

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the  
LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at 6.00 pm.  
on  
MONDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Cllr Umar Ali (v)  
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (v)  
Cllr Steph Exell (v)  
Cllr Nigel Gibbons  
Cllr Tim Makofu (v)  
Cllr Mary Martin  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams (Chair)

**Officers:**

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** four (v)

**Public Question Time:**

Resident advised that hedgecutting on Eastleaze Road had not been resolved yet. The Parish Manager advised that a communication would be sent to the resident directly.

Resident asked if any action had been undertaken following reports of flytipping in Westlea park area. Cllr M Martin advised that whilst enforcement actions had been undertaken against a number of individuals – there was no confirmation on the status of that incident.

Resident asked if the Council had plans to use the current high profile of COP26 to help it achieve its own biodiversity commitments. Cllr Williams advised that work was ongoing around wildlife corridors and the Parish Council would continue to try and find a balance.

Resident reported that the current conditions of the West Swindon Library were very difficult for groups and library users. Following leaks and no heating, the space was not very user friendly. Cllr M Martin advised that it had been reported and staff from Swindon BC and GLL were trying to resolve the problems. Cllr Exell advised that it had been reported to the Members Hotline but no response to date.

Meeting start 6.28 pm

184. **Welcome & Introduction**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

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

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

None received.

186 **Clean and Green Fund**

Councillors received a report updating on group funds within the Clean and Green Fund, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that some groups were close to or had reached the cap of £2000 in a two year period. Councillors confirmed that eligible expenditure would be that relating to a clean and green environment.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager encourages groups to make use of their funds.

187. **Update on Blagrove Allotments**

The Parish Manager circulated a report updating on the allotment site and proposing fees for 2022-23, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Committee discussed the report

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Parish Manager contacts all residents on the waiting list to check whether they wish to continue on the list
- b) the Parish Manager notifies plot holders that the fees for 2022-23 are £39 for half plot and £77 for a full plot for non West Swindon residents and £29 and £56 respectively for West Swindon residents.

188. **Fearless.org**

Councillors considered written feedback on work by Crimestoppers to date, a copy appears in the Minute Book as **Appendix C**.

Councillors noted the information about the event on October 24<sup>th</sup> and agreed that the banners should be distributed in the locations proposed, and on rotation thereafter condition allowing.

**RESOLVED** that Crimestoppers be asked for feedback on whether the banners and events are creating reports/contacts.

189. **Seasonal Celebrations/Events**

The Parish Manager asked the Committee for any ideas or options for future seasonal events. Councillors considered the request and agreed to open up suggestions from the public.

190. **Library Update**

The Parish Manager updated the Committee on information from the West Swindon Library

manager. No extended access currently due to software issues. No Saturday opening due to staffing issues. Otherwise running as normal. Problems with leaks and heating inside were to be reviewed with GLL. An update would be given to the Finance & Staffing Committee as part of consideration of future grant funding.

191. **Update on Backlands**

The Parish Manager advised that discussions on community planting, community orchards and allotments in other Committees such as the Planning & Environment Committee had overlapped with the purpose of the Backlands Working Party. A report was circulated, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book.

Councillors agreed that the list of backland areas could be prioritised by the Working Party to inform further plans for community planting.

Meeting closed 7.00 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee