

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2022** at **6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Sydney Smith (Chair)
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Tim Makofu (Vice Chair)
Cllr Nick Martin (v)
Cllr Mary Martin (v)
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (v)

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Two virtual, three residents present.

Public Questions:

Representatives from West Swindon Fab attended and reported their disappointment with a) recent reduction work undertaken by the Parish Team on Shaw Ridge, b) lack of preservation of areas planted by FAB c) no Parish Councillors involvement in their work.

The Parish Manager advised that this would be covered by the item on *Grounds Maintenance – Moving Forward*. Councillors indicated that there was interest and appreciation for the work of volunteers. Cllr Singh advised that she would be very interested in seeing the work of the group.

Councillors were advised that litter picking had increased and whether or not there could be an initiative to create posters for litter bins. Councillors agreed this was a good suggestion.

130. Welcome & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Sydney Smith opened the meeting and invited declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 23 May 2022:

- Cllr Gould declared that he was not a member of this Committee.

131. Peatmoor Angling Club Request for Service Update

The Parish Manager advised that Peatmoor Angling Club had recently requested assistance to remove green waste and help with reduction work. Following a site visit, it was agreed that further reduction work was likely to be outside the remit of

the Angling Club as work would generally focus on the fishing platforms only. The Parish team will assist with the removal of green waste. Councillors noted the position.

132. Grounds Maintenance – Moving Forward

The Parish Manager updated the Committee on the grounds maintenance Autumn/Winter works. The shrub and hedge reduction on soft ground has been the main focus. The Parish Manager referred to a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

A social meeting for volunteers was being organised by the office alongside a more focused session for group leaders to update each other and share information.

The Parish Manager highlighted that there did need to be a review of the relationship between volunteers and the Parish Team. The recent maintenance programme work conducted by the team can be perceived negatively by volunteer groups and this needs improved communication to resolve. From the team's perspective, work is being undertaken to open up walkways, clear lamp posts and knock back bramble, whereas volunteers often view this as unnecessary removal of the natural habitat. There is also miscommunication on planting which if not clearly identified can be missed by the team.

The Parish Manager recommended that a small group be established to review communication and reestablish the work programme of the Parish Council to ensure that volunteers understand what is happening and their time and energy is not wasted.

Residents present suggested linking with Lydiard Turkeys to see their management techniques.

Councillors noted the information and Councillors Gibbons and Singh volunteered to work on a master plan for Shaw Ridge.

133. Play Update

The Parish Manager updated that equipment for Plattes Close was expected to be delivered in November. The replacement swing for Whitehill Park had been delivered and the replacement cable for the zip wire at Camden Close had been acquired. Work would get underway shortly. Councillors noted the update.

134. Village Centre Maintenance

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out a schedule of maintenance for village centres, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. This included a summary of observations from Shaw Residents Association. Councillors noted the information.

135. Blagrove Allotments

The Parish Manager circulated a draft layout and costing for Blagrove allotments extension. A copy appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Costings were dependent on many factors but current estimates based on 6 inches of soil were £28,000. It was noted that this is available in earmarked reserves. The extension would create up to 15 extra half plots. The Committee discussed the information. It was agreed that this was the most likely option for additional allotments at the current time.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council proceeds with a soil survey as the next stage.

136. Westlea Grant Application

Councillors noted receipt of a grant application for printing a flyer promoting Westlea Christmas activities. Councillors approved the application for expenditure quoted at £120.00

137. Planning Report.

The Committee received and agreed the following:

S/HOUS/22/1543	Erection of first floor side extension	10 Pilton Close, Nine Elms
		NO OBJECTION

138. Calendar of Meetings as proposed by Cllr Keith Williams

The Parish Manager advised that a request had been received to move the Monday Planning dates due to Swindon Borough Council meeting dates. These diary conflicts were largely due to meetings being rearranged after the Queen's period of mourning. Councillors considered the request and agreed to adjust the meeting calendar accordingly. A new set of dates to be submitted to the next Full Council.

Meeting finished at 7.25 pm

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: