

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the online

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

held online on **MONDAY 08 JUNE 2020** at **6.00 pm**

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Geoff Gould
Prakash Khaitan (Vice Chair)
Timothy Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith (Chair)
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Four

Public Questions:

Resident asked what is the schedule for grass cutting and when is the Parish Council taking it on? The Chair advised that grass cutting was usually three weekly however staff shielding from the virus has impacted on the service which has been delivered around every 5-6 weeks. It hasn't been ideal. The service transfer is due to take place on 1 August.

Resident asked if anyone could provide an update on the Windmill Hill site which had been allocated for self build homes years ago. It was delayed, no active response to enquiries and then suddenly stopped. No explanation why, and no indication of what is planned for the site.

Chair advised that a request for further information would be raised.

Meeting start: 6.04 pm.

399. Apologies

None

400. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Nick Martin indicated he would not be participating in planning application matters as a Member of the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee. Cllr Sydney Smith asked for it to be noted that she was currently deputy Chair of the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee.

401. Request for Wilding Update

Councillors considered a report setting out the consultation responses received regarding a local request to re-wild an area of grass between Edgehill and Adwalton Close in Freshbrook. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information and agreed support.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager drafts a letter of approval to the applicant and assists them to link with the Parish Council's volunteer hours grants.

402. Commemorative Scheme

The Parish Manager circulated a report revisiting the Commemorative Scheme for benches and trees. The report set out the guidance and application process for residents, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors reviewed the information. Councillors agreed that locations needed to be pre approved by the Parish Council rather than chosen at random. Shaw Ridge, Toothill Park, Shaw Forest and Peatmoor Copse would all be good locations.

RESOLVED that the Commemorative Scheme be approved and available to residents to apply to.

403. Boundary and Grounds Maintenance

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager indicated that the current Deed agreement between the Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council included maintenance on land owned by the Borough but outside the Parish Council. This means that the Parish Council is serving residents outside the Parish who make no financial contribution. The Parish Manager has sought legal advice on the matter which has recommended that the matter is determined when the deed is up for review in 2022.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager writes to Swindon Borough Council Streetsmart to notify them that this will be raised at the review to be taken by the relevant Parish or by Swindon Borough Council or a suitable reimbursement made to the Parish Council.

404. Allotments Update

The Parish Manager gave a verbal update on the current waiting list at the Blagrove allotment site, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. There has been a high level of interest in recent months whereas there is little movement creating vacancies in response to this. The Parish Manager advised that the inspections would be reduced as tenants might be dealing with problems or social distancing at the current

time which could be impacting on the condition of their allotment. There have been a few problems at the site requiring maintenance. Most recently tenants have complained about a leak outside the gates of the site. Swindon Borough Council have determined that this is on the land owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Team have suggested it needs deeper excavation. It was noted that tenants also request woodchip.

RESOLVED that the Parish office contact Thames Water to make a preliminary investigation into the source of the water.

405. Welton Road Littering as requested by Cllr Suresh Gattapur

Cllr Gattapur reported that he had requested this item due to the significantly high volume of litter in the Welton Road area following the reopening of the drive through at KFC. More people are sitting in the area eating and littering.

Cllr Gattapur asked that future consideration be given to writing car registrations on takeaway bags to link litter with originating vehicles. If not registrations, receipt numbers might be trackable to vehicles.

RESOLVED that the Parish office contact the takeaway outlets to promote the suggestion.

406. Planning Report

Councillors received the Planning Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. Cllr Nick Martin abstained from comment or voting.

405.1 S/20/0530	Unit 13, West Swindon Centre Whitehill Way Swindon SN5 7DL	Installation of kitchen extract and 2no. air handling units on roof within existing plant well and associated ductwork. plus 8no. condensers and hot water/ booster set in rear yard.
	No objection	
405.2 S/HOU/20/0609	2 Queenborough, Toothill Swindon SN5 8DU	Erection of a two storey side and single storey front and rear extensions
	No objection	
405.3 S/HOU/20/0613	49 Castle Dore, Freshbrook Swindon SN5 8PQ	Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.
	No objection	

Councillors noted that the West Swindon District Centre was proposing a change of name but this was not a planning consideration with grounds for objection.

Meeting closed at 6.48 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 13 July 2020 6.00 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Planning & Environment Committee