

**WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of the**  
**WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL held on**  
**Monday 25 April 2022 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Umar Ali (v)  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur  
Cllr Geoff Gould  
Cllr Tim Makofu (v)  
Cllr Mary Martin  
Cllr Nandini Singh  
Cllr Tim Swinyard (v)  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams

Others: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: One virtual; Four in person

**Public Questions:**

A resident reported that a Parish Operative was noted to have been spraying pesticide on a roundabout without any personal protective equipment. The operative had also parked on the bend of the road opposite causing an obstruction to passing vehicles.

The Parish Manager advised that further checks would be needed to ascertain health and safety requirements for use of pesticides. The team will be reminded about parking safely when working roadside.

A resident representative of the The Prinnels group asked the Parish if the grass around the perimeter of the pond could be left uncut to protect the local habitat.

A query was raised as to the continuation of meadow areas in Toothill Park. The Parish Manager confirmed that this would continue as per previous years.

Resident asked if Councillors would consider the value for money in the current provision of social media support and set out in Agenda Item 9.

The Chair advised that this would be considered as part of that item on the Agenda.

Cllr Suresh Gattapur chaired the meeting.

Meeting start 7.10 pm

**349. Welcome & Introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting.

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

- The Parish Manager circulated a formal request from Cllr Exell to be granted a temporary dispensation from attendance of meetings for medical treatment.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Exell be granted dispensation not to attend meetings virtually or in person up to and including 30 September 2022 in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**351. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28 March 2022 – were approved and adopted.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 04 April 2022 – were approved and adopted.

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

**RESOLVED** that Recommendation (Minute 336) that expenditure for March 2022 of 51 Payments totaling **£111,546.85** be approved.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Monday 04 April 2022 be approved and adopted.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 06 April 2022 be approved and adopted.

**355. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors**

Cllr Williams reported that Solar Together was ready. People are invited to register online between 9 May and 14 June for free and without obligation at [www.solartogether.co.uk/swindon](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/swindon).

Cllr Williams agreed to give a podcast or Q&A session for residents who would be interested in finding out more.

Cllr M Martin advised that St John Hollow at Lydiard Park was expected to be reopening for Summer bookings.

**356. Update from West Swindon Parish Councillors**

Cllr Gattapur reported that the volunteer bulb planting earlier in the year was now in full flower in Westlea Park.

Cllr Singh reported that the recent tree planting activities on Shaw Ridge in partnership with The Prinnels group had been very successful.

Cllr Gould reported that the Freshbrook group litter pick was now underway. It meets at the Village Centre at 10.00 am on the first Tuesday of the month.

**357. Social Media Update**

The Parish Manager circulated a social media report from AbbyPPR. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

Councillors considered the report. It was noted that new staff had been recruited and should be in a position to be more involved in Parish Council social media and communications in future months.

**358. Community Safety Group**

On behalf of the Chair, Cllr Nigel Gibbons, the Parish Manager advised that all Councillors were encouraged to be more involved in the Community Safety Group meetings. It was suggested that these could alternate between day time and evening meetings. The Parish Manager agreed to suggest this for the next set of meeting dates and to circulate the meeting invitation for the next meeting.

**359. Westmead Industrial Estate**

The Parish Manager advised that in response to feedback from local businesses about obstructive parking on Westmead Industrial Estate, Central Swindon North Parish Council were proposing a local consultation. An invitation for West Swindon Parish Council to engage in this as a joint consultation had been issued.

It was noted that there were parking issues across the estate. Some related to an overflow of car parking from the dance academy and on street parking of commercial vehicles. It was noted that restricting parking availability could displace parking to other parts of the estate or to the neighbouring residential area of Westlea.

**RESOLVED** that West Swindon Parish Council asks Central Swindon North Parish Council for a joint meeting with Highways to identify and share the issues and concerns.

**360. Freshbrook Community Church/Food Poverty**

The Parish Manager advised a meeting had taken place with Freshbrook Community Church to consider options for providing support to residents particularly in the Autumn and Winter months when they might appreciate a safe and warm place to visit during the day. This had prompted a meeting to be proposed with other Church representatives in West Swindon and an update would be brought to a future meeting. The resource availability at Freshbrook Community Church is significant with a wide range of rooms and spaces for community projects. It was suggested that there could be a proposal for grant funding centred around improving the thermo efficiency of the building.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager arrange for a tour of the Church premises and liaises with Freshbrook Community Church to gauge interest in drafting a grant proposal for solar panels/battery storage.

**Meeting closed 8.00 pm**

Date:.....

Signed: .....  
Chair of West Swindon Parish Council