

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held at 6.00 pm.  
**ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

### Minutes

**Present:**

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw  
Cllr Nigel Gibbons  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams

**Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** Four

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith chaired the meeting.

**Public Participation:**

A resident asked Councillors to reconsider the use of the Link Magazine as his research suggested that it isn't the best value for money for local taxpayers. The Parish Council could print its own updates and circulate on noticeboards and take away copies in the library. The resident suggested that the Parish Council has no control over the page position in each edition and it often gets lost, and it is possible that copies go straight into the recycling bin. At an annual cost of nearly £4,000, the Parish Council should reconsider. The Chair advised that the Communications sub group would be asked to review this.

Meeting started 6.06 pm.

**279. Apologies**

Cllr Steph Exell and Cllr Trish Philpot absent due to illness.  
Cllr Umar Ali, Cllr Suresh Gattapur, Cllr Tim Makofu, Cllr Tim Swinyard – all absent due to work commitments

**RESOLVED** that apologies received were approved.

**280. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

Cllr Nick Martin highlighted that he is a member of Peatmoor Woodland Group in reference to Item 5.

6.10 pm Cllr Williams joined the meeting.

**281. Aaron Webb, Youth Worker, Central Swindon North** as requested by Cllr Steph Exell  
Mr Webb reported that he had been working as a youth work in Central Swindon North Parish for 13 months. His post was created as a response to anti social behaviour in Penhill and Pinehurst. Since starting Mr Webb has set up a free breakfast club during term time, highlighted knife crime with a knife crime rally, undertaken detached youth work across the estates, offered a holiday youth provision with free activities for three days a week. Mr Webb indicated that he was a trusted role model and had been involved in child protection issues. For the Parish Council, there had been positive press and good local feedback. Work for the future includes a youth council, 8 week boxing programme and family cookery course. Promotion is generally social media, word of mouth and liaison with schools. The Chair thanked Mr Webb for his time.

**282. Litter bin locations**

The Parish Manager circulated a report summarising locations of recently installed bins, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Cllr Sydney Smith noted that if the Bess Road bin is not being well used, it should be moved to Bess Road play area. Cllr Nigel Gibbons highlighted ongoing litter issues associated with Simply Gym members and car park. The Parish Manager confirmed that the focus moving forward would be to tackle persistent littering.

**283. Clean and Green Volunteer Report**

The Parish Manager circulated a report summarising the hours recorded to date for individual and group litter picking activities. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The report highlighted that some areas were more active than others and some individuals and groups were slower to spend their volunteer funds.

**RESOLVED** that participating groups and volunteers be reminded that there is up to £2,000 available per two year period (currently up to March 2021). Any unspent funds from that time will be absorbed into other Parish projects.

**284. Westlea Pond Railings** as requested by Cllr Suresh Gattapur

The Parish Manager reported that due to the water levels, the viewing area and railings at Westlea pond had been underwater for months. Cllr Gattapur raised this as a future health and safety concern. The Parish Manager reported that it is monitored and once the water has receded, the railings and platform will be assessed.

Meeting closed 6.45 pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12 February 2020 6.00 pm**

Signed: .....  
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date: .....