

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at 6.00 pm. on MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

#### Minutes

#### **Present:**

Cllr Umar Ali  
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Nigel Gibbons  
Cllr Geoff Gould  
Cllr Tim Makofu  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Mary Martin  
Cllr Trish Philpot  
Cllr Tim Swinyard  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams (Chair)

#### **Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager), Steven Anns (Parish Supervisor)

**Public:** Three plus two representatives from FourOneFour Skate Parks.

#### **Public Question Time:**

Resident asked for it to be noted that there was still a community need for a general noticeboard at the West Swindon District Centre that could advertise events and information.

Resident asked what research had been undertaken to validate the need for the BMX pump track. Cllr Makofu responded to say that local feedback and requests had been noted over a period of time, the idea was tested on Facebook and received hundreds of likes and over 4,000 interactions. Cllr Gattapur advised that there were a number of established benefits including inclusive group interaction, physical activity, and activity that attracted teenagers that would not be provided for by regular play equipment. Resident query whether the project had a specific safety capacity and would be too popular in which case, would it need to be booked in advance or whether or it would not attract the numbers expected. The Chair advised that other tracks reported high volumes of users that generally self regulate to avoid too many on the track. Resident reported that funding for Pump Tracks is usually a combination of funds and it is not often that a Parish Council would fund a project like this in its entirety. The Chair confirmed that the project would have a mix of funding. Resident suggested that other users might find the track beneficial e.g. radio controlled cars.

Resident reported that other Parish Council's had used the Link Magazine for editorials to promote their activities whereas the Parish Council had paid for a page. The Chair noted the option for the future.

Meeting started 6.23 pm.

**692. Apologies**

Cllr Steph Exell due to other meeting commitments.

All apologies received were approved.

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

Noted that Cllr Gould was not a member of this Committee and would not be voting.

**694. Sparcells Toddler Play Area as requested by Cllr Williams**

The Chair advised that Swindon Housing Company were proposing to relocate the toddler play area (off Sparcells Drive) following the long running problems with drainage and flooding. The new location would be closer to the footpath to the north of the site and would have drainage incorporated. The nearby property had been advised of the proposal. A basic layout was circulated, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

**695. BMX Pump Track Presentation**

The Parish Manager reported that following the presentation from Clark Kent to Full Council, the Working Party had spoken to FourOneFour Skate Parks and agreed that a similar presentation be made to this Committee. Matt Priest and Shaun Scarfe introduced the design and highlighted options to improve accessibility. A copy of the design amended version appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. This included the addition of a DDA compliant tarmac entry lane at an additional cost of £3-4,000. The track could accommodate any type of wheeled based user e.g. roller blades, skateboards, scooters and bikes. Colour markings would be used to encourage multiple users navigate and follow directions. Both reported that they had designed and installed multiple skateparks and pump tracks and both had ridden. Work has been established with the Olympic BMX team.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the design from FourOneFour Skate park with the inclusion of a DDA compliant entry slope forms the basis for ongoing discussion, planning and funding applications
- b) the BMX Working Party continues to review and shape the project

Cllr Gibbons abstained.

6.49 pm Cllr Ali left the meeting.

**696. Parish Depot Signage**

The Parish Manager circulated a design for the front of the new depot, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that there was an option to include a photo montage in one of the windows to be obscured. Councillors made suggestions for potential photos including Lydiard Park.

**RESOLVED** that the signs are progressed. The Parish Manager to create a montage based on images on the Parish Council's website.

**697. Community Safety** as requested by Cllr Burtenshaw

Cllr Burtenshaw reported that at a recent community safety meeting, the crime statistics for Toothill were three times higher than other parts of West Swindon. Councillors considered options and agreed that existing channels for reporting would be better supported 24/7 with established mechanisms for help and monitoring.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) Crimestoppers and 101 are promoted on the website and noticeboards
- b) Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service on 01793 610610 be promoted

**698. Review of Shelfinch Youth Shelter/Whitehill Park Swing**

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The swing set in Whitehill Park had been removed due to stability problems, costs for a replacement were likely to be around £1100.00 but could be slightly higher. The Parish Manager reminded the Committee that it had been determined that the youth shelter in Shelfinch play area should be reviewed and consideration be given for its removal. No reports to the Police since July 2020 and the Parish Council had received two complaints from residents regarding anti social behaviour related to the youth shelter. The Parish Manager noted that lockdown restrictions and general lower levels of useage of play areas in the last 8 months might account for the lack of complaints. The Committee considered both issues.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Parish Manager be authorised to purchase a swing set for Whitehill park up to a value of £2,000
- b) the youth shelter in Shelfinch be reviewed again in six months time

*Date of next online meeting: Wednesday 14 April 2021 6.00 pm.*

Meeting closed 7.03 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee