

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the  
**PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held online on **THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2020** at **6.00 pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur  
Cllr Nigel Gibbons  
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

The Assistant Clerk advised that a number of questions had been submitted in advance as follows:

*Regarding the single annual cut from October to February – has the Parish cut any hedges/hedgerows in Grange Park, or when is the expected month for cutting in Grange Park?*

The Parish Manager advised that the majority of shrub and hedge work would have been completed in Grange Park unless there were problems with access earlier in the Autumn. Grange Park is usually one of the first areas for the annual cut so work starts late September to early October each year.

*Please could it be noted that the double yellow lines at Hay Lane have also impacted on the Mulcaster Avenue area – as this is an alternative entrance to Lydiard Park. And also – with regards to 20mph zones, we have expressed interest in this idea to all Grange Park councillors for the Mulcaster Avenue area, and would like to be kept informed as to how this develops. What happens next?*  
To be taken as part of Agenda Item 4.

*Please can you clarify whether fly-tipping is the responsibility of the council or the parish? Will you take suggestions from residents for locations?*

How will the Parish deal with items that have clearly have just been chucked over the fence? If the Parish organise a skip to clear up a particular area – is this paid for out of 'Clean and Green' funds for the zone?

The Parish Manager advised that statutory responsibility for flytipping is Swindon Borough Council's. Through a legal deed, the Parish Council is responsible for day to day tipping that it has the capacity to deal with. This year has seen a significant rise in all types of flytipping. Historically where there is evidence of dumping over hedges (particularly likely in copse areas), residents have been

given a written warning letter advising them that this is illegal activity and could face a fine. The Clean and Green fund has been used to book a skip for a community clean up.

### **Trees**

*With reference to the "Trees for climate" initiative, and in view of the fact that many west Swindon residents sadly are asking for trees to be cutdown -How are West Swindon Parish going to decide where to plant trees?*

*Can residents have an input - and will this be via the Parish or SBC?*

The Parish Manager advised that Swindon Borough Council had agreed two areas for tree planting – the lower end of Shaw Ridge by the Prinnels and Shaw Forest Park. The Parish Council is delayed on this initiative but will hopefully refocus next year.

*Could West Swindon Parish begin a log of trees and woodlands in the parish, and which trees/areas have TPOs? Also, would they consider creating TPOs for more local trees in the area that people feel should have particularly careful maintenance?*

The Parish Manager advised that the Parish Council only had basic records of the grounds maintenance function which did not include however it is an excellent suggestion and will be followed up. Trees remain in the ownership of Swindon Borough Council who would determine any future TPOs.

### **Local Environment**

*Can the Parish contribute to the protection of the local environment from plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act ("an offence to plant or cause to grow in the wild")?*

*Does the parish have the means to dispose of these plants safely – through burning or some other means?*

*And would the parish consider informing residents about some of these plants on the website/facebook page?*

The Parish Manager indicated that these were really helpful observations. Swindon Borough Council are currently in the process of determining how to process this waste and would be providing hazardous waste bags and collecting from any groups or volunteers.

### **Meeting start 6.15 pm**

587. **Apologies**  
None

588. **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.

589. **Rivermead – Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**

The Parish Manager circulated an update from Mr Neil Pullen, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust regarding recent improvement works at Rivermead. A copy appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the report and ask for this information to be made

available on the Parish Council's website.

**590. Hay Lane/Sleaford Close**

Councillors discussed the recent changes to Hay Lane/Sleaford Close. It was reported that the double yellow lines were working. Based on the current policy, Swindon Borough Councillors can apply for a 20 mile per hour scheme. Councillors discussed enforcement options available in such schemes and whether the Police could assist. It was agreed that the current measures will need to be monitored to see what impact they achieve.

**591. Environmental Issues**

The Parish Manager invited Councillors to have a verbal discussion about local environmental issues. Cllr Mike Burtenshaw advised that there had been concerns about dog fouling in Toothill particularly Shelfinch play area. Cllr Mary Martin advised that the act of fouling would need to be witnessed by a warranted officer in order for a fine to be issued. Councillors agreed that more could be done to discourage fouling.

**RESOLVED** that stickers be placed on lamp posts in the Shelfinch footpaths, spray painted floor signs be used to target key points and stand alone signage be introduced.

**592. Planning Report**

Councillors noted the HGV license applications and the appeal for 66 Beaulieu Close. The Parish Council's previous comments applied. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

**Meeting close 6.32 pm**

**Date of next meeting: Monday 11 January 2021 6.00 pm**