

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **WEDNESDAY 08 February 2023 at 6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith (Chair)
Cllr Tim Swinyard

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: One virtual.

Public Questions:

The Parish Manager shared a communication from a resident which set out a question as follows:

Given the catastrophic loss of biodiversity in the UK, how can the Committee justify the recent destruction of wildlife around Peatmoor Lagoon by a Parish Team, apparently in order to tidy the area – is this in line with the Council's tree policy.

The Parish Manager advised that a written response would be given to the resident indicating that the Parish team had not undertaken any clearance of vegetation around Peatmoor Lagoon. The Parish Manager reminded the Committee that an item on a previous Agenda had highlighted the work of the Peatmoor Angling Club which was noted to have extended beyond their remit of 2 metres around fishing platforms. As a result, the Angling Club had amassed a large amount of vegetation and had requested the Parish team's help with its removal. Following advice to the Angling Club to refrain from removing excess vegetation, the Parish Team agreed to remove the remaining vegetation. The presence of the team at the lagoon, removing piles of green waste, had attracted attention and criticism, however, this is not waste created by the team.

Multiple residents concerns raised re: state of Roughmoor Way post tree felling by Swindon Borough Council's team. Area is left strewn with litter, flytipping and is in an unmaintable state. Requested that a site meeting is arranged with the Head of Operations at Swindon Borough Council.

Meeting start 6.11 pm

210. Welcome & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Sydney Smith opened the meeting and invited declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 23 May 2022:

- Cllr Gould declared that he was not a member of this Committee.

211. Play Update

- The Parish Manager advised that work at Plattes Close was due to get underway. The site is likely to be completed by the end of February. Work to improve the exterior landscaping around the neighbouring Clay Pitts play area would follow as part of this. Both schemes are very dependent on the ground conditions.
- Work on zip wires has been completed at Camden Close and Whitehill Park
- Double swings have been returned and installed to Whitehill Park and repairs to swings at Saltway play area have been completed.

6.17 pm Cllr Geoff Gould joined the meeting.

212. Communications Update

The Parish Manager referred to a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. This set out facebook and social media activity in the last 12 months. There is a generally consistent pattern of likes and views with a peak in September due to the wheels track opening. Councillors noted the information.

The Parish Manager advised that the electric van designs had been drawn up, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. These had been designed in conjunction with ABC signs following no design ideas being submitted by the public.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council commissions designs to be installed on the new van, budget up to £1000.

The Parish Manager reported that the first redesign of the Parish Council's website was underway and would be brought to a future meeting.

213. Post Office Feedback

The Committee noted the recent communication from the Post Office regarding the delay in securing post office facilities at West Swindon District Centre. A copy of the communication appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book.

214. Elections – Photo ID

The Parish Manager shared an email update from Swindon Borough Council regarding the introduction of photo ID for voters. A copy is attached as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. It was agreed that the previous pilot had demonstrated a high level of compliance across votes and there was now a wide range of options for residents. In the absence of any of the options being available, residents can also apply for a Voter Authority Certificate to enable their vote. Councillors noted the feedback and agreed that the Parish Council will promote in the weeks ahead of the election date.

6.31 pm Cllr Swinyard left the meeting.

215. Planning Report

The Parish Manager circulated the Planning Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that there were No Objections to the following:

215.a. S/HOU/23/0061	Erection of a single storey side extension	19 Plattes Close, Shaw SN5 5SA
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Meeting finished at 6.36 pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8 February 2023

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: