

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held online on **MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2021** at **6.00 pm**

Present:

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

Officers:

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

Public: Four

Public Question time

A resident advised that problems with plastic waste were still occurring. Around 30 plastic gloves were collected from Corton Crescent. The Chair noted the information.

A resident advised that the correspondence regarding the noticeboard at Asda was ongoing. Resident relayed response from Asda regarding the Parish noticeboard discussions. The Parish Manager advised that she would contact Asda to help make the distinction between a formal noticeboard and an open access internal board.

A resident advised that issues at Greendown Copse with yellow archangel had occurred from garden waste dumping. Could there be more education to residents to be aware of the potential consequences from their actions. The Parish Manager confirmed that this could be progressed.

A resident asked if the Parish Council's grass cutting machinery was fit for purpose if the intention was to cultivate wildflower areas. The Parish Manager confirmed that there were 3 rotary mowers, 1 cylinder mower, 1 5 gang and 1 tractor mower. The bigger issue is with grass collection as we have no machinery to either cut very long grass or collect the cuttings.

Meeting start 6.13 pm

713. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Umar Ali due to Ramadan and Cllr Tim Swinyard due to meeting commitments.

RESOLVED that all apologies received were approved.

714. 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.

Cllr Gattapur was attending but not as a voting member of this Committee.

715. Grasscutting & Re-wilding as requested by Cllr Keith Williams

The Parish Manager referred to a report circulated updating on a response to the request to review grass cutting, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The report indicated that the Parish Council could consider a number of options including cutting grass to a higher height, leaving areas to grow long grass, not cutting grass sections to expand wildflower meadows. Key issues would be keeping paths and highways clear, managing annual cuts of long grass, managing public perception of long grass and challenges to reinstate grass if not cut regularly. It was noted that brambles and nettles can grow in place of grass cutting. Councillors noted the position and discussed the options.

Standing Orders suspended 6.35 pm to allow resident participation.

Standing Orders reinstated 6.38 pm.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager works with the team and Services Working Party to

- cut amenity grass at the fullest height manageable to avoid stress on the machines
- identify where verges could be cut only 1.5 metres from the highway edge but leave grass fallow behind

6.47 pm Cllr Gattapur left the meeting.

716. Rivermead Update – Mr Neil Pullen, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

The Parish Manager had circulated an update report from Mr Neil Pullen from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

The report summarised the work undertaken by volunteers to plant trees, clear areas and install bird and bat boxes. It was noted that a site meeting would be organised in a few weeks' time to enable a walk-through the area.

The Committee noted the report and the update from Mr Pullen.

717. Disposal of Invasive Non Native Plants

The Parish Manager referred to a report setting out the current options to deal with the disposal or eradication of invasive non native plants, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that the Environment Agency advised treatment for the majority of non native, invasive species should be the same as the guidance for Japanese knotweed. This includes repeated spraying to secure eradication. If plants were to be removed they would need to follow strict guidelines. The Parish Manager recommended that in the event of removal be

necessary this should be referred back to the land owner (Swindon Borough Council).

The Parish Manager suggested that information and education for the public could be undertaken to promote identification and also deter against garden waste tipping. The Committee noted and agreed the report.

718. Streetworks – Whitehill Way

The Assistant Clerk circulated information about a proposal to provide new 5G services to the area, as well as enhancing 3G and 4G services. Proposed works included the installation of a 20 metre-high monopole supporting 6no. antenna on Whitehill Way. No objections had received to date. Councillors expressed concern regarding access for maintenance or repair works and potential impact on traffic flow. A copy of the information appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that clarification be sought regarding potential road closures and ongoing maintenance access.

719. Planning Report

Councillors considered the Planning Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. Decisions were as follows:

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|--------|---------------|---|---|
| 719.a | S/HOU/21/0250 | 10 Bankfoot Close,
Swindon
SN5 5WZ | Erection of a first floor side/rear extension.

No objection. |
| 719.b. | S/HOU/21/0400 | 24 Poynings Way,
Swindon SN5 6EL | Erection of detached garden room to rear.

No objection. |
| 719.c. | S/HOU/21/0111 | 7 Titchfield Close,
Grange Park Swindon
SN5 6HS | REVISED CONSULTATION
Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable space.

No objection. |

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12 May 2021 6.45 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Planning & Environment Committee