

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the online meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 28th September 2020 at 7.00pm**

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair)
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Nick Martin (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers:

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

Public: Three

Public Question time:

A resident highlighted the issue of noisy vehicles on Whitehill Way making a routine circuit. Could a Councillor take ownership of the issue? Cllr Williams reported that this had been raised with MP Robert Buckland who was liaising with the Police Commissioner on the matter.

Resident thanked the Cleansing staff for their help with the Great British Clean Up, many bags were filled and collected. Issue remains with poor visibility. Cllr Gattapur replied that bushes had been reduced and previously letters were placed on parked cars creating obstructions. This worked for a while. The Assistant Clerk reported that the Westlea PCSO was aware of the issue of parent related parking and was planning to undertake extra patrols.

Meeting start 7.05 pm.

503. Apologies:

Cllr Umar Ali – work commitments, Cllr Tim Swinyard – health reasons.

RESOLVED that all apologies are noted and approved.

504. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation.

None

505. Minutes of the previous meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 September 2020 are approved and adopted.

506. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 be approved and adopted.

507. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 490) that the Payment Schedule for July/August 20 of twenty-nine payments totalling **£226,434.92** be approved.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 492) that the Councillors Allowances are reviewed prior to the next scheduled elections and in the meantime, an increase of 0.7% be applied to the annual allowance for the next municipal year be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 be approved and adopted.

508. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw indicated he did not agree with Minute 496. There had not been an issue with the toddler gate in the past and should now be considered an issue. Cllr Williams reported that the Committee had debated the issue in some detail at the Committee meeting. It was agreed that the matter would be passed to the Parish Manager.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on Thursday 10th September be approved and adopted.

509. Update from the Parish Council Chair

Cllr Nigel Gibbons reported that the Parish Council would continue to use Zoom for the foreseeable future. The Services Working Party had been busy reviewing depot options. Work is progressing on safety measures at Sleaford Close and double yellow lines on Hay Lane.

510. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Keith Williams reported that the Mead Way widening scheme completion is delayed by four to five months due to supply of materials to utilities companies. It is likely to be the end of March.

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith reported that wire litter bins had now been reinstated in Lydiard Park, four had now gone in and should reduce litter outside of the Park.

Cllr Mary Martin reported that within her Swindon Borough Council Childrens portfolio, the impact of Covid on children's mental health had been recognised. Funding is being released from Government to place social workers within secondary schools. There had been specific Government support for mental health in Swindon.

511. Update from Parish Councillors

Cllr Gattapur reported that he had held a discussion with the Environment Agency regarding Westlea brook and various blockages. The annual maintenance planned in July was not done due to Covid but it is possible that it has been pushed back.

512. Grant Report

The Parish Manager circulated a grant report a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors consider the applications.

RESOLVED that

- a. The application for Neighbourhood Watch signs be approved
- b. The application for Shaw Primary outdoor and garden activities be temporarily rejected. The applicant to be advised that a project held entirely within a school and its' grounds should be funded by the school itself. The applicant to be invited to consider a wider community-based project and to reapply at a future date.
- c. The application for Family Support Services and Wellbeing be approved up to a value of £5,000. The applicant to be advised that there needs to be no duplication of services already available or already provided by an existing community organisation.

513. Kickstarter Job Placements

The Parish Manager referred to a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The report summarised the opportunity to partner another organisation – Grace Robinson HR in order to host placements for local young people. The roles would be with the outdoor team and would introduce a range of skills including planting, cutting, cleaning and removal work. The roles would be the Government funded hours. It was agreed that once started this would be reviewed to see if the number of roles can continue and/or be expanded.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves two roles and invites participation from care leavers to at least one of those roles.

514. Services Working Party

The Chair reported that the Services Working Party had invited quotes for conversion works at the mess room at the District Centre. The group have also visited three potential depot sites offering around 5,000 square feet. There are issues to consider around ensuring there is a space secured by 31 March 2021 but whether this is temporary or long term will depend on price and availability.

The Chair advised that it was the recommendation of the Working Party that the Council appoint an agent to act on its behalf. The agent would assist with finding potential property sites, securing a full breakdown of costs, arranging for building surveys/liabilities and negotiating on price/tenure.

RESOLVED that the Services Working Party seek quotes for the acquisition of a property agent and that this (subject to budgets) is approved by a future Finance & Staffing Committee or Full Council (whichever is first available).

Date of next meeting: Monday 26 October 2020 7.00 pm

Meeting closed: 8.01 pm.

Signature:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

Date: