

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 24 January 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Umar Ali (v)
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (v)
Cllr Steph Exell (v)
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Tim Makofu (v)
Cllr Nick Martin (v)
Cllr Mary Martin (v)
Cllr Trish Philpot (v)
Cllr Nandini Singh (v)
Cllr Tim Swinyard (v)
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Three virtual; One in person

Public Questions:

Resident reported that Swindon Borough Council had cut down self seeded willows at the Prinnels pond. The front fence that has fallen needs repairing. Stonewater and Sovereign Housing Associations have agreed to fund benches as part of local Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Volunteers are continuing to take care of the area and the residents association is nearly set up. The Parish Manager offered to provide advice on bench options and litter picking equipment.

Resident reported that the shrub by Westlea school had been significantly reduced and thanked the Parish Council for its sustainable maintenance.

Meeting start 7.09 pm

250. **Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending.

251. **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 24th May 2021.

None.

252. **Minutes of the previous meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29 November 2021 – were approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 be approved and adopted.

253. **Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 8 December 2021 be approved and adopted.

254. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Monday 10th January 2022 be approved and adopted.

255. **Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 215) that expenditure for November 21 of 64 Payments totalling **£49,180.98** be approved.

256. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021 be adopted and approved.

257. **RESOLVED** that Recommendation (Minute 240) that expenditure for December 21 of Payments totalling **£78,587.07** be approved.

258. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 be approved and adopted.

259. **Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Min. 223) that the Parish Council purchases the Bess Road Toddler Play Area equipment from Proludic Total supply incl discount £15,998.00 be approved.

260. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Monday 13 December 2021 be approved and adopted.

261. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 be approved and adopted.

262. **Update from Swindon Borough Councillors**

Cllr Swinyard advised that Swindon Borough Council is providing support for household budgeting and emergency assistance for anyone experiencing financial issues.

263. **Updates from Parish Council Representatives**

Cllr Gattapur asked if the Parish Council would support the creation of a monument similar to that proposed by Swindon Borough Council for Covid 19/Platinum Jubilee. It was suggested this could be incorporated into the forthcoming tree planting schemes.

Cllr Gibbons noted that it was reported that Mead Way would be completing in the next four weeks and noted that it had been requested that the soil banks were nurtured for wild seed sowing.

264. **Update from Communications Working Party**

The Communications Working Party reported that four proposals had been submitted as part of the tender process for social media/marketing support. Clarifications had been raised and a preferred provider would be recommended at the next meeting.

265. **Budget and Parish Precept Demand 2022-2023**

The Parish Manager had circulated budget proposals for 2022-23, To receive and review draft budget proposals for 2022-23, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors reviewed and approved the budget.

266. The Parish Manager circulated a draft proposal for the Parish Council's Precept Demand, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. For 2022-2023, the Parish Council precept is proposed to be set at £926,868.00 This represents an increase of 3% on the previous year's Precept budget and an increase of 3.2% on the Council tax for Band D equivalent properties.

RESOLVED that the 2022-2023, the Parish Council precept is set at £926,868.00 and the mandate forms signed accordingly.

267. **Swindon Borough Council – estate responsibilities**

The Parish Manager advised that following the Backlands Working Party's recent meeting, there were ongoing issues relating to estate maintenance and estate infrastructure on Swindon Borough Council's social housing estates, particularly Toothill and Freshbrook. This included poorly maintained brick walls, and deteriorating former play area spaces. It was noted that this has been raised in the past.

RESOLVED that relevant officers at Swindon Borough Council be invited to have a discussion on Swindon Borough Council estate management

Meeting closed 7.34 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council