

## **WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of online meeting of the  
**PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on **Monday 07<sup>th</sup> February 2022 6.00 pm**

### **Present:**

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (v)  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (v)  
Cllr Nigel Gibbons  
Cllr Geoff Gould  
Cllr Prakash Khaitan (Chair)  
Cllr Tim Makofu (v)  
Cllr Nick Martin  
Cllr Mary Martin

**Public:** Four (v)

### **Public Questions:**

Resident reported that many verges are being damaged heavily by the cable and utility companies. Will the Parish have to repair the vast damage left behind. Cllr M Martin indicated that all of the companies will be obligated to repair and reinstate any damages. There would be a lead officer reviewing the area. In some instances they may be restricted from moving to a new area before reparations have been completed. The Parish would support Swindon BC to take action for remedial repairs but it should happen anyway. Cllr Gattapur advised that grass verges had been restored earlier last year.

Resident reported that area by Fovant Close that had been rejected by Swindon BC for additional tree planting had now been approved following Cllr William's involvement.

Resident advised that there appeared to be a backlog of litter and flytipping with many bags being filled by volunteers and asked if progress had been made with securing CCTV for the area.

Cllr M Martin advised that it appeared that units had been acquired that did not need a power source. Swindon BC's focus was currently the town centre area however hopefully these would become more available, particular if income from fines could be reinvested.

Cllr Makofu raised that long stay parking had become a menace on Rivermead Drive. Cllr Gibbons suggested that a weight limit be introduced on parking. The Chair advised that a Swindon Borough Councillor needed to take this on.

Cllr Gould raised concern that many lights had not been upgraded and could be missed or waiting for parts e.g. Pevensey Way/Rowton Heath Way.

Cllr M Martin advised she would seek an update.

The Parish Manager raised a concern from a resident in Woodchester regarding the installation of a memorial bench in Westlea Park. This had attracted anti social behaviour, drug dealing, smoking and loss of privacy.

Cllr Gattapur advised that this had been responded to. The Committee noted that the bench was some metres away from the property boundaries and confirmed that the neighbourhood policing team had no concerns currently. The Parish Manager was advised to inform the resident that these matters need to be reported to 101 or online. Observations would be recorded and if there is evidence that indicates the bench is creating a new problem for the park area, the family would be consulted on its relocation.

Meeting start 6.24 pm

268. **Welcome and introduction**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

269. **Declarations Of Interest & Applications For Dispensation**

None

270. **Pathway maintenance**

Councillors received a report setting out issues relating to pathway maintenance, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information. Councillors agreed that responsibilities needed to be clarified as part of the review of the Deed. Complaints about condition should be passed to Swindon Borough Council. The Parish team could scrape clean and spray on a project by project basis.

271. **Shaw Ridge Primary School Safety Zone**

Councillors received information from Swindon Borough Council Highways Team relating to the temporary introduction of school safety zone measures, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information.

272. **Environmental Discussion Report**

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out a summary update from the Environmental discussion on grass cutting. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The report outlined options for the grass cutting season. The Parish Manager advised that work was ongoing on the original fields on Shaw Ridge Linear Park. The West Swindon FAB volunteers are working hard on these spaces and it was noted that in hindsight, these areas could have been cleared before wilding. The wildflower meadow is making progress and is more or less on track at the three year point. Councillors noted the update.

273. **RESOLVED** that

- a) Mowers are set to long cut settings for all areas receiving a regular cut during the season (higher height cuts than used to date)
- b) Designated areas are unmown during the cutting season – Eastleaze field
- c) Parkland designated for cut and bale cycle – Toothill Park
- d) Designated areas for reduced mowing to be on Whitehill Way, Fovant Close, Saltway Field and off Corton Crescent.

274. **RESOLVED** that in areas of public open space, community gardening is agreed where:

- a) An informal arrangement is appropriate for the activity
- b) The space to be managed is self contained within an area e.g. not a section of space
- c) It can be restored back to its previous state with low cost/resources
- d) Where it is overlooked, neighbours are in agreement on what is proposed
- e) It does not overflow or infringe on access by public footpaths, roads or parking areas
- f) Use of hand tools and activities are covered by the Parish Council's existing Risk Assessment for volunteers and open spaces

275. **Planning Report**

Councillors resolved the following applications as follows:

275.1 S/HOU/22/0107	Erection of a single storey side extension	15 Melrose Close, Eastleaze SN5 7ED <b>No objection</b>
275.2 S/HOU/22/012	Erection of two storey side, single storey front, canopy to other side and garage extensions.	6 Devereux Close, Grange Park Swindon SN5 6HE <b>No objection</b>
275.3 S/HOU/21/1960	Erection of a single storey side extension	17 Plattes Close, Shaw SN5 5SA <b>No objection</b>
275.4 S/ADV/22/0053	Display of various illuminated and non-illuminated signage.	Whitehill House, 8 Windmill Hill Business Pk Blagrove SN5 6PE <b>No objection</b>
275.5 S/22/0052	External alterations and hard/soft landscaping improvements	Whitehill House, 8 Windmill Hill Business Pk Blagrove SN5 6PE <b>No objection</b>
275.6 S/HOU/21/1842/JP	Erection of a single storey rear extension	12 Edgeworth Close, Westlea SN5 5WU <b>No objection</b>

Date of next meeting: Monday 07 March 2022 6.00 pm

Meeting closed 6.49 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair, Planning & Environment Committee

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