

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at 6.00 pm.
ON WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2020 AT WEST SWINDON LIBRARY

Minutes

Present:

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

Officers:

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

Public: Six

Public Participation:

A resident reported that there had been distribution issues with the Summer Newsletter and asked if the Parish Council had been charged for this. The resident suggested that the Parish Council could make use of free methods of circulation such as website, email, mailchimp and noticeboards. The Parish Manager confirmed that the distribution to West Swindon was based on the Royal Mail classification for West Swindon and included Hook and Lydiard Millicent. This was in line with what had been proposed by the Leaflet Distribution Company but had not been spotted ahead of time. This meant that parts of Freshbrook, Toothill, Westlea, Eastleaze and Shaw (the east side of West Swindon) were omitted.

Resident suggested that if the Parish Council were to review or respond to requests for assistance with parking as set out in Item no. 4, it would open itself to a tsunami of requests. It is not viable for the Parish Council to manage parking requests. The Chair advised this would be considered as part of the Agenda item discussion.

A resident asked whether the item no. 7 on the Agenda regarding support for children and young people, was best directed to Swindon Borough Council to manage. Cllr Mary Martin advised that Parish Councils had been involved in youth work and family projects and in many circumstances a joint approach particularly around awareness

raising and reporting was very successful and could help ensure that the most vulnerable are protected.

Residents reported that there were still concerns relating to pedestrian safety around Westlea School. Visibility had been improved but parked vehicles remained a problem. Councillors agreed with the issue.

Resident enquired after Cllr Williams nomination as a Climate Change Champion. Cllr Williams advised this was subject to confirmation by Full Council but welcomed the role.

Meeting started 6.18 pm.

530. Apologies

None.

531. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Gould confirmed he would not be voting as a non member of the Committee. Cllr Tim Swinyard noted that he was a founder of Swindon Support mentioned in the previous meeting's minutes.

532. Sparcells Toddler Play Area Update

The Parish Manager reported that a number of works have been undertaken at Sparcells Toddler Play Area to alleviate problems with drainage. Following discussions with other Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Members, Cllr Williams advised that funding is likely to be available to improve the uneven surface with rubber surfacing.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council seeks quotes for hardwearing – artificial surfacing for the toddler play area.

533. Fowey Parking as requested by Cllr Trish Philpot

Cllr Philpot referred to a report written by the Parish Manager, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book, setting out options for consideration in relation to restrictions to local parking. Cllr Philpot advised that residents in Fowey were in favour of some form of physical deterrent to discourage parking on green verges. Councillors discussed that options could include planters, reinstating shrub beds, bulb planting, fencing, grasscrete, or signage. Councillors agreed that it would be challenging to agree an outcome that would be satisfactory to everybody. Cllr Gould reported that speaking to residents directly had resolved the majority of the parking issues. Cllr Gould highlighted that in Desborough, similar issues had highlighted a resident preference to be allowed to park on verges to avoid displacement or obstructive parking.

RESOLVED that the Parish Office work with Freshbrook Parish Councillors to draft a local survey to better ascertain residents preferences for a solution.

534. BMX Track Update

The Parish Manager reported that the recent tender exercise had initiated responses from well known bike track companies. This should establish the number of quotes required for the Parish Council to progress external funding opportunities. Councillors confirmed that the Leisure and Amenities Committee would review returning designs in the first instance. Cllr Gattapur reported that his charitable event to raise funds for the BMX track project on 10 October 20 was going ahead. The Chair thanked Cllr Gattapur for his efforts.

535. Volunteer Reward Grants Update

The Parish Manager referred to a report updated by the Assistant Clerk on funds held by local volunteers. The Parish Manager confirmed that expenditure should be directed towards local environmental improvements such as planters, seats, bins, planting. All groups were encouraged to look at spending their funds by 31 March 2021. The report appears in the Minute Book as **Appendix B**.

Councillors noted the update.

536. NSPCC Report as requested by Cllr Mike Burtenshaw

The Parish Manager circulated a summary as requested by Cllr Burtenshaw from the NSPCC. A copy appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Cllr Mary Martin suggested that information could be promoted on the Parish noticeboards, for example, promotion of foster carers. Additionally, Swindon Borough Council have training modules that can be completed online (approximately 2 hours) on safeguarding and awareness that could be made available to Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED that Cllr Mary Martin liaises with Swindon Borough Council for access to online training modules and that the new project for West Swindon – Family Support links with this.

537. Parish Newsletter Report

The Parish Manager distributed a report regarding the Council's Summer Newsletter, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager highlighted that a lack of closer scrutiny on the distribution had led to the newsletter not covering the whole of West Swindon. Redistribution could be an option however the copy is now moving out of date. It is on the website and can be put on the noticeboards.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager investigates the following

- the cost of printing a newsletter independently
- the cost of paid for distribution of a newsletter through the Royal Mail
- the cost of using the previous provider but with all of West Swindon addresses covered

Meeting closed 7.10 pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11 November 2020 6.00 pm

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Signed:
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date: