

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **WEDNESDAY 15 March 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, Three present.

Public Questions:

The Parish Manager shared a communication from the Edgehill Haven requesting permission to spend £100 on a handpainted map setting out the wilding areas across West Swindon. It was agreed that the group could use their Clean and Green Fund or complete and return a grant application form.

Meeting start 6.05 pm

236. 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.

237. Play Update

- The Parish Manager advised that work at Plattes Close refurbishment had been inspected and was now completed. Soil remains had been set aside for the team to use at Shaw Ridge. Work at Shaw Ridge would take place as soon as the ground is firm enough for vehicles to work on grass.
- Work at Clay Pits will commence after the completion of work at Shaw Ridge.

6.11 pm Cllr Tim Swinyard joined the meeting.

238. Newsletter Proposal

The Parish Manager referred to a communication from Swindon Link, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. This set out options for a regular monthly printed column and editorial on the website. It was noted that previous printed communications had received mixed feedback.

RECOMMENDED that the item is deferred so that the new Parish Council considers this proposal

239. Clear Waters, Swindon to the Sea

The Committee noted the recent communication from Keep Swindon Tidy/Plastic Free Swindon proposing that there is a litter picking campaign across West Swindon to link with the Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean from 16th to 25th September. A copy of the communication appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Committee noted the information and agreed this would be a good opportunity to promote a clean and green environment.

240. ATB Summer Skate Sessions

The Parish Manager shared an email update from Swindon ATB, a copy is attached as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The email invited the Parish Council to fund summer activity sessions at the skate park. Costs estimated to be in the region of £450 per session. Councillors agreed that this would be positive.

RESOLVED that the organisation Swindon ATB be invited to complete a grant application form detailing the proposal and submits it for consideration by the new Parish Council.

241. Services Working Party

The Parish Manager circulated an update from the Services Working Party, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book.

- The report indicated that the Services Working Party has progressed soil contamination testing in order to assess the potential for an extension to Blagrove allotments. An update will be brought to a future meeting of this committee.
- The Working Party confirmed that progress was underway for village centre improvements. The first focus will be to improve planting at the village centres. This will include raising the soil in the brick planters, improving drainage, adding low lying shrubs and plants and adding new planters. The Parish team continues to contact Swindon Borough Council to initiate repairs to the paving and bench at Shaw Village Centre. The Parish Manager requested permission to purchase black tiered planters for Toothill and Freshbrook.
- Low Mow
The Services Working Party recommended the continuation of cut and bale sites on Shaw Ridge Linear Park and Toothill Park as with previous years and no mow at Eastleaze field off Whitehill Way. A number of sites were identified as recommended low mow sites for the current season – low mow being when the team mows at a reduced rate with the frequency being dictated by the prevailing growing conditions. The sites proposed as follows:
 - Rear of Saltway field (walking path to be mown through)
 - Rear of Bodiam Drive (maintaining the crescent and dog walking area as normal)

- Edge of Kiln Park adjacent to Whitehill Way
- Shaw Forest park – around the seating area
- Peatmoor Lake by the Chinese Experience
- Rear of Russeley Close

RESOLVED that

- a) the Parish Manager be authorised to purchase 6 planters at £377 each for Freshbrook and Toothill village centres
- b) the team progress the low mow sites as proposed

242. Update on Clean and Green Fund

The Parish Manager circulated a report detailing the expenditure and funds from the Clean and Green scheme, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. Councillors suggested that the funding amounts for large group activities could be increased.

RESOLVED that the new Parish Council reviews the Clean and Green fund at a future meeting.

243. Planning Report

RESOLVED that there were No Objections to the following:

243.1 S/HOU/23/0188	Erection of a single storey rear extension	28 Castleton Rd
243.2 S/TC/23/0134	Prior approval notification for the erection of a 12 metre high streetworks pole with installation of Arqiva smart metering, 1 no. Omni antennae, 1 no. GPS antenna, 1 no. 3G Omni antenna, erection of an equipment enclosure and associated works.	Land at Shaw Ridge Leisure Park, Shaw

Meeting finished at 6.39 pm

Date of next meeting: new municipal calendar

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: