

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 22 February 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

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 Mary Martin
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Six

Public Questions:

A resident asked if the Parish Council had factored in the likely levels of damage to the BMX track and maintenance costs. The Parish Manager advised that all play equipment is subject to vandalism from time to time however the moulded pump track would be resistant to damage. Contractors would give a number of years warranty on the structure. The resident suggested the funders could be involved in the opening of facility.

A resident asked if it would be possible to carry over unspent funds in the volunteer clean and green fund. The Parish Manager confirmed that the unusual year meant that it was more challenging generally for everyone and any unspent funds would roll over.

A resident asked if progress had been made with the disposal of toxic plant waste. The Parish Manager advised that the process had been complicated as the Household Recycling Centre cannot now take the waste. Further investigation will be necessary in order to establish the best way to deal with it.

A resident asked if Asda had responded to the issues raised by throwaway/flyaway gloves from the petrol station. The Parish Manager advised that hygiene issues relating to Covid had meant gloves were seen to be more necessary now than in the past. There are no plans to stop providing them at the current time.

A resident reported volunteer-led bulb planting in Westlea had gone well. The Chair thanked volunteers for their contribution.

Meeting start 7.23 pm

667. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Ali due to family commitment.

RESOLVED that all apologies received were approved.

668. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

To receive any Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 14th May 2019.

None.

669. Minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr Gould asked for it to be minutes to show he had raised concern that the actual increase in the precept for residents was not transparent and asked that in future, the percentage increase on the Band D property was clearly communicated to residents. The Chair noted Cllr Gould's comments.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25 January 2021 be confirmed and approved.

670. Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Monday 08 February 2021 were confirmed and approved

671 Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 648) that expenditure for January 21 of 43 Payments totalling £43,295.26 be approved

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 650) that Council approves the appointment of Key Security for the supply and installation of an intruder alarm network up to value of £6,000 be approved

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 08 February 2021 be adopted and approved

672. Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 654) that the appointment of Clark Kent Contractors Ltd. (Agenda Item 7) be reconsidered by the BMX Track Working Party and Leisure and Amenities Committee.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 10 February 2021 be adopted and approved.

673. Presentation: Clark Kent Contractors Ltd BMX Proposal

Clark Kent Contractors gave an outline presentation of their design to install a BMX pump track at Rivermead. A copy of their design and a Pump Track report were circulated, a

copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors asked a range of questions including accessibility, quality and viability, guarantees and warranties. Councillors consider options to improve accessibility for a wide range of users.

RESOLVED that the project and designs be reconsidered by the BMX Track Working Party and Leisure and Amenities Committee.

674. Update from the Parish Council Chair

Cllr Nigel Gibbons (Chair) reported that a communication had been made to Swindon Borough Council's Chief Executive about the impact of the extended road closures including the diversion creating heavy traffic on Langstone Way and the increasing road damage to Whitehill Way. Feedback on mitigating measures is awaited. The Chair reported that the transition to the new depot was progressing well and the Parish Council should be on track to complete the move by 31 March.

675. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Williams reported that an exercise was underway to identify sites for electric vehicle charging points. Many households in West Swindon have space to charge on their own property whereas other areas of Swindon have fewer options. On street charging or communal areas are being considered. Places can be nominated through the Swindon Travel Choices website.

676. Updates from Parish Council Representatives

None.

677. Service Delivery/Depot Update

The Parish Manager gave a verbal update on the new depot at Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate. It was reported that the lease had been completed and the keys handed over. Electric updates and security were booked in to ensure the building is secure. Insurance cover to be amended and Work throughout the month of March will see the depot being modified for the safe storage of vehicles and equipment. Office furniture and files will be set up and plans were in place to ensure that the site is ready for 31 March. Cllr Philpot conveyed thanks to the team for their work on this project.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29 March 2021 7.00 pm

Meeting closed 8.17 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

DRAFT