

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **Monday 16 July 2023 at 6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Mustafa Dayan (Virtual)
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (Virtual)
Cllr Leon Grother (Chair)
Cllr Rose Llewellyn
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Andrew Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Seven

Meeting Start: 6.00 pm

Public Questions:

Mr Roger Ogle invited Councillors to visit the various copse groups to find out more about the work of the volunteers and get more involved.
Parish Manager to circulate meeting times of the groups.

Representatives from Shaw FAB expressed disappointment at the accidental cutting of the wild flower meadow on Shaw Ridge. The Parish Manager apologised for the error.
Consideration of stakes and information plaques to be actioned.

Resident asked if the Parish Council would consider investing into deep cleaning of areas given the volume of littering and flytipping. The Chair advised this would be considered.

Resident asked if consideration could be given to a more environmentally friendly method for the display planters in the Parish given the use of plastic planters, use of bedding plants in plastic pots, peat based compost.
The Parish Manager confirmed that both plastic planters and recycled wood planters are in situ. Bedding plants are bought using peat free compost and planted into peat free compost. Plastic container pots are returned to the supplier. Wildflower/bee friendly species have been trialled in the past with differing impacts. The Chair advised it could be a matter for consideration in the future.

Resident Glynis Hales asked the Parish Council to reconsider use of verges and grassed areas for wildflower areas to promote soil sequestration. Glynis gave an invitation for a future presentation on climate change and wildflower meadows. The Chair thanked the resident. Cllr Llewellyn asked to meet Glynis to find out more.

Resident noted that some Councillors were more visibly active on community pages on facebook. The Chair advised that all Councillors monitor and comment on various feeds.

55. Welcome & Applications for Dispensation

55.1 None received.

56. Play Update

56.1 The Parish Manager gave a verbal update confirming that work on Shaw Ridge would be taking place at the end of July.

56.2 The Parish Manager confirmed that adverts for preliminary designs for Shaw Ridge and Bess Road kickabout had been placed on Contract Finder and would be reported back to the September meeting of this Committee.

56.3 It was requested that the additional opening at Shelfinch toddler area be progressed.

57. Noticeboard as requested by Cllr Llewellyn

57.1 The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out a request for an extra noticeboard at Peatmoor lake with related costs, a copy appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Parish Councillors noted the proposed site.

RESOLVED that a new noticeboard is purchased Peatmoor & Sparcells
Budget code: 4840 Noticeboards.

58. Social media

58.1 The Parish Manager shared a draft social media strategy and social media update, copies of which appear as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors reviewed the information in the report. It was noted that the new website will be the primary vehicle to enable change and improvements. Discussion included proactively sharing Parish Council posts to the other facebook feeds

59. Community Growing

59.1 The Parish Manager circulated a report detailing an update from the Community Growing/Pantry working party. A copy appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that there were two sites identified for growing which were Crawford Close former play area and Russley Close backland. The Parish Manager advised that securing a water supply was key for both sites. Councillors noted the information and agreed that active engagement from volunteers would be a necessity.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager liaises with the Working Party members to communicate with local households and the allotment waiting list to gauge interest. An update to be brought to future meeting of this Committee.

60. Community Pantry

- 60.1 Councillors received a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager indicated that the working party had noted the range of affordable and free food supplies within the parish. Communication has been established with Swindon Borough Council Housing Team on the food surplus café and the library service with a view that the West Swindon Library team may potentially support a pantry.

The report indicated that there would need to be established guidelines setting out food storage, management of expiry dates and contamination and accessibility in order to progress further. Councillors noted that there could be different approaches to the style of surplus food distribution.

RESOLVED that a working group continue to develop this initiative in more detail.

61. Parish Council Gazebo – Councillor Request

The Parish Manager shared a costings report setting out a proposal for a Parish Council gazebo, a copy appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book. Councillors considered the information and agreed the Parish Council could make use of a gazebo.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager progresses purchase of a gazebo – single roof with logo.

Budget code: 4027 Depot Furnishing

62. Clean and Green Fund

- 62.1 The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out funds accumulated in the Clean and Green fund for information. A copy appears as **Appendix F** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the updated information.

63. Planning Report

- 63.1 It was requested that Parish Councillors receive planning applications for their ward area as and when they are received. This was noted by the Parish Manager.

The Parish Council is a consultee for planning applications in West Swindon. The following applications were submitted and resolved as follows, a copy of the Planning Report appears as **Appendix G** in the Minute Book:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| S/23/0767 | Change of use from parking spaces to garden for nursery (retrospective) | Unit 601 Athena House
Welton Road
Westlea SN5 7XF |
| S/PSOLP/23/0782 | Prior approval notification for installation of 100kW solar PV system comprising 259 x Canadian Solar 380w panels, 70 panels to be located on southern facing flat roof and 189 panels on pitched southern facing roof. | Unit 300
Welton Road
Westlea
SN5 7XB |

No objections were recorded.

Meeting closed 7.19 pm.

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date:

DRAFT