

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
West Swindon Parish Council
Monday 24th February 2020 7.00 pm West
Swindon Library

Present:

Cllr Umar Ali
Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair)
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers:

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

Public: Four

Swindon Borough Councillor Matthew Courtliff

Public Question Time:

Resident reported problems with Swindon Borough Council's online reporting system. Cases are closed by officers and cannot be reopened by residents. This results in new cases be created about the same issue. Cases are remain uncompleted. Councillors agreed it was a problem Cllr Swinyard advised that this was a shared experience for Councillor reporting as well. Cllr Mary Martin advised that Swindon Borough Councillors could escalate issues that remain unresolved.

A resident asked if there were any cameras for flytipping as there are persistent problems that go unchallenged and people are not taught to change behaviours. The Chair advised that enforcement was a Borough Council matter. Cllr Swinyard responded that cameras can only be a temporary measure and do not always capture offences. It can also move the problem on to a different location.

Resident asked Cllr Umar Ali to give an update this evening as he had been noted as absent at previous meetings. Cllr Umar Ali advised that he'd had work commitments

Meeting start 7.09 pm

324. Apologies

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Stephanie Exell
Cllr Simon Firth
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Keith Williams

RESOLVED that the apologies submitted are noted and approved.

325. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

326. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the Minutes from Full Council, Monday 27 January 2020 are approved and adopted.

327. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 are approved and adopted.

328. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 are approved and adopted.

329. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 are approved and adopted.

330. Update from the Parish Chair

Cllr Gibbons reported that during the Winter months, the Parish Council had invested in two extra staff to act as a hit squad, cleaning graffiti, removing flytipping, edging pathways, clearing pavements and generally cleaning through each neighbourhood in West. Work to date had made a big impact and dealt with some long standing problems. Cllr Gibbons reported that Swindon Borough Council had indicated a withdrawal from delivering services to Parish Councils due to financial viability issues. Work is underway to manage the transition to a different way of delivering the services in West Swindon. The Parish Council will endeavour to keep residents up to date.

Cllr Gibbons reported that the neighbourhood had been revised and as a result the new community policing inspector – Carly Nesbitt would be holding a multi agency meeting for West.

331. Update from the Parish Councillors

Cllr Khaitan asked for an update on Sparcells play area. The Parish Manager reported that Swindon Borough Council were installing French drains to draw the excess water away from the play area. No indication to date whether this will resolve the problem fully. The Parish Council has not taken it on as a new asset.

Cllr Gould advised that phone box removal was progressing slowly, however the Parish Council had submitted its comments and recommendations. Cllr Gould advised Swindon Borough Councillors that there was still no action on the tin fencing/structure on Colchester Close.

332. Update from the Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Courtliff reported that following the Hay Lane petition, the budget for school safety zones had been approved. A community speedwatch group had also been set up and help can be given to any others wishing to establishing a group. At Full Council, Cllr Courtliff had submitted a motion regarding grass verge parking arrangements. The windmill hill school site has been identified for 72 properties. This should generate Sn 106 monies for the area. An 18 month programme is underway to replace all street lights with LEDs along with procuring a management system to connect with residents lighting preferences. The food waste trial is being extended. Cllr Courtliff noted similar problems with the Swindon Borough Council reporting system with cases being closed without matters being resolved. As an Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Courtliff is working on establishing a suitable place for veterans to meet and get support.

333. Admission of the Public and Press

The Chair advised residents that the meeting was continuing without the admission of the public and press in order for future contracting matters to be discussed. This could involve matters that may be commercially sensitive.

Standing Orders Suspended at 7.30 pm Standing Orders Resumed 7.40 pm

334. Future Staffing and Contracting Arrangements

The Parish Manager circulated an email from Mr Ian James, Head of Streetsmart, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The email set out a short summary of the intention of Swindon Borough Council to cease providing services to the Parish Council with effect from the 1 July 2020.

Councillors discussed this email and the likely impact on the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager confirms receipt of the email to Mr Ian James and confirms that this communication is taken as the serving of notice by Swindon Borough Council on the existing service level agreement.

The Parish Manager circulated an update from KMC Consultancy, a copy of which appears as a confidential item in the Minute Book as **Appendix B**.

The Parish Manager circulated a report summarising the options available to the Parish Council, a copy of which appears as a confidential item in the Minute Book as **Appendix C**.

Councillors agreed that there was insufficient information at the current time to make a final decision on future service delivery. Councillors noted that within the current timescales it would be a challenge to deliver significant changes and so the focus would need to be on service continuity and value for money.

RESOLVED that the Services Working Party liaises with KMC Consultancy to work through the options available with a focus on information relating to an in-house service for the future.

Meeting closed 8.03 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council