

## **WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at 6.00 pm. on WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

#### **Minutes**

##### **Present:**

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

##### **Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** Three.

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

Resident asked for an update on Mead Way, reasons for delay and lack of project management. Cllr Gattapur advised that a meeting had been held with Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Members and representatives from Swindon Borough Council Highways. It was reported that BT Utilities created the main delay, followed by SSE alongside a shortage of materials. Lack of communication was acknowledged. Lack of workforce on site was raised but it was put forward that this was not an issue affecting progress. Issue of the impact on peripheral roads was raised. Lack of accountability was raised.

On behalf of a resident, a request for a no mow area at Grandison Close/The Prinnels pond was raised. The Parish Manager advised this would be considered. Resident requested information regarding Toothill Big Local and was advised this was outside of the Parish Council. TBL are holding open days for residents.

Meeting started 6.13 pm.

#### **71. Apologies**

None

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

None.

**73. CCTV Consideration as requested by Cllr Gattapur**

The Parish Manager circulated a proposal setting out a proposal for CCTV at Westlea Park as requested by Cllr Gattapur, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Cllr Gattapur reported that numerous reports had been made in relation to drug dealing in the Park Springs car park area and that Westlea Park had suffered a number of incidents of vandalism and anti social behaviour. A recent meeting with the Chair of Haydon Wick Parish Council had indicated that they had found CCTV to be successful at reducing incidents in a local play area.

Councillors debated the issues. It was noted that drug dealing in and around the Westlea park area has been happening for years. It was also noted that these types of behaviours do happen in many parks and open spaces and CCTV may not be an effective tool other than to displace it to another open space. Concern was raised that installing CCTV could set a precedent and become very expensive without achieving impact. Concern was raised that these issues should be tackled.

6.35 pm Cllr Exell left the meeting due to IT connection issues.

**RESOLVED** that a meeting be set up to highlight these issues with the neighbourhood policing team and a follow up visit to Haydon Wick Parish Council be arranged.

**74 . Community Safety Review**

Cllr Burtenshaw highlighted local concerns about speed of cars on Stokesay Drive.

**RESOLVED** that community safety concerns be deferred to the meeting with the neighbourhood policing team.

6.39 pm Cllr Philpot left the meeting.

**75. Bins, Benches & Planting Update**

The Parish Manager reported that the team were preparing the Parish for the summer. New planting had been established with plants chosen with Bristol City Council rather than receiving a stock order via Swindon Borough Council as per previous years. Woodchip for play areas had been distributed. Benches were planned for installation by the end of the month. The Committee noted the update.

**76. Communications Report**

The Parish Manager indicated that papers had been submitted to the Landfill Grants, this

was hoped to be taken to consideration by the panel in July. Recent communication has since indicated that the Parish Council's application may not be considered now until January 2022. As there is little that the Parish Council can do except wait for the outcome, it opens up the opportunity to seek out other funding opportunities such as Awards for All. The Committee noted the update.

**77. Crime Prevention Proposal**

The Parish Manager circulated a proposal setting out a proposal from Wiltshire Constabulary for property marking as part of a crime prevention campaign, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Committee considered whether this would be any more effective than generally promoting awareness around property marking, neighbourhood watch and general home security.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will await to hear further progress on the initiative and in the meantime seek to promote Crimestoppers and general information about staying safe.

*Date of next meeting:* Monday 13 September 2021 6.00 pm.

Meeting closed 6.54 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee