

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 25 October 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Eight including five (v)

Public Questions:

Resident reported that broken glass at the bus stop was dealt with quickly and efficiently. Resident reported that shrub bush at the corner of the cycle/footpath by Westlea Primary School still needed reducing.

Resident updated that work was progressing around the Prinnels pond area. Following the bat survey, bat boxes had been installed. Green waste needed to be collected and the group would benefit from their own litter picking gear. Parish Manager confirmed that individual volunteers could sign up and receive kit or group kit could be purchased through the clean and green fund.

Resident asked that Councillors note the grant application from New Generation Bond amounted to 90% staff costs.

Agenda Item 10. Presentation: New Generation Bond CIC. Two representatives from the group gave a presentation to the Committee. The Families Hub was underway and sessions were running including breastfeeding support. Health visitor attendance had been reduced due to Covid but was working now. The majority of the The Baby Group and Friday Club is run by volunteers and is free to access. Costs had been reduced by using surplus food from Fareshare. Hall hire costs had been reduced by 50% by moving from the community centre to the Church. The West Swindon Youth group is up and running during term time – this needs paid staff in order to commit to running 42 advertised open sessions. Between 20 and 30 children attend regularly. It is free entry. Slides are attached as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Chair thanked New Generation Bond for their hard work.

Meeting start 7.37 pm

159. **Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting. Cllr Gibbons welcomed Cllr Singh to the Parish Council. Cllr Nandini Singh signed her Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED that Cllr Nandini Singh is a member of the Leisure & Amenities Committee.

160. **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.

Cllr Tim Makofu noted user of activities at Toothill Church reference Agenda Item 10.

161. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 27 September 2021 be confirmed and approved.

162. **Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Monday 4 October 2021 be adopted and approved.

163. **Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 147) that expenditure for August 21 of 43 Payments totalling £56,330.81 are approved.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 148) that expenditure for September 21 of 86 Payments totalling £70,852.09 are approved

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 151) that Council approves the following

- a) Council agrees appointment to five new posts as specified by the Finance & Staffing Committee
- b) The budget for staffing is reviewed for 2022-23 during annual budget setting allowing for an increase depending on the allocation for temporary staffing and the impact of salary agreements

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021 be adopted and approved

164. **Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 06 October 2021 be adopted and approved

165. **Update from Swindon Borough Councillors**

Cllr Tim Swinyard reported that the proposal to delivery budgeting advice and support had gone through Swindon BC Cabinet. This will mean that there are people delivering financial advice and support. The Emergency Assistance Fund is available and people

are encouraged to access it.

Cllr Williams advised that the electric vehicle events had gone well. Another round would take place in Spring 2022. Work underway for a group buying scheme for energy saving – solar power/battery storage will be available from May next year.

Cllr Mary Martin updated that the rollout of LED street lighting was good. A number are reported to be flickering or out. It needs to be checked whether the contractor is testing and addressing those that are out for a time. Issues with bus shelters has been a recent problem but has moved along. The normal cadence of salt bin maintenance is that they should have been topped up. If you are aware of a bin that has not been topped up, report it in before gritting gets underway.

Question to Swindon Borough Councillors – what is the communication to the public when grounds works are disrupting traffic. Cllr Swinyard advised that the Council had invested in a new system for online traffic updates.

166. **Updates from Parish Council Representatives**

Cllr Gould reported that he had highlighted that the resurfacing works at Godolphin Close, Crawford Close and Uxbridge Road had not proceeded however the Contractor/Swindon BC did not put up signs to inform residents that it was cancelled. Lack of communication with residents.

Cllr Burtenshaw reported that the Youth Council at Hazelwood Academy has been launched. On the Protecting the Planet Committee, children were enthusiastic. Cllr Makofu and Cllr Exell confirmed that children were looking forward to working in their groups. Cllr Exell advised that the Making a Difference Committee were looking at fundraising opportunities for young carers.

Cllr Exell advised that the Ely Close Community Clean Up had been successful and had attracted new people to get involved.

Cllr Gattapur reported that bulb planting was going well in Westlea. A corporate volunteering day had helped plant many bulbs and on 18 October the Nepalese Community took part and also helped with a clean up at Shaw Village Centre.

167. **Proposal - School Crossing Officer as requested by Toothill Parish Councillors**

The Parish Manager circulated a report regarding a school crossing patrol officer, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the report and noted that much work had gone in to campaigning for school safety measures at Hazelwood Academy and Westlea Primary School by both Swindon Borough and Parish Councillors. Councillors considered whether a school crossing patrol would be an effective short term solution and whether it needed to be distributed to other schools in West Swindon. Councillors also noted that there were no guarantees that schools would be approved for physical/long lasting school safety zone interventions. Councillors agreed that a dialogue with schools would assist the Parish Council to understand their perspective and concerns. Councillors agreed all action needed to have the full involvement for the Parish ward Councillors for that school.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Parish Council wishes to explore the funding options for a School Crossing Patrol

Officer at Hazelwood Academy and Westlea Primary School to gauge interest from the school, with a report to come back to a future meeting of Council.

- b) Cllr Gibbons to approach Hazelwood Academy and Cllr Gattapur to approach Westlea Primary School.

168. **Grants**

New Generation Bond CIC submitted a grant application for repeat funding for West Swindon Youth Club, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Funding requested was £6,348.00 for 42 staffed sessions, hall hire and materials.

RESOLVED that the grant application for £6,348 be approved.

8.49 pm Standing Orders Suspended

Mr Ian Howard asked the Parish Council to fund a5 colour flyers for the Westlea Winter Wanderland. The flyer would invite interested residents to decorate their windows for a community event on 11th & 12th December and would promote the event and a local carol service at Westlea Primary School on 12th December.

RESOLVED that the application from the Westlea Winter Wanderland for printing costs up to £115.00 be approved.

Meeting closed 8.55 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council