

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 28 June 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

SBC Councillors: None

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Three (v) Three in person

Public Questions:

Resident advised that intervention had been requested at the pond since 2018 and nothing had been done. Requests and queries are not responded to. Work clearing back brambles had opened the area to regular drug dealing. Problems have been regularly reported to the Parish Council. Other questions included ongoing mowing around the pond area despite requests for this to be stopped and Parish Councillors were not informed about what is going on with the planned clean up which has excluded residents living in the Prinnels outside of the Sovereign properties. There is no communication to residents about what is going on.

The Parish Manager advised that work agreed with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had been completed. Outstanding issues such as the platform, willows and fencing have been raised with Swindon Borough Council who is the organisation responsible for ponds in West Swindon. Issues relating to drug dealing and anti social behaviour have been reported to the neighbourhood policing team. A community project has been organised by Sovereign Housing Association with Bioregional. This is independent from the Parish Council who will only be lending equipment. It should not involve any disturbance of the pond area.

Cllr Gattapur advised that a meeting had been held by Bioregional on 20 May and as a result, residents were organising a community clean up fully supported by Sovereign Housing. There was no intention to exclude any residents and a leaflet would be distributed to advertise the clean up.

A resident asked a question to Swindon Borough Councillors. The state of Great Western Way to Barnfield is a disgrace. Works on Mead Way have been a disaster. No consistency with recent cutting on Thamesdown Drive whereas Great Western Way is overgrown, littered and in poor condition across the feeder roads.

The Chair advised that a meeting was scheduled to raise these issues. Compete empathy for these observations. It has not been done well and will be tackled.

Resident highlighted that school safety issues continued on Langstone Way. Cllr Gattapur advised that the petition achieved 575 signatures but these weren't enough for the split ward. Issues and concerns about road safety would continue to be raised.

Resident asked if there had been any incidents of zoom bombing and if there was, is there the option to remove someone from a meeting.

The Parish Manager confirmed that there had been no incidents and participants have to be let in to the meeting. Any participant can be removed.

Meeting start 7.36 pm

45. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Ali due to sickness and Cllr Simon Firth due to a work commitment

RESOLVED that all apologies received were approved.

46. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

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

None.

47. Minutes of the previous meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24 May 2021 be confirmed and approved.

48. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 09 June 2021 were confirmed and approved

49. Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 35) that expenditure for May 21 of 54 Payments totalling £57,389.16 be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 09 June 2021 be adopted and approved

50. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Monday 14 June 2021 be adopted and approved.

51. Update from the Parish Council Chair

Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair) reported that following innumerable enquiries from local residents, a meeting has been agreed for 8th July with Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Members and project manager for Mead Way. The meeting will address where we are and the consequential impact of the delays on local infrastructure and road surfaces.

52. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Williams reported that a new initiative was being launched called Be The Change from 1 July. This will promote action against climate change.

53. Updates from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Gould advised that there was new volunteer interest in bulb planting in Newbury Drive. Issues had been raised regarding traffic speed which had been reported to the local PCSO. Cllr Philpot advised that issues regarding street parties had returned to Grantham Close and asked that this be visited to check on any environmental problems being created. Cllr Gattapur reported that speeding cars and bikes had been raised.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager submits a report to the neighbourhood policing team.

54. Year End Accounts 2020-21 – Annual Governance Statement

Councillors received the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020-21, from Auditing Solutions, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

Councillors received the Annual Governance Statement as part of the 2020-21 Annual Return, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Annual Internal Audit Report 2020-21 from Auditing Solutions is noted and approved.
- b) The Section 1 Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Return 2020-21 is agreed, approved and signed.

55. Year End Accounts 2020-21 – Accounting Statement

The Council received the Accounting Statement for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020-21, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Councillors received a copy of the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 31 March 2021, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Notice proposes that the public inspection of the accounts starts on 01 July 21 to 11 August 21

RESOLVED that

- a) The Parish Council approves the Accounting Statements for 2020-21.
- b) The Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2020-21 are signed and submitted in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return
- c) The publication of the Notice of Public Rights is noted and approved

56. Parliamentary Boundary Review

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. The report highlighted that proposed changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies for Swindon could impact on West Swindon. Comments and counter proposals are submissible up to 02.08.21.

RESOLVED that Councillors submit comments and proposals to the Parish Manager and that these be collated into a report to Council in July 21.

57. Review of the Deed between Swindon Borough Council and West Swindon Parish Council

The Parish Manager asked Councillors to advise on the preferred process through which to discuss and review the current deed, due to expire on 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED that the Services Working Party leads on the review of the Deed agreement and reports back to the relevant Committee.

Date of next meeting: Monday 26 July 2021 7.00 pm

Meeting closed 8.27 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

