

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **Monday 06 November 2023 at 6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Leon Grother (Chair)
Cllr Rose Llewellyn (virtual)
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Andrew Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Sean Wilson (virtual)

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Three (plus one virtual)

Public Questions:

Resident asked in relation to Item 10. About the proposal to cut the grass shorter.
The Parish Manager indicated that the grass is cut at 2.5 inches on routine mowing and advised that the only area that had changes proposed for 2024 was Toothill Park which will move from a cut and bale schedule to routine mowing.

Resident asked if the Parish Council was not responsible for litter picking, who was if it is Council land.
The Parish Manager advised that all litter picking is helpful for the Parish Council however large scale litter picks, collection of flytipping or creation of green waste piles requires a resource from West Swindon Parish Council which can be a challenge at times.

Resident asked if the Parish Council had any plans for limiting litter such as education
Cllr Gattapur advised that inputs had been made into schools in the past. Cllr G Philpot advised that work was ongoing to review warden schemes.

Resident asked for clarification on who was responsible for the Shaw Ridge Leisure Park car park due to accumulations of littering there.
Cllr Gattapur indicated that work was in progress through Swindon BC to clarify contact details for the management company.

Meeting start 6.21 pm,

140. Welcome, Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllr Dayan.

141. Chair's Update

The Chair advised that the litter pick at the Link Centre area had gone well. There had been a follow up meeting with some of the local groups which had covered a range of discussions including improving promotion and coordination and sharing tools.

It was requested that a 'Pride of West Swindon' proposal be added to a future agenda.

142. CCTV review as requested by Cllr Gattapur

The Parish Manager gave an update report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Cllr Gattapur introduced the report and indicated that CCTV was requested due to repeat drug dealing in and around Westlea Park. Councillors discussed the benefits and challenges with CCTV and considered whether a trial camera could be added in the first instance.

RESOLVED that

- a) CCTV be raised at the next Community Safety Group meeting for feedback on whether this would be welcomed by the neighbourhood police team
- b) Highways be contacted to ascertain whether permission would be granted to fix CCTV to existing lamp columns

143. Christmas Event

The Parish Manager confirmed that the date for the Fire Service Open Day as Saturday 16 December. It was agreed that the Parish Manager would circulate timings for Councillors to sign up to on the day as well as locating a suitable person/s to be Santa.

144. Graffiti Mural Update

The Parish Manager provided a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors considered the options and agreed there might be scope for sponsorship. It was also thought that one mural as a trial would test out whether it would be prone to vandalism or tagging. The Parish Manager also highlighted a request for high pressure washer and trailer to assist with more efficient removal of graffiti.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the purchase of a high pressure washer and trailer with a budget expenditure up to £10,000 (Machinery)

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the option to trial a mural painting in a subway subject to budgets being available and that corporate sponsorship be investigated.

6.51 pm Cllr Gattapur left the meeting.

145. Play Update

The Parish Manager updated the Committee on a number of play maintenance activities. Councillors were informed that the tender process for Bess Road kickabout was open until the end of November. A pivot part for the swing at Claypits should be delivered by the end of November which would enable the group swing to be replaced. The Parish Manager advised on costs for a replacement trampoline at Mead Park, based on the team installing it, this work would ideally take place in the Spring when the ground is drier.

RESOLVED that the trampoline at Mead Park be replaced at a cost of up to £4,500.

146. Village Centre Update

The Parish Manager indicated work had been completed to replenish the free standing planters at the village centres. Further work was needed to plant up the brick planters at Shaw and Freshbrook which would be completed over the next month. The paving at Shaw village centre did not appear to have been replaced well which has delayed the installation of a new circular bench. The team has reported this to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and will lift the paving to see if the bench could be installed.

147. Tiny Forest Update

The Parish Manager advised that recent notification had been received from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) confirming that they would not be progressing with the Tiny Forest project. Alternatively Swindon Borough Council have access to up to £5 million pounds of Trees for Climate (TfC) grant which has a more diverse and flexible set of criteria. For example, the Trees for Climate grant will pay all capital costs and include maintenance payments for 10 to 15 years (payable to the Parish Council directly and generally upfront).

SBC plan to continue with tree planting as identified at Shaw Forest park in the first instance and will work with the Parish Council for further planting over the next 12-18 months. Failed planting under previous schemes will be topped up.

For West Swindon, the Community Forest team are keen to explore the potential of 'pocket parks' which would potentially enable the Parish to access support and funding for hard landscaping ideally in some of the former play area/backland locations. This could create connected avenues and similar to Tiny Forests – pockets of tree planting throughout West Swindon. Areas for prioritisation would be Toothill and Freshbrook due to the current degrading of the historic hard landscaping.

148. Gazebo

The Parish Manager indicated that proofs had been circulated for a Parish gazebo with a suggestion to change the fabric colour to a lighter shade to enable the logo to be more visible. Councillors indicated a preference to continue with dark green with a white logo. The Parish Manager will circulate a further proof when it is available.

149. Clean and Green Fund

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The report set out a summary of Clean and Green fund over the last five years. The Parish Manager asked the Committee to note that sums accumulating in the fund often remain unspent between financial years and do not appear to provide an incentive for those volunteering as individuals. The Parish Manager indicated that it would be timely to review the fund and consider options for how it could be reshaped. Councillors agreed that funds accumulated to date should be available to those groups.

RESOLVED that the Clean and Green Fund continues in its current form up to 31 March 2024 after which time any funds accumulated are allocated to a grant pot through which groups can access any remaining funds available.

150. Planning Report

The Parish Manager shared a planning report, a copy appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Parish Council is a consultee for planning applications in West Swindon. The following applications were submitted and no objections were recorded:

APPLICATION	PLANNING APPLIED FOR	LOCATION
S/HOU/23/1170	Erection of a two storey side extension	23 Markenfield Toothill SN5 8AA

Meeting closed 7.27 pm.

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: