

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting of the
WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 27 September 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Umar Ali (v)
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (v)
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Tim Makofu (v)
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Trish Philpot (v)
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams

SBC Councillors: Cllr Jim Robbins

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Six including three (v)

Public Questions:

Resident updated that work was progressing around the Prinnels pond area. Feedback regarding conservation in the area had identified that the hedgerow and oak tree are a hub for bat activity with around 3 species of bat. Indications are that this is an important finding and ongoing work in the area will take this into consideration.

Resident asked if more wild meadows could be established on Shaw Ridge. Councillors indicated that this was part of an ongoing review of contributions to sustainability including long grass areas and changing grass cutting frequency. Flower meadows are more difficult to establish due to the type of conditions locally.

Resident asked if shrub section on the corner of the footpath to Langstone Way by the school could be significantly reduced due to blocking sightlines. The request was noted.

Meeting start 7.11 pm

126. **Welcome**

Cllr Williams chaired the meeting.

127. **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

To receive any Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 24th May 2021.

Cllr Sydney Smith noted Director of The Hub, Toothill..

128. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 23 August 2021 be confirmed and approved.

129. **Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Wednesday 3 September 2021 be adopted and approved.

130. **Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 117) that expenditure for July 21 of 58 payments totalling £61,347.39 be approved

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 120) that Robinson Grace HR receive a payment of £7600.67 be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2021 be adopted and approved

131. **Minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee**

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 125) be approved as follows:

- a) Westlea Neighbourhood Watch signs grant approved for £45
- b) Toothill The Hub be advised that their application is on hold until work commences on site and that additional information regarding community benefit is provided.

Cllr Sydney Smith abstained

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021 be adopted and approved

132. **Update from Swindon Borough Councillors**

Shaw Primary School Safety Zone: Cllr Mary Martin reported that Swindon Borough Council Highways had circulated information regarding a set of measures for school safety at Shaw Primary School. Concerns from residents have highlighted potential for displacement parking in the Bramptons. Over forty comments have been sent through to date. This will be summarised when the item is next discussed at Planning & Environment Committee.

133. **Updates from Parish Council Representatives**

Cllr Swinyard reported that as a Cabinet Member changes have been made to the Emergency Assistance Fund in relation to the cap on net income. This should enable more families to benefit.

Cllr Robbins reported that alongside communications with Cllr Gibbons and Cllr Burtenshaw, the Mannington and Western Borough Councillors have campaigned for a long time to improve road safety at Hazelwood Academy. Despite this other areas have had safety schemes prioritised over this one. Collectively local councillors are keen to see this happen and would welcome any support from other Councillors to help highlight this school as a priority.

Cllr Williams announced a number of roadshows would be happening during October to raise awareness of electric vehicles. 8th October at North Orbital Shopping centre and 23 October at Lydiard Park. Residents can view vehicles and ask questions. Within the Climate Change work, it is planned that a group purchasing scheme for solar panels/solar battery charging is launched in the near future.

134. **Update from Parish Councillors**

Cllr Makofu reported that the beginnings of the youth council at Hazelwood Academy was getting underway. Children were very interested and elections to the Council would be taking place very shortly.

Cllr Makofu asked Councillors to be aware of the rat run that has been established with cars cutting through Toothill to cross West Swindon. Cllr Makofu asked Councillors to help flag concerns about the impact of the Mead Way closure on Toothill.

Cllr Burtenshaw advised that traffic concerns in Toothill have been ongoing for the last three years. Cllr Burtenshaw also reported complaints about anti social behaviour.

135. **Election for Middleleaze & Ramleaze**

The Parish Manager advised that the election for a Parish Councillor for Middleleaze & Ramleaze was set for Thursday 14 October. Poll cards had been issued. Two candidates were standing for one seat. Polling stations would be Holy Trinity Church and Saltway. Information available on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.

136. **Toothill New Generation Update**

The Council noted that this item was postponed to a future meeting.

137. **Grants**

The Parish Manager agreed to postpone a decision on the New Generation Bond application so that it can be considered at the same time as the update to the Parish Council.

138. **Communications Support**

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out a request to commission a set number of hours input to help assess and review the Parish Council's current approach to social media and public communications. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. A proposal has been submitted by AbbyP PR for consideration, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that AbbyP PR be commissioned to review the current position regarding public communications up to a value of £1000 and an update be brought back to a future meeting.

Meeting closed 7.53 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

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