

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
on **WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2018** at **6.00pm** at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Timothy Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Caryl Sydney-Smith (Chair)

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Five.

Public Participation:

Mr John Ball thanked Councillors for participating in a walk through the Shaw copse to view the recent work of volunteers. Mr Ball indicated that there were three main habitats; woodland, meadows and wetland. Meadow and woodland work was underway at Shaw Ridge and a new area for wetland had been identified along Westlea brook running behind The Chesters. Mr Ball asked if wildflower planting could be permitted and that the mowing schedule be adjusted accordingly. The Chair thanked Mr Ball for his hard work to date and asked the Parish Manager to liaise with Streetsmart to assist with this project.

Ms Read from Toothill Youth Club asked the Parish Council to confirm the eligibility criteria for the Community Buildings Grant fund, and the Chair agreed this would be provided in writing.

Ms Read asked if the Parish Council had other plans for the Farmhouse or was aware of any other plans. The Chair reported that the purpose of the grant was to support local groups running buildings and that the Parish Council was not aware of discussions about other plans for the Farmhouse.

A resident asked if the Toothill Community Noticeboard could be brought back in to use. The Chair indicated that this was the property of the tenants of the Community Centre however the Parish Council would seek whether there was access to the noticeboard.

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Meeting start 18.20 pm.

128. Apologies

Cllr Matthew Courtliff (Vice Chair)
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Matthew Walker

129. Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation

None.

130. Grant Application – Relax Kids

Councillors considered a grant application from Relax Kids, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that Councillors approve the grant request for £650.00 subject to being provided with a copy of the Relax Kids accounts and that the applicant be invited to make a presentation to Full Council to promote the project.

131. Toothill and Westlea Pond Updates

The Parish Manager reported that there had been a site visit to Toothill pond with Cllr Makofu, Cllr Exell and Streetsmart. A range of activities could be undertaken to improve this amenity. To undertake clearance work to the boundary trees, bramble and shrubs, costs were estimated at £266.00.

At Westlea pond, Cllr Gattapur had submitted a request to dig out the pond area to provide a clearly defined pond area. Councillors considered the work required at Westlea pond.

Costs for pond renovation were as follows:

Digger and driver £320.00 Removal of waste £160.00

Renewal of retaining logs, renewal of decks and top of stone £1157.00

Total cost: £1637.00

RESOLVED that clearance work be commissioned from Streetsmart for Toothill pond at a cost of £266.00 *Budget: 4680 Power: Public Health Act 1875 s. 164*

RECOMMENDED that work is undertaken at Westlea pond as detailed in Minute 131 at a cost of £1637.00. *Budget: 4690 Power: Public Health Act 1875 s. 164*

132. Spring Planting

Councillors considered a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager confirmed that Toothill Big Local were in discussion with Streetsmart regarding bulb planting in Toothill. Refreshing the tiered planters would be at an estimated cost of £450.00.

Councillors agreed that the spring planting budget should be split equally between mechanical plan and hand planting. Any sites nominated would need to be reviewed in terms of ground conditions, services underground and access. Councillors agreed that three sites should be the focus of spring bulb planting in the first instance:

- Cartwright Drive
- Peatmoor Lake
- Toothill Park

RESOLVED that the tiered outdoor street planters continue to be planted and maintained.

RECOMMENDED that a budget of £10,000 is spent on spring bulb planting with locations to be confirmed subject to satisfying ground conditions.

Budget: 4900 Power: Public Health Act 1875 s. 164

133. Park and Play Maintenance

The Parish Manager circulated a report that detailed maintenance work within the Parish a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Councillors agreed to refresh the benches at the junction of Cartwright Drive. Councillors considered costs to deal with a recurrent problem with trees roots at Sparcells youth play area. Costs proposed were to dig out roots, remove waste and top up with bark chippings. Cost of bark is estimated at £3159.00.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approves work at Sparcells Youth Play Area at an estimated cost of £3741.00 subject to clarification on whether the installation of the toddler play area will cover the bark costs. *Budget: 4670 Sparcells Power: Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19*

134. Website & Communication

The Parish Manager reported that a *share to facebook* link and an online reporting form had been added to the Parish Council's Website. The next article in the Link Magazine would be the Christmas/December edition.

135. Allotments Report

The Parish Manager gave an update on Blagrove allotment site and circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. Councillors reviewed the report and resolved to agree the plot fees for 2019 to remain the same as the current fees.

RESOLVED that the Blagrove allotment fees remain unchanged

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th October 6.00 pm.

Meeting closed 18.55 pm.

Signed:
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date: