

**Minutes of the  
LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at 6.00 pm.  
on  
WEDNESDAY 06 OCTOBER 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

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

**Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** three (v)

**Public Question Time:**

Resident asked whether shrub bordering the crossing of Langstone Way to Corton Crescent was going to be cut. It has been reported as an obstruction to viewing pedestrians. The Chair advised that the matter would be reviewed

Resident advised that graffiti on private garages on Whitehill Way had been reported months ago and still had not been removed. The Parish office claimed to have sent letters to the garage owners to seek permission to remove the graffiti. Not all garage owners had received a letter. Since then only one owner has contacted the Parish Council to give permission. If the work had gone ahead the Parish would potentially have removed graffiti without full permission due to incorrect contact addresses. The Chair advised that work on private property could only proceed at a resident's request and with full disclaimers in place. This is due to the potential for the water pressure to leave marks, remove mortar or cause damage to the private property. It is not work that is undertaken routinely and is only generally reserved for offensive graffiti. The Chair advised that the Parish Office could add a disclaimer form to the website so that residents could action a request for removal.

Resident advised that hedgecutting on Eastleaze Road had not been completed satisfactorily. The rear of the hedge is left long because the team claim that the tractor cannot reach it safely. This is not a satisfactory position. Cllr Gibbons advised that he would have a site meeting with the team supervisor to find a better solution.

Meeting start 6.28 pm

152. **Welcome & Introduction**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

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

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

None received. Cllr Williams noted that the Swindon Housing Company (item 4) was within his Cabinet portfolio.

154. **Annual Play Inspections**

Councillors received a quote from the Play Inspection Company for the annual play inspections, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that 3 other companies had been invited to provide a quote however none had responded. Each inspection costs around £60 which is generally seen to be very competitive.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager commissions the Play Inspection Company to undertake the annual play inspections.

155. **Update on Sparcells Toddler Play Area**

The Parish Manager gave a verbal update on Sparcells Toddler Play area advising that Swindon Housing Company had been notified of corrective work that should be undertaken. No action confirmed at this stage as the contractor has moved off site.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Team consider overall costs and resources required to undertake the corrective action and communicate a full cost recovery offer to the Swindon Housing Company.

156. **Feedback re: Plattes Close Toddler Play Area**

Councillors considered written feedback regarding anti social behaviour at Plattes Close/Claypits play areas. A copy appears in the Minute Book as **Appendix B**.

Councillors noted the feedback and recognised that the anti social behaviour was well established. Options were discussed including providing seating outside of the play areas to move the group gatherings away from neighbouring properties.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Williams and Cllr Gibbons would attempt to engage with the groups of young people to better understand what options might be potential solutions.

157. **Planting**

The Parish Manager asked Councillors for feedback on the planting in the roadside planters. This year, bee friendly varieties had been mixed with standard formal type plants. Generally the bee friendly species had not sustained colour and longevity to the same degree of the standard plants. Councillors suggested that the mix is continued next year however research is undertaken to source more robust options.

Cllr Exell nominated Toothill for additional planters next year.

158. **Communications**

The Parish Manager asked Councillors for feedback on communication options for the future. Councillors agreed that promotional work of the Council could be improved. Councillors agreed that copies of Agendas could be routinely submitted to various media companies to promote the opportunity for stories.

Meeting closed 7.04 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee