

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL****Legal Issues with Swindon Borough Council****Full Council – 17 July 2018****1. Introduction**

The Chair and the Clerk attended a meeting with Officers from Swindon Borough Council on 11 July 2018 to discuss all the legal issues outstanding and this report gives details on the progress at that meeting.

**2. Report Details**

- 2.1** The new Licence to Occupy Broadgreen Community Centre for a further year from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 has been drawn up under the same terms and conditions and this document was signed by the Chair at the meeting.
- 2.2** The request for the work at Broadgreen Play Area was approved in principle and SBC requested more details and they would then approve formally.
- 2.3** It was agreed that the work at Shaftesbury Lakes to repair the existing path, installing new fishing platforms and improving the side of the lake did not need permission and providing StreetSmart had no issues, the Parish Council could go ahead. StreetSmart has already confirmed that it has no objections to the work. Permission would be required for the new path and although this was approved in principle more details were requested.
- 2.4** The same position was taken with work at Lawns. It was agreed in principle, but more details were requested to give formal permission.
- 2.5** The request for 99 year leases for Town Gardens and Queens Park have been discussed with the Cabinet Member and she supports. A Decision Note now has to be drawn up and we should receive confirmation in mid September. In the meantime, SBC are keen to get started with the negotiations and want to work toward a date on 1 October 2018 as a start date for the leases. The Chair stated that once these leases were in place, then the Parish Council would be looking for the same for GWR Park and Lawns.
- 2.6** There were 2 issues still to be resolved with the play area lease which had been raised by the Parish Council's solicitor; one involved making the insurance position clearer and the other concerned contaminated land. The insurance issues were agreed and the Officers suggested that a clause be added to the Play area lease which states that if any land subject to a lease was found to be contaminated, the Parish Council would be able to break the lease and pass it back to Swindon Borough Council. That would then allow SBC to decide how the contaminated land was dealt with. This clause was acceptable to the Chair.
- 2.7** The siting of War Memorial in GWR Park was again approved in principle with a request for more details when available for formal permission.
- 2.8** The future of football pitches at Buckhurst Crescent Recreation Ground was discussed. North Swindon Parish Council were going ahead with leases for the football pitches in order to undertake improvements to their pitches and changing rooms. It was not straight forward at Buckhurst as part of the land was now going to be leased to Swindon College for a 4g pitch to be built. This still left 2

adult pitches which were used by adult football club. It was agreed that the Parish Council would do more work on this and speak to the football clubs involved before making a decision on the course of action required.

- 2.9** The Chair had attended a meeting with Eastcott Community Group about the future of Savernake Community Hall. This build is attached to a pre-school and the Ismaili Hall. The buildings are in need of major refurbishment or a total re-build. The options available to the Parish Council would be to take over a Head Lease which could either include one community centre or all community centres. More work needs to be done on this in the coming months and a report will be made to the Full Council Meeting in September.
- 2.10** The future of land at East Wichel was discussed. The view of the Parish Council that they would be interested in looking after the land as part of the Wildlife Corridor was noted. There was still at an early stage of discussion and SBC would be looking to appoint a Project Officer. SBC would do some more work on this and it was agreed that a joint working party should be set up to start work on this project.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1** That the report be noted.
- 3.2** That the additional clause on contamination for the Play Area Leases in 2.6 be approved.
- 3.3** That the Leisure & Amenities Committee look into the future of the football pitches at Buckhurst Crescent Recreation Ground and how to improve the sporting facilities.
- 3.4** That more work be carried out on the transfer of Community Centres and a report be brought back to the Full Council Meeting in September.