

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
on **WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2019** at **6.00pm** at **WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

Present:

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith (Chair)
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Vinay Kumar
Cllr Nick Martin

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Eight

Public Participation:

Resident highlighted concerns about a dilapidated property in Oakham Close, Toothill and asked what could be done about it. The Chair advised that this had been reported on a number of occasions but as a private property there are restrictions. The Chair advised that this would be followed up again.

Resident commented that the gritting teams did a very good job. The Chair asked that this be conveyed to the Team.

A resident asked why there had been public statements regarding bin vandalism after previously agreeing it should be kept low profile. Cllr Gattapur indicated that the issue was picked by the Evening Advertiser following residents comments on facebook so it felt more practical to make a contribution through a statement on the positive and negative issues relating to litter and the cost of bins.

A resident queried the lack of regular attendance to Council meetings by Cllr Matthew Walker. The Chair advised that the forfeiture of office had not yet been triggered due to six months non attendance.

A resident commented that non attendance also applied to Cllr Matthew Courtliff. The Chair advised that Cllr Courtliff had attended the last Full Council meeting in January 19.

Meeting start 6.10 pm.

276. Apologies

Cllr Nigel Gibbons; apologies submitted, unavailable to attend.
Cllr John Lenton; apologies submitted, absent due to work commitments.
Cllr Tim Swinyard; apologies submitted, absent due to meeting conflicts.

RESOLVED that the apologies submitted are accepted and approved.

277. Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation

None.

278. West Swindon Play Area Update

The Parish Manager updated the Committee that stone chippings had been completed at Claypits and minor changes were still awaiting at Camden Close however this is not getting in the way of the play area being open and actively used. Work at Middlelease/Saltway play area is underway and should be completed by the end of March.

The Parish Manager advised that a consultation event took place at Toothill Farmhouse to discuss play facilities in Toothill. Key points noted from this is that there is little provision for under 5's locally, residents enjoy a range of different parks but particularly where mixed age groups can play in one park, some play equipment can be misused and residents don't always feel that areas such as Shelfinch and Flint hill are safe and accessible. Councillors noted that plays areas could offer different types of play including accessible and inclusive equipment. Play companies have been invited to send the Parish some ideas to support future discussions.

RESOLVED that a date is set to review ideas for Shelfinch, Toothill and that a similar approach is initiated for the Chesters play area.

279. Toothill Junior Youth Club Grant Application

Councillors received a grant application for fencing from Toothill Junior Youth Club, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager confirmed that Swindon Borough Council Property Services were prepared to fund 50% of the overall costs. Councillors agreed that contributing 50% from the Parish grants would be reasonable.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager is delegated to commission the fencing as proposed and recoup 50% of the costs from Swindon Borough Council.

280. Toothill Noticeboard

The Parish Manager advised that the office was in the process of setting up a meeting with Toothill Community Centre to see what can be done to help promote activities across Toothill. No meeting date agreed yet.

281. Grant Opportunities

Councillors received a written report setting out potential routes for the Parish Council to apply for external funding, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors agreed that there could be projects in the future that might benefit from external funding such as projects tackling social isolation, graffiti walls, fun day/community events.

RESOLVED that the Parish office draft potential projects for this committee to consider at a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th March 6.00 pm.

Meeting closed 6.55 pm.

Signed:
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date:

DRAFT