

## **WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held at 6.00 pm.  
**ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT WEST SWINDON LIBRARY**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur  
Cllr Tim Makofu  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Tim Swinyard  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams

#### **Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** Seven

#### **Public Participation:**

A resident informed the Parish Council that street lights were on 24 hours at Toothill Roundabout. Chair advised this would be reported to Swindon Borough Council.

A resident asked if fly tipping behind Toothill village centre shops was going to be removed. Chair advised this had been reported to Swindon Borough Council Property Services as it is classed as private land.

A resident asked if a soakaway could be installed on the footpath alongside the play area on Shaw Ridge due to the underground spring flooding the footpath. Also the bin is unusable due to the flooding. The Chair advised that the request would be submitted to Swindon Borough Council Highways and the play team will be asked to move the bin away from the flow of the spring.

A resident asked if Swindon Borough Council uses 'what3words' which allows gps locations to be linked to a three word phrase. The Chair advised that it wasn't in use currently and would be useful for storm damage e.g. trees.

A resident asked if anything was being done about loud exhaust cars racing along Whitehill Way and gathering in the Shaw Leisure car parking area. The Chair suggested that this be raised with the new Community Safety Group for West Swindon.

A resident advised that previously reported issues with household waste collection were not yet resolved. The Chair agreed to take this matter further with Swindon Borough Council directly.

Meeting started 6.06 pm.

**312. Apologies**

Cllr Steph Exell absent due to illness. Cllr Trish Philpot absent due to bereavement. Cllr Umar Ali absent due to work commitments. Cllr Nigel Gibbons absent due to leave.

**RESOLVED** that apologies received were approved.

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

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith declared that she is a member of The Hub, Toothill should it arise in discussion.

**314. Toothill Monday Youth Group**

The Assistant Clerk reported that the West Swindon Youth Project funded by the Parish Council and operating in Toothill on Monday evenings had recently been in contact to ask if the Parish Council would have any objection to the group changing the venue from the Community Centre to the Church hall. The reason for the change is to enable the group to reduce room hire costs and make use of available storage at the Church hall.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee gives approval for a change in location providing it remains at the village centre as per the grant agreement.

**315. Invitation re: Volunteer Week**

The Parish Manager circulated an invitation from Joy Bells, Swindon Borough Council Public Health team summarising a project planned for Volunteer Week in June 2020, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The project focuses on tree planting to promote volunteering to reduce loneliness and isolation. The Committee noted the invitation and gave its support to the project.

**RESOLVED** that Ms Bells be advised that the Parish Council is in support of the project however requests should be made direct to any of the sheltered housing schemes in West Swindon as they would need to approve of any planting.

**316. Oakham Close Clean Up**

The Parish Manager circulated a report summarising work recently undertaken to remove fly tipping at Oakham Close, Toothill. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The report highlighted that this area was particularly prone to fly tipping and requested that the grounds team be given permission to remove existing shrubbery to allow for less screening of dumped waste. A cost for digger in the region of £500 is likely to be required although this is not factored into any budget lines currently.

**RESOLVED** that clearance work at Oakham Close open space be approved.

**317. Prinnels Pond**

The Parish Manager circulated an update report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The report indicated that clearance work had been undertaken at the pond on Shaw Ridge Linear Park, close to Grandison Close. The work scheme was agreed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The report asked Councillors to plan for likely repair and replacement work at this pond in future years if the Council is minded to maintain fencing and embankments. Costs could be up to £10,000. The Committee noted the report.

**RESOLVED** that costs for pond remedial work be factored into future budget planning.

**318. Communications Report**

Councillors received a report updating on costs for ongoing use of the Link Magazine and/or use of flyers and leaflets, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book.

Standing Orders suspended 6.51 pm

Standing Orders were suspended to invite the residents in attendance to share their opinion on the best means of communication. Residents reported mixed views on readership although it was noted that individuals make use of different sources of information. It was suggested that an Annual summary is circulated to all households setting out the work of the Parish Council, ahead of the Annual Parish meeting. It was suggested that the Parish Council produces its own newsletter and uses existing forums to distribute e.g. noticeboards, website, facebook, library and waiting rooms, school book bags.

Standing Orders resumed at 6.59 pm

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the parish office check whether there are any other newsletters in local distribution
- b) costs for printing and distributing an independent newsletter be brought to a future meeting.

**319. Workforce Uniform**

The Parish Manager reported that if the Parish Council changes its current provider for Streetsmart services, it will need to consider branding for the workforce. The Committee looked at samples of clothing. The Committee agreed that royal blue was a preferred colour for inner clothing as it is visible and distinctive. Further samples would be printed for review by the Council.

**320. Play Area Refurbishment Update**

The Parish Manager reported that the play area refurbishment cycle was underway. Work is planned to run from 05<sup>th</sup> February through to 30 April 2020. The order proposed by the installer is as follows

- The Holbeins

- The Chesters
- Bloomsbury Park
- Uxbridge Road
- Nine Elms Park
- Tumpy Field
- Shelfinch

It is proposed to send letters to properties that are neighbouring the play areas in Uxbridge Road, Nine Elms park and Shelfinch two to three weeks in advance. The Parish Manager reported that the timeframes are all weather dependent and also dependent on each scheme going to plan. Councillors would be contacted to advise on preferences for play area launches as and when each one approaches completion.

**321. Grant Application – The Fluency Trust**

Councillors considered a grant application from The Fluency Trust based at the Saltway Centre, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the positive work of the organisation but agreed that it was not a project specifically for West Swindon families. It was noted that the benefit could not be specified and could not definitely be directed to benefit residents of West Swindon.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager writes to The Fluency Trust declining their application due to the non-specificity of the expenditure and participation being open to those outside of West Swindon.

Meeting closed 7.23 pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 04 March 2020 6.00 pm**

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

Date: .....