

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **Monday 8th January 2024 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 Tim Makofu (virtual)
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Andrew Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: None

Public Questions: None

Meeting start 6.00 pm

190. Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllr Wilson
Applications for dispensation: None.

191. Play Update

The Parish Manager advised that Bess Road replacement MUGA had now been contracted and sites visits with the contractor had taken place. A letter to residents advising on the work was circulated for information and would be hand delivered over the next week. The work was scheduled to begin at the end of January. Only one resident had submitted queries or concerns. A copy of the letter appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Other work included new fencing at Nine Elms park by Harptree Close.

192. Communications Update

The Parish Manager circulated a report summarising the promotional activities of the team, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the importance of sharing information and the process for raising awareness on Councillor surgeries and events. It was agreed that Councillors would give notice to all Councillors on any planned activities or surgeries, with a goal of two weeks notice. Ideally a timetable would be created over time. The Parish Team will continue to provide administrative support.

193. Christmas Event

The Parish Manager confirmed that the Fire Service Open Day on Saturday 16 December had very busy and the extra games were popular. A reduced number of children passed through the grotto despite a long queue. No feedback had been provided by the Fire Service to date on funds raised or the letters to Santa, although there were some indication that attendees were not from West Swindon. Councillors discussed whether there may be scope to assist other West Swindon Christmas events such as school fetes that might be more targeted.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager would secure feedback and assess what other community events are likely to take place.

194. Library Grant Review

The Parish Manager provided a letter from Swindon Borough Council library service advising on costs of the grant for 2024-25, and a report on the library statistics to date, copies of which appear as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the information. It was agreed that the Parish Manager invite a representative from the service to give a presentation/information to assist Councillors to better understand the current status and future of the Library.

195. Swindon Borough Council Blue Bags Distribution

The Parish Manager advised that Councillor Sean Wilson had requested this item. The request was for the Parish Council to seek additional blue weighted recycling bags for resident collection. The Parish Manager reported that this was not recommended as

- a) Over 500 blue bags had been distributed from the Parish Depot over a few weeks, averaging 40-50 bag collections a day. This was coupled with many phone calls and enquiries. Collectively this amounted to a significant disruption to the working day that distracted from Parish Council business. Even if the volume was significantly lower, it is difficult to manage from an upstairs office.
- b) Swindon Borough Council have indicated that residents need to order an extra weighted bag through a form online via My Account and that no further bags were available. Residents could also collect from recycling lorries.

Councillors discussed the issue.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not offer to distribute blue bags for collection if they become available.

196. Planning Report

The Parish Manager circulated a planning report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. No new applications to consider.

Meeting closed 7.20 pm.

Signed:

Chair, Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: