

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL on
MONDAY 23 September 2019 at 7.00 pm at
WEST SWINDON LIBRARY

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Nigel Gibbons - Chair
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Nick Martin – Vice Chair
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers:

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

Public: Six

Public Session:

A resident noted the application from the Street Reps for a foodshare group and reported that it was understood that the premises were free. The Chair advised that the application detailed costs for room hire.

Resident reported concern regarding Swindon Borough Council door step waste collection with 5 recent missed collections. Cllr Mary Martin indicated that the process had been changed without prior notice and caused some issues as well as problems with staff sickness. These issues should now be resolved.

Presentation from Public Power Solutions (PPS) Waste Recycling at Waterside led by Jo Campbell Rich. Requested by Cllr Steph Exell. Noted that Cllr Mary Martin, is a non executive director of PPS.

Ms Campbell Rich reported that landfill had been a tool for rubbish deposits for over 5,000 years but at Waterside, the system creates SRF (solid recovered fuel). This is exported to cement kilns in Southern Europe. The site operates 24/7 with shifts and breaks for cleaning. PPS are the first company in the UK to have this type of drying system. Rubbish is offloaded at the plant, it is sorted through various processes and

then heated. 97% of Swindon's waste diverted from landfill. Recyclables are extracted during the process. This unique drying technology results in a useable and better quality fuel. SRF can be produced loose or baled and is required to meet exacting UK and EU standards. Trials like the current food waste collection support this process.

The process costs £30 less per ton than standard landfill costs. The electricity to support the site processes comes from the solar farms. It isn't known what burning emissions come from the fuel SRF product however it is within industry EU standards.

The Chair thanked the team for the presentation and thanked Cllr Exell for bringing the item to the attention of the Parish Council.

Meeting start 7.34 pm

153. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Suresh Gattapur, Cllr Timothy Makofu and Cllr Simon Firth due to work commitments, Cllr Umar Ali due to family bereavement, Cllr Trish Philpot and Cllr Tim Swinyard due to illness.

RESOLVED that the apologies are accepted and approved.

154. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

155. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19 August 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

156. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

It was noted that Cllr Prakash Khaitan was not listed on the attendance list and he had Chaired the meeting. Minutes to be updated accordingly.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2019 be approved and adopted subject to the correction noted above.

157. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation Minute (144) that the Backlands Working Party proposal be approved as follows:

- a) Beaulieu Close rear of flats up to £9,000
- b) Crawford Close former play area up to £9,000

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2019 be approved and adopted.

158. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 be approved and adopted.

159. Update from the Parish Council Chair

The Chair reported that numerous discussions regarding the performance and future of the Streetsmart contract had been undertaken. The Chair had engaged with a number of concerns raised by local residents mostly in regard to litter picking and wildflower meadow perimeters. The feedback from residents is invaluable.

160. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Mary Martin reported that residents had been sent a letter regarding the Swindon Borough Council consultation on the elections cycle. Residents are encouraged to send back their views which are collated by an external organisation.

Cllr Keith Williams reported that Lydiard Park was doing well with going from strength to strength.

161. Reports from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Steph Exell reported that at a recent Youth Working Party meeting, Toothill Junior Youth Club had reported that they were not able to operate from their building at the moment due to a number of building related issues. Cllr Exell has raised this as a concern with the Cabinet Member but also asked that the Parish Council help to move it forward.

The Chair noted the issue.

162. Swindon Borough Council Elections Cycle Consultation

Councillors received a report setting out information about the current consultation on the elections cycle from Swindon Borough Council, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that currently Parish elections are held jointly with Swindon Borough Council. This means that that the overall costs are split between both organisations. If Swindon Borough Council decided to change its election cycle and the Parish Council continued with a single organisation election, the total costs would be covered by the Parish Council, representing an increase up to £15,000.

Separate election processes could also impact on voter turn out. Depending on the decision made by Swindon Borough Council, West Swindon Parish Council has the opportunity to give feedback on whether it would seek to alter its current cycle to fit in with Swindon Borough Council changes. If initiated in 2022 as proposed, this would shorten the existing term of West Swindon Parish Councillors by 12 months.

RESOLVED that all Councillors be invited to submit comments or questions to the Parish Manager and that this be collated into a response from the Parish Council to the consultation.

163. PKF Littlejohn Completion of External Audit 2018-19

Councillors received the External Auditors report and Certificate confirming satisfactory completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended March 2019, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council notes the External Auditor’s Report.

164. Beat the Street

Councillors received a report outlining the Beat the Street programme, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager invited anyone interested to join the West Swindon Parish team online.

165. Grant Applications

Councillors reviewed grant applications from the following organisations, copies of which appear as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book:

- Age UK Wiltshire - Toothill Community Centre £15,000
- StreetReps – Toothill Friday Foodshare £841.00
- Toothill Church – West Swindon Youth Program £7,837.50

RESOLVED that

- a) the application from Age UK Wiltshire Toothill Community Centre is approved
- b) the application from Toothill Church for the West Swindon Youth Program is approved
- c) the application from Street Reps is reviewed in terms of alternative options for room hire, investigated by Cllr Keith Williams. *Cllr Steph Exell abstained.*
- d) the Parish Council amends its current grants process to ensure that there are fixed deadlines in the year, to assist the Parish Council to make decisions based on an overview of grant applications. A proposal detailing the merit of different schemes is brought back to a future meeting.

166. Services Working Party Recommendations

The Committee received recommendations for expenditure from the Services Working Party, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. Councillors debated whether the weather may restrict use of a compact sweeper between November to March and queried duration of the hire.

RESOLVED that further consideration of the proposals needed to be undertaken by the Services Working Party and any decisions considered in the context of budgets and financial implications.

Date of next meeting: Monday 28 October, 7.00 pm, West Swindon Library.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council