

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL** on **MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2018** at **6.30pm** at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Stephanie Exell
Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair)
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Ellen Heavens
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr John Lenton
Cllr Nick Martin (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Tim Swinyard,
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)
Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)

Public: Ten

Public Session:

Resident reported that litter bin manufacturers. Glasdon, provided a quote for 30 bins at £320 per bin. The Parish Council has paid Streetsmart £400 per bin for the same product. The delivery time was quoted as 10 working days Why is the Parish Council paying this higher price and waiting many weeks for delivery through Streetsmart? The Chair advised that the matter would be investigated and a response provided.

A resident asked what Age UK were planning to do with the Toothill Community Centre as it has been closed to residents for a long time. The Chair advised that this was a matter for Age UK to confirm their arrangements.

A resident reported that Park Rangers roles were potentially being made redundant, the impact of which appears to be under the radar. This workforce has skills and experience that could be useful to the Parishes. The Chair advised that the situation would be monitored to view any potential opportunities.

A resident asked if the Parish Council knew of any plans for Toothill Village Centre. The Chair advised that the Parish Council was not aware of any plans. Cllr Mary Martin advised that money had been set aside for Freshbrook Village Centre and two or three others. Subsequent budgets were withdrawn and not all plans could go ahead.

A resident asked if there were plans to support community and resident groups that had been set up with the support of the Localities link worker a few years ago. The Chair advised that the point was noted however Parish Council had no plans currently.

A resident reported on the proposal for smoke free play areas and queried potential support for vapes not cigarettes.

Meeting start 6.47 pm

238. Apologies

Cllr Vinay Kumar, Cllr Timothy Makofu, Cllr Keith Williams

239. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

240. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26 November 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

241. Minutes of Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 214) that the Payment Schedule for December 18 of fifteen payments totalling **£44,467.90** be approved.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 216) that the draft Grievance Policy is adopted.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 217) that the West Swindon Library grant award of £25,021.97 is approved.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 219) that the Internal Auditors Interim Report is noted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th December 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

242. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th December 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

243. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 237) that the Building Grant funding allocated to Toothill Farmhouse site be reserved for a further six months to allow the issues involving lease arrangements be agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Monday 10 December 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

6.52 pm Cllr Exell joined the meeting.

244. Update from the Parish Council Chair

The Chair advised that there had been no external meetings since the last meeting.

6.53 pm Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith joined the meeting.

245. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Mary Martin reported that following representations on the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, a number of sites in West Swindon have been withdrawn including Rannoch Close, Clayhill Copse, Sparcells Drive and south side of Bodiam Drive.

Phase two of Mannington is now complete. Phase three; will be starting with the slip road from the retail park on to Great Western Way.

Discussions are ongoing about how best to continue widening the approaches to Mead Way.

Cllr Tim Swinyard reported that in relation to the proposed Snowdome, one of the conditions is that they have to agree to reduce the impact on traffic.

6.55 pm Cllr Nick Martin joined the meeting.

246. Reports from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Ellen Heavens reported that a meeting had taken place with local volunteers as part of the work of the Flytipping and Litter Working Party. The Working Party would be focusing on a new model for next year by monitoring bin usage, connecting with businesses, promoting resident involvement, promoting education, improving coordination with the regular Streetsmart teams and improving road sweeping.

Cllr Heavens thanked every one for working together and reported that volunteer activity in Toothill put this area at the top of the volunteer reward grant hours.

Cllr Gattapur reported that he was working on an interactive map to aid reporting and recording of volunteer routes.

Cllr Gattapur reported that the issue of parking on Rivenhall Road had been reported to the Community Policing team who will commit resources to monitoring the problem.

Cllr Gibbons reported that focused discussions with Streetsmart were reviewing the detail of the requirements of the Parish Council and future reporting structures. This will be continued in January 2019.

247. Hazelwood Academy Grant Application.

Councillors reviewed a grant application from Hazelwood Academy requesting £1500 part funding for a two year employment of a traffic control officer. Cllr Exell confirmed support for this application. A copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that a grant of £1500.00 be allocated to Hazelwood Academy as a contribution towards joint funding of a two year post.

248. Admission of Public and Press

In accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public were temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: Toothill Farmhouse/Junior Youth Club lease arrangements

Meeting suspended 7.10 pm

Mavis Read, Treasurer, Toothill Junior Youth Club made a presentation to the Parish Council detailing concerns about the existing arrangements between Swindon Borough Council and Toothill Junior Youth Club. These concerns related to the Tenancy at Will, proposals for a new lease, potential changes to terms and conditions, short timescales for decision making and pressure on the finances of the Toothill Junior Youth Club. The Chair thanked Mavis Read for her presentation.

Standing Orders resumed 7.16 pm

249. RESOLVED that the current Tenancy at Will held by the Toothill Junior Youth Club is circulated to the Parish Council for information.

RESOLVED that a letter from the Chair be sent to Ms Sherratt, Swindon Borough Council Property Services, setting out concerns regarding the communications between Toothill Junior Youth Club and Swindon Borough Council

RESOLVED that Cllr Nigel Gibbons, Cllr Nick Martin, Cllr Steph Exell, Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith, and, Cllr John Lenton form a working party for Toothill Farmhouse. Date of first meeting Monday 7th January 2019, 11.30 am.

250. Draft Budget for 2019/20

Councillors reviewed a draft budget for the Precept 2019/20.

RESOLVED that the amendments discussed be incorporated into a draft budget for review by the next Finance & Staffing Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council