

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the  
**PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on **WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021** at **6.00 pm**

**Present:**

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

**Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** Four

Meeting start 6.48 pm

**760. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Umar Ali due to Eid, Cllr Tim Swinyard due to meeting commitments and Cllr Tim Makofu due to work commitments.

**RESOLVED** that all apologies received were approved.

**761. 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 Nick Martin would not be participating in Planning related matters.

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

**762. Presentation – Ben Bell, Plastic Free Swindon**

Mr Ben Bell gave a presentation regarding the commitment of Plastic Free Swindon to bring plastic pollution to an end. Locally a number of campaigns have been successful including Refill which has around 50 refill stations. Mr Bell advised that a new campaign to ask people to stop littering was getting underway with a leaflet through doors. Mr Bell requested a £60 contribution from the Parish Council to cover the printing costs. Councillors discussed the initiative and suggested that

- using the leaflet to promote the volunteer efforts in West Swindon e.g. litter collection on Mannington to Blagrove cycle path might trigger a local connection to the message
- consider repeat leafleting or targeting some parts of West Swindon where littering is a greater problem
- consider using social media to help share the message
- continue to target education work in schools

**RESOLVED** that £60 is awarded to Plastic Free Swindon for a local anti littering campaign.

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

The Parish Manager referred to a report circulated updating on the previous meeting's decision to raise grass cutting heights and reduce grass cutting on highway verges, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The report indicated that the Services Working Party had reviewed verge areas and agreed that it would not be possible to deliver a consistent approach to grass cutting due to varying depths, proximity to footpaths and visibility issues.

The Services Working Party proposed that additional meadow areas were added as an alternative. Councillors considered this proposal. Where possible these would be added to the agricultural cut and bale in the early summer.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager works with the team and Services Working Party to add the following areas to uncut meadows in West Swindon

- Shaw linear park opposite Tumpy Field play area
- Shaw linear park beside Tewkesbury Way bridge
- Middleleaze Drive – public open space adjacent
- Eastleaze field off Whitehill Way (to include stumps to deter access for encampments)
- Sections of Shaw Forest park

Cllr Nick Martin voted against the proposal.

**763. Ponds and Non Maintained Areas**

The Parish Manager had circulated a report setting out a number of maintenance options for local ponds and non maintained areas, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

The report summarised the work that could be undertaken to tidy up areas set out in the report. The Committee noted the report and considered the areas of interest. Queries include responsibility for fencing and wilding close to footpaths. Agreed that general waste clearance and removing self seeded trees would be useful.

**RESOLVED** that

- a. Clayhill Copse to be taken forward as a community-based initiative with the support of the grounds team
- b. Prinnels Pond to be costed in more detail and brought to a future meeting for a decision
- c. Parish Team to remove green waste piles at Ryan Close
- d. Undertake a pond audit (include within sustainability plan) to understand what needs to be done

**764. Community Forest Tree Planting**

The Parish Manager referred to a report setting out an introductory email from Caroline

Hunt, Swindon Borough Council Community Forest Team, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that this would be really helpful as a mechanism to take forward the Parish Council's aspirations for tree planting particularly in the backland spaces. Cllr Gattapur highlighted that Westlea Park would be a good location to be added to the list for West.

Councillors noted the report.

**765. Cleves Close**

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out a resident request for a shrub bed in Cleves Close, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** that the team install the shrub bed providing that residents have been given written notice beforehand.

Cllr Nick Martin and Cllr Mary Martin abstained.

**766. Planning Report**

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

S/TC/21/0675	Land North East Of, Wentworth Park Subway Whitehill Way Swindon	Installation of a 20 metre high monopole supporting 6 no. antennas and 2 no. transmission dishes, 4 no. equipment cabinets and development works ancillary thereto.
		<b>Objection</b>
S/HOU/21/0558	12 Austin Road, Swindon SN5 7FT	Erection of a single story side extension to a detached house.
		<b>No objection</b>
S/21/0541	Asda West Swindon Superstore, West Swindon Centre Whitehill Way Swindon	Erection of a canopy for 'click and collect'.
		<b>Request condition:</b> Advise that existing canopy should be removed within fixed period of time.
S/ADV/21/0542	Asda West Swindon Superstore, West Swindon Centre Whitehill Way Swindon	Display of click and collect signs.

S/HOU/21/0570

11 Charolais Drive, Ramleaze  
Swindon SN5 5RX

**No objection**

Erection of a replacement  
front porch

**No objection**

Meeting closed 8.15 pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 09 June 2021 6.00 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair, Planning & Environment Committee