/1388	2 Queenborough, Toothill SN5 8DU	Erection of two storey side and single storey front and rear extensions. No objection
554.5 S/HOU/20/1333	4 Sharp Close, Shaw SN5 5XN	Erection of a first floor side extension. No objection
554.6 S/HOU/20/1406	34 Tower Road, Peatmoor SN5 5BG	Conversion of garage into habitable space. No objection

Meeting closed 6.30 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Planning & Environment Committee