

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
on **WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2018** at 7.00pm at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Vinay Kumar
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin

Officers:

Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)

Public: 11

Public Participation:

A resident asked Councillors to consider low level planters in and around Stokesay Drive, vehicles, in particular white vans are parked everywhere and makes the area very dangerous. The Chair advised that it would be investigated.

A resident asked about bins being placed at the bus stops by Lydiard Park. The Chair advised that this what a matter of discussion on the agenda that evening.

A resident produced some photos of Whitehill Stream, there are a lot of debris in it now, which is affecting wildlife and could result in homes being flooded. The Chair advised that this would be reported for clearance.

A resident advised that there are a number of ponds around the area that can be conserved. The Chair advised that this what a matter of discussion on the agenda that evening.

A resident stated that they had been advised by ASDA that the car park is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council. The Chair advised that a management company has responsibility for part of it.

A resident raised a question about whether land on Bodiam Drive was being sold off. The Assistant Clerk advised that the SHELAA is an assessment of land potentially available for development and that work on the bulb planting funded by Toothill Big Local was also arranged before the draft SHELAA was published.

A resident asked what committee was responsible for litter picking and how does the pot fund work?

The Assistant Clerk advised that Planning & Environment Committee were

responsible for environmental issues. The Assistant Clerk advised that volunteer hours spent litter picking are match funded and build a pot for that neighbourhood which can then be spent through joint agreement on environmental improvements.

A resident advised that since the gypsy encampment had been in Eastleaze, the area is now being targeted with fly tipping. Can barriers be put up?
The Chair advised that it would be investigated.

Meeting start 7.19 pm.

192. Apologies

Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Tim Swinyard

193. Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Sydney-Smith advised that she was a member of Toothill Big Local.

194. Smoke Free Parks

The representative from Swindon Borough Council was not in attendance, this item will be rescheduled.

195. Bins

The Assistant Clerk gave an update on bins. Streetsmart have been advised that all new bins have been installed now, however we are aware that there are still issues with some. We will be doing a full review in the near future, mapping all bins and moving where necessary. A further £4,000 was previously agreed by Committee for further bins, it is suggested that we do a full audit and then decide if more are needed. We have requested feedback from the cleansing team about current levels of bin usage.

196. Play Areas

Councillors received a written report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Assistant Clerk gave an update on current play area upgrades. Councillors had visited visits for potential upgrades to play areas; visiting The Holbeins, Tumpy Field, Shelfinch, The Chesters, and, Nine Elms. Councillors felt that the Shelfinch play area in Toothill needed to be upgraded as its current offer was poor, with a growing number of families in the area that want to get involved.

RESOLVED that consultation will take place on play areas for improvement, starting with Shelfinch, a survey will be circulated both in hard copy and also on the Website.

RESOLVED that the Shelfinch play area to be considered for improvement.

7.37 pm The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

197. Wildflower Meadows

Councillors received a written report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book John Ball from FAB gave an update on the Wildflower meadows, he explained that more seeds had been sown on the top of Shaw Ridge and the triangle meadow area. He has received positive feedback. He stated that an extension to the meadow on Shaw Ridge

makes sense and would like the Committee to consider it.
It needs to be kept in mind that if a second cut is needed next year, it must be done in September as the farmers set equipment aside in October.

7.42 pm The Chair reinstated Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that the wildflower meadows trials continue.

198. Communications Update

The Assistant Clerk distributed a copy of the article that will be in the next Link Magazine, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book.
The next article will be in February time, and could potentially feature the budget.
The Assistant Clerk gave an update on communications and stated that currently there is no Parish account to add comment on Facebook, such as play area upgrades or bulb planting on Bodiam Drive. Councillors agreed that communication was very important and suggested posting leaflets to approximately 100 houses in the immediate vicinity of any planned project work, and, also put notices on our notice boards.

199. Whitehill Stream

Following on from the discussion in Public Question Time. Cllr Exell read out the following communication from the Environment Agency:

We do apply for funding to undertake maintenance on the Whitehill Stream, we were successfully funded this year and we used our permissive powers to undertake the routine maintenance.

This has been completed.

We removed blockages, overhanging debris and weed from the channel this year.
We did not have any plans to desilt the channel.
We did carry out some substantial removal of blockages and debris in recent years which removed was cleared right back to the bare ground on the bank.

We would only consider the further removal of silt if it would benefit the community but the foot bridges and culverts along the channel is where the restrictions are present, if the watercourse has a larger capacity than the volume of the culverts can carry then the modelling will show that there is no benefit to the desilting work.

Owners of the channel would need to arrange a model of the area if evidence is required to prove that desilting is correct option.

I'm currently unsure of the owners for this channel but modelling or desilting is not on our plan for next year's maintenance activities.

Councillors agreed to review this again at a future meeting.

200. The Prinnels – Wildlife Pond

A resident sent a letter to the parish, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book expressing her concerns over the wildlife pond in the Prinnels.

The Assistant Clerk advised that the Grounds Team had suggested that a project similar to Westlea & Toothill Pond could be done next year, and would cost approximately £2,500.

John Ball has offered to work with the Parish Councillor for the area on what improvements can be made.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th December 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Meeting closed 7.59 pm.

Signed:
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date:

DRAFT