

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at 6.00 pm. on WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2020

Minutes

Present:

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

Officers:

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

Public: Four.

Cllr Gattapur chaired the meeting.

Public Question Time:

A resident asked who the Councillors were catering for when deciding to use the Link Magazine for a future newsletter. The resident reported that the previous newsletters were not informative or interesting.

The Chair advised that many people may not regularly access computers or social media but would read the Link Magazine. The Parish Manager advised that the Parish Council would seek feedback on content and distribution through the next newsletter.

Resident asked why graffiti which had been reported many months ago had not been removed. The Parish Manager advised that the graffiti was on private property and the householder had not agreed a disclaimer to enable free removal.

Resident reported the Council grounds team sitting in a vehicle for approximately an hour, blocking the public footpath and smoking. The Parish Manager advised that the matter would be investigated and action taken as appropriate.

Resident asked if work on the hedge along Eastleaze Road had been completed as it did not look finished. The Chair advised that this would be investigated.

Resident asked if gifting staff a Christmas Hamper was good use of tax payers money. The Parish Manager indicated that the resident would be given a written response as this is outside the remit of this Committee.

Meeting started 6.18 pm.

603. Apologies

None.

604. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Noted that Cllr Gould is not a member of this Committee and would not be voting.

605. Allotments Request

The Committee reviewed an email seeking permission to progress allotments or a community orchard for residents in Walter Close from Ms Daisy Mummery, Sovereign Housing Association. A copy appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the request and expressed concern about changing the landscape in Shaw Ridge Linear Park. It was noted that any scheme would need to be accessible to all West Swindon residents. Councillors agreed that installation of utilities and potential impact of vehicle access would be problematic.

RESOLVED that allotments would not be in keeping with the natural landscape in this area and that the Parish Manager be instructed to respond to the request to scope out interest in a community orchard.

606. Play Area Service Requests

The Parish Manager reported that correspondence had been received in relation to two play areas, Sparcells and Shelfinch and circulated a summary report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

Sparcells

Councillors noted the resident's concern about youths gathering, anti social behaviour and littering. It was further noted that the bench has been in situ for many years and no similar reports had been received in the past. It was agreed that littering in play areas is often a problem and the Parish Manager agreed to review whether or not a bin was available for this site. The Operations Supervisor had indicated that the existing bench condition was likely to be too weak to withstand a relocation.

Shelfinch

Councillors noted resident concern that Shelfinch play area was subject to vandalism. The Parish Manager confirmed that the inspections had not found any vandalism or criminal damage at the current time.

RESOLVED that the bench at Sparcells youth play area should remain in its current location but not be replaced at the end of its useful life. Cllr Makofu and Cllr Gibbons abstained.

607. Play Area Inspection Update

The Parish Manager circulated a Play Inspection report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The report set out details from the annual independent play inspections including a number of issues identified as moderate risks. The Parish Manager confirmed that mitigating action had been completed on the moderate risks; with the exception of bark levels. This should be resolved once the Parish Council can receive and store a delivery – this should be possible once the new depot is in place.

RESOLVED that the inspection report findings be noted and the team be instructed to action any outstanding tasks.

608. BMX Track Update

The Parish Manager reported that the Working Party had been formed and engagement reviewed noting that the BMX idea originated from discussions with local young people by Cllrs Gattapur and Makofu. The idea had been tested on facebook securing hundreds of interactions. Many of these liked the Wroughton pump track. As a result, initial designs had been commissioned based on the Wroughton track. The Working Party attended the Wroughton track site and agreed that the first set of designs (considered at the last meeting of this Committee) needed to be tested with those from the Facebook who volunteered to get more involved. This work would take place December to mid January. Feedback will be asked on the suitability of the design for the site, accessibility for a mix of users and abilities, how this fits with the existing skate facilities and value for money. Feedback will be reported to the Working Party to inform recommendations on which designs to shortlist. An update will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

609. Grant Application

The Committee reviewed a grant application from Phoenix Enterprises, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager highlighted that the project was not West Swindon specific and users were not predominantly from West Swindon.

RESOLVED that Phoenix Enterprises be offered a grant for up to £350 for the training of their volunteer who is a West Swindon resident (subject to grant offer conditions)

Date of next online meeting: Wednesday 13 January 2021 6.00 pm

Meeting closed 6.54 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee