

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **Monday 15th July 2024 at 6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Leon Grother (Chair)
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Andrew Swinyard

Officers: Steven Anns (Operations Supervisor), Hayley Bell (Deputy Clerk)
Paula Harrison (Parish Manager/Clerk)

Public: None

Public Questions:

None

Meeting start 6.01 pm

48. Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllr Bates, Cllr Dayan, Cllr Llewellyn, Cllr Makofu, Cllr Wilson
Applications for dispensation as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20 May 2024: None.

49. Play Update

The Operations Supervisor advised that the play inspections had been completed. One critical fault was observed and the remainder were minor points for attention. The trampoline at Mead Park has been installed and the parts for the slide at the Chesters have been received and work should be completed in the next few days. Significant vandalism had taken place at Shelfinch causing both the large rope swing and basket swing to be removed. Costs to replace will be £1500 - £2,000 but more importantly it meant that the equipment would not be in use over the summer holidays. Councillors suggested that extra signs could encourage people to report incidents.

RESOLVED that the Parish Team highlight vandalism and the costs to the public on social media and crime reports submitted to the police.

50. Communications Update

The Parish Manager distributed a report summarising social media interactions, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information and agreed that the website and social media numbers had improved.

51. Community Events/Open Days

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out the current protocol for Parish Council participation in community events, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the events and agreed that it would be helpful to have ample notice to help with organisation. It was also agreed that a laminated poster of Council services and flyers about the Parish Council would be useful to have available.

RESOLVED that

- a) the current protocol continues with Councillors self organising attendance at events
- b) the Parish Team sources non edible give aways such as seeds, compost cups, stickers etc.

52. Bleed Kits & Defibrillator Update

The Deputy Clerk referred to a report summarising progress to date on securing locations for defibrillators and bleed kits. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book.

The Deputy Clerk summarised the proposal which identified locations at the Link Centre, Delta Centre, Holy Trinity Church, Woodlands Edge Pub and a fifth location pending. The Deputy Clerk that bleed kits attached to defibrillators were preferred by emergency services. Costs were outlined in the report and estimated to be £7,425 subject to grants being secured. If external contributions were agreed, costs could be lower. The Chair thanked the Deputy Clerk for her work on this project.

RESOLVED that

- a) the locations identified in the report be progressed
- b) the budget expenditure c. £7,500 or less be approved
- c) the Parish Council team will register the units and ensure the weekly checks are completed and logged.

53. Gateway Entry Signs

The Parish Manager distributed a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager highlighted that signs on Great Western Way for West Swindon were not in the correct place in terms of the Parish boundary. Councillors considered the benefit of gateway signs and noted that permissions from the Swindon Borough Council Highways team could be difficult and time consuming to secure. Councillors agreed that signs could celebrate West Swindon as 'the greenest Parish'.

RESOLVED that discussions are initiated to assess whether Highways will agree to the removal and/or relocation of West Swindon signs and whether additional signs could be added at a future date. A report summarising progress and options to be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

Cllr Gattapur abstained.

54. Graffiti Murals

The Deputy Clerk circulated a report setting out progress to date on artwork in subways, a copy of the report appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. The Deputy Clerk reported that a number of meetings with local artists had been undertaken and themes discussed for subway artwork. The themes included local sport, selfie designs, historical events, and Great Britons. It was suggested that the local historic Battle of Ellendune could be a featured subject.

Costs were estimated to be £4,000 for four subways with additional subways added at £1,000 per subway. The project would require preliminary preparation work to be undertaken by the Parish Team and permissions to be secured from Swindon Borough Council. Subway locations discussed to date have been

- Sparcells to Peatmoor lagoon
- Rivermead to skate park
- Link Centre to Shaw Ridge
- Mannington to Fish Brothers

Councillors debated the addition of a graffiti wall and legalising subway surfaces for permitted tagging and graffiti.

RESOLVED that work continue to finalise the mural designs for future consideration by this Committee for the named locations.

55. Community Pantry

The Deputy Clerk advised that conversations to finalise locations for community pantries were ongoing. West Swindon Library would be an option and conversations with churches were underway. An update would be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

56. Update from Environment Working Group

The Parish Manager referred to a summary report setting out details of the Environment Working Group discussion. A copy appears as **Appendix F** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information. The Parish Manager highlighted a Recommendation from the Working Group which the Committee agreed to adopt as follows:

RECOMMENDED that a Climate Change Emergency is recognised and a statement is adopted as follows

West Swindon Parish Council recognises the climate and nature crises and the risks they pose on our lives. In response to this, West Swindon Parish Council will take steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as fast as possible and do what it can to maintain, protect and restore the natural environment. The Parish Council aims to have taken all steps available at a practical and economic level to be carbon neutral by 2030.

57. Weed Management

Following a request from this Committee, the Parish Manager circulated a report summarising the different methods of weed management deployed by other local

authorities. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix G** in the Minute Book. The report included a table setting out different methods and referred to case studies from other areas. The Parish Manager concluded that West Swindon Parish Council usings herbicide very infrequently on a need only basis. Parks and open spaces are generally herbicide free. This was an approach found across the majority of Councils. The use of herbicide is more apparent as the most effective treatment for roadside treatment of weeds as part of a combined approach to weed management in the public highway.
Councillors noted the information.

58. Planning Report

Councillors received a planning report, a copy of which appears as **APPENDIX H** in the Minute Book. The following were noted without objection:

APPLICATION		LOCATION
S/HOU/24/0732	Erection of a single storey Rear extension to garage & Single storey front/side Extension to the main house	14 Darcey Close Grange Park SN5 6DZ
S/HOU/24/0750	Erection of a single storey side extension to include garage	21 Sparcells Drive Sparcells SN5 5FY
S/HOU/24/0688	Erection of two-storey rear and first floor side extension	43 The Bramptons Shaw SN5 5SL
S/HOU/24/0763	Erection of two-storey side Extension	10 Tamworth Drive Ramleaze SN5 5QG
S/24/0369	Installation of 6 No. Electric Vehicle Charging Bays & Associated works	Village Hotel Shaw Ridge Leisure

Meeting closed 7.18 pm.

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: