

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 26th October 2020 at 7.00pm

Present:

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

Officers:

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

Public: Three

Public Question time:

A resident requested that membership of the Parish Council's working parties be posted on the Parish Council's website. The Chair confirmed this would be done.

Cllr Makofu asked if assistance could be given to a resident in Beaulieu Close who has concerns about a planning permission not being observed on a nearby property. It was agreed that this could be discussed in more detail at a future Planning & Environment Committee.

538. Apologies

Apologies for Absence received from Cllr Trish Philpot, Cllr Mary Martin, and Cllr Tim Swinyard due to other meeting commitments and Cllr Simon Firth due to work commitments.. Apologies were approved.

539. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Sydney Smith asked for it to be noted that she was the deputy Chair of the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee. Cllr Nick Martin asked for it to be noted that he is a member of the same Committee.

540. Minutes of the previous meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29 September 2020 be approved and adopted..

541. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 519) that Cllr Keith Williams be nominated as the Climate Change Champion for West Swindon Parish Council with Cllr Prakash Khaitan as a reserve be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Monday 05 October 2020 be approved and adopted.

7.11 pm Cllr Keith Williams joined the meeting

542. Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the following be approved

Recommendation (Minute 526) that expenditure for September of 22 payments totalling £89,480.98 be approved

Recommendation (Minute 529) that the Financial Regulations for West Swindon Parish Council are amended to allow

- the Operations Supervisor and Assistant Clerk as users of the corporate Barclaycard within the current limits
- that Cllr Sydney Smith is added to approver status for online payments (Barclays.net)

543. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 05 October 2020 be approved and adopted.

544. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 07 October 2020 be approved and adopted.

545. Update from the Parish Council Chair

Cllr Gibbons (Chair) reported that work had been focused on progressing acquisition of depot premises through the Services Working Party (Agenda Item 10). The Chair had written to Swindon Borough Council's Chief Executive to seek clarification on the reasons behind the delays to completing Mead Way and to highlight the pressures on the roads subject to a diversion. The Chair was requesting that the current diversions be reviewed and the Parish Council to be informed of the realistic timeframes for completion.

546. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Williams reported that he had also been raising concerns about the lack of progress on Mead Way, there appeared to be a lack of clarity about which phase the road works are at and whether or not phases will now overlap in order to progress.

Cllr Williams reported that Swindon Borough Council's consultation on carbon reduction was now out for consultation and could be found on the Council's website www.swindon.gov.uk under 'Consultations.'

547. Updates from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Gattapur and Cllr Makofu reported that the sponsored walk for the BMX track had gone very well. Over £4,000 had been raised.

Cllr Gattapur indicated that volunteer work at Westlea Park has been progressing and a large scale bulb planting session was planned. The Parish Manager advised that group working should be minimised with any individuals observing social distancing and that the

Government Covid restrictions on group numbers would need to be observed. Volunteers would need to follow the Parish Council's revised Risk Assessment for safe working during the pandemic.

548. Update from Services Working Party

Cllr Gibbons advised that the Parish Council had appointed an agent to secure premises for the Council. The Services Working Party had reviewed a number of premises and concluded that a depot in West Swindon would be highly preferable. The Agent had identified a unit on Westmead Industrial Estate and would be undertaking negotiation on terms of a potential lease, The Chair advised that the Working Party were proposing a 2 to 5 year lease arrangement to give the Council flexibility to continue to look at options to build its own unit in the future.

The Parish Manager confirmed that the Working Party were still keeping options open for the mess room conversion at the West Swindon District Centre. Beards contractors were due to submit a quote.

RESOLVED that the Services Working Party be approved to continue negotiations on a unit in West Swindon

Cllr Gould reported that a test run had been undertaken of a brush unit that fits to the front of a mower to sweep leaves from pavements and cycleways. Costs were estimated to be £3550.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that a brush roller be purchased at an estimated cost of £3550 for use by the team.

Date of next meeting: Monday 23 November 2020 7.00 pm

Meeting closed 7.36 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council