

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the  
**PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021** at **6.00 pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (V)  
Cllr Steph Exell (V)  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur  
Cllr Geoff Gould  
Cllr Nigel Gibbons (V)  
Cllr Prakash Khaitan (Chair)  
Cllr Tim Makofu (V)  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Tim Swinyard  
Cllr Keith Williams (Vice Chair) (V)

**Others:**

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

Cllr Matthew Courtliff (Swindon Borough Council)

**Public:** Six

**Public Questions:**

Resident asked for it to be noted that the area proposed for allotments by Hay Lane gets very water logged, it would create parking difficulties in an area that already has parking problems and would be unsuitable so close to the entrance to Lydiard Park. Chair noted the comments and advised the matter would be considered in full in the meeting.

Resident asked whether proposals for allotments would need planning permission. The Chair advised that planning advice would be sought.

Resident asked for an update on the clean and green fund. Chair asked for it to be noted.

Resident asked why minutes from Leisure and Amenities Committee meetings were missing from the website. The Parish Manager advised that a blip in the website settings deleted previously added minutes from the website when the membership of the Committees were amended following the last election. All minutes were still part of the Minute Book and could be made available if anyone required them.

Resident reported that the issue with plastic gloves at Asda looked like it would be dealt with better in the future.

Meeting start 6.12 pm

**25. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Mary Martin due to work commitments.

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

**26. Declarations Of Interest & Applications For Dispensation**

Cllr Nick Martin as a member of the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee would not be participating in Planning related matters.

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

**27. Update from Allotments Working Party**

The Parish Manager introduced a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The report set out suggestions from the Allotments Working Party on ways to progress options for allotments, community gardens and mini plots. Councillors debated the report and it was noted that allotments do not generate significant income, and consideration would need to be given on how investment in allotment provision is taken forward. It was also noted that the protection of public open space across West Swindon was important.

**RESOLVED** that the Allotments Working Party do not consider public open space for any type of allotments and instead (potentially in partnership with the Income Generation Working Party), pursue enquiries into other types of land availability in or close to West Swindon.

**28. Presentation from Glynis Hales Edgehill Haven**

Glynis Hales gave a presentation to the Committee setting out the benefits of re-wilding verges and open spaces. Information included how habitats have changed, the importance of pollinators, wildflowers versus trees and soil quality and local feedback on facebook. A copy of the slides appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

The Chair thanked Ms Hales for a very informative presentation.

**29. Sustainability Plan**

The Parish Manager referred to a draft framework for a sustainability plan for West Swindon, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The purpose would be to have a clear reference for the public as to why the Parish Council opts to deliver services in a particular way and to support future decision making on managing public open spaces. The framework borrowed from One Planet Living.

**RESOLVED** that the framework be shaped to outline a Sustainability Plan for West Swindon and brought to a future meeting.

**30. Allotments Report**

The Parish Manager referred to a report setting out an update on issues arising at Blagrove allotments, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. Issues included a persistent flooding of the entrance point, repeated flytipping by

allotment holders and frequent requests for bark to be provided. The Parish Manager advised that once the Parish Council has a chipper and trailer, chippings could be provided as and when available, however currently this request is reliant on the Swindon Borough Council tree team.  
Councillors noted the report.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) Allotment holders be reminded that flytipping of any type of waste, was unacceptable and any requirements to remove the waste either by collection or skip would be charged across the next annual fee for the allotment site.
- b) If current investigations into the flooding issue fail to resolve the problem, that the Parish Council commissions a drainage engineer specialist to advise on best course of action (up to a cost of £1000)

**31. Planning Report**

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

S/HOU/21/0723 14 Castlefield Close, Eastleaze SN5 7EG

Erection of a two storey side extension.  
No comment.

S/HOU/21/0721 22 Maldwyn Close, Middleleaze Swindon SN5 5TG  
Erection of a two storey side/rear extension and 1.8 metre high boundary wall  
No comment.

Meeting closed 7.05 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 12 July 2021 6.00 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair, Planning & Environment Committee