

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2020 at 6.30pm
in the Foundation Park, County Ground Lane, Swindon SN1 2FD

Present Cllr C Watts Chair
Cllr J Howarth Vice-Chair
Cllr S Ahmed
Cllr J Ali
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr A Hamid
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr W Horley
Cllr S James
Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr N Watts

Officers Rob Core Clerk
Jake Mee Deputy Clerk

Public Four

Public Session A member of the public said that if the meeting being held at Foundation Park was a precursor to future meetings being moved around the parish he objected, he said that the meetings should be held at the parish offices on the Broadgreen site. The Chair said that the comment had been noted.

A member of the public asked if a risk assessment could be done at the Town Gardens, Queens Park and GWR Park. Due to recent storms trees had fallen and loose branches had become stuck overhead amongst the trees, creating a danger to the public. The Clerk said that there had been a risk assessment recently and all trees within the parks had been surveyed and a works order for felling and pruning work had resulted. The parish had checked the weather forecast, which had been yellow the day before the storms. The parish had now empowered the head gardeners at Town Gardens to lock the gates if needed in future but not all the parks can be locked. Tree surgeons had been contacted but there had been a delay due to the amount of storm damage across the area, and another risk assessment will be done. The Clerk said that the comments had been noted.

The Chair thanked Swindon Town Community Foundation for hosting the Parish Council Meeting at their venue.

The Head of the Foundation, John Holloway gave a presentation along with slides, he said that the Foundation is an independent charitable foundation and every professional football club in the country has a community trust or foundation. The Swindon Town Community Foundation is the charitable arm of the football club delivering community projects and programmes to as many people as possible; currently delivering to over 3,000 participants on a weekly basis, from children as young as 2 and 3 on the tiny tots and mini foundation sessions up to women and men in their 70's and 80's on an extra time programme. The foundation is delivering on four main themes from sports participation, education, health and social inclusion. The facility fund started over 15 years ago and half a million pounds was raised by community fund raising events and also support from partners and sponsors. A significant amount of money was needed to

secure match funding to build the facility, and the foundation received money from the Premier League, Sport England, the Nigel Eady trust and Section 106 money from Swindon Borough Council the foundation also received fantastic support from many local companies. The Foundation have their own academy with access to opportunities to impact and grow the community including 55 – 65+ Healthy lifestyle. There is a Friday night football programme aimed at local groups and the aim is to impact and involve as many people as possible. The foundation looked forward to working with South Swindon Parish Council to support each other's organisations on their aims and objectives going forward.

1061 Apologies

Cllr E Heavens
Cllr P Herring
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr M Strinkovsky

Not Present

Cllr V Ayris

1062 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

1063 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14 January 2020 with amendment be approved as a correct record.

1064 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 21 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

1065 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 21 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

1066 Full Council Extraordinary Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Extraordinary meeting held on 28 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

1067 Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 04 February 2020 with amendment be approved as a correct record.

1068 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 04 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

1069 Internal Audit 2019/20 – Quarter 3

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report from the Internal Auditor a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Deputy Clerk said that there had been a list of good practice of work being done well and two recommendations from the internal auditors which would be actioned.

The auditors said that the Parish are increasing services and will be growing significantly, but the parish had a good understanding of the implications this will have on staffing needs and requirements for specialist advice and policies going forward. The auditors advised that they would decrease their visits to three times a year, to six, nine and twelve month intervals. The Deputy Clerk said that the use of the current internal auditors will be reviewed at the next annual meeting in May 2020 and a decision can be made

whether to continue using the same company. The Deputy Clerk will provide a report relating to the available options.

Councillors discussed the process around recommendation of Internal auditors.

RESOLVED to adopt the report from the Internal Auditor

1070 **Chair's Report**

The Chair gave a verbal report and said that he and Councillor Hopkins had previously met with the Swindon Town in the Community Foundation and had had discussions regarding how the parish council could work with their facility the programmes they run and what could be done working together going forward. The parish are currently in the recruitment process of employing a youth worker to work with an outsourced youth worker from North Swindon who has already worked with the foundation and increasing the programmes. The foundation would like to outreach more than they do at the moment and to see more work being done in Park South, Park North, the Walcot area and beyond. The parish have agreed with the foundation to create a joint working party, and the parish have a certain amount of funds that can be used. If the parish have a vehicle such as this, it allows better value for money and at the same time helps the foundation to reach out to the community which can only be good. Some councillors are interested in joining a working group which would be set up and taken to the next full council meeting. This would provide a formal way of pushing decisions forward and an ideal way of working with the foundation. The parish have worked with the foundation already by litter picking the area around the County Ground. The parish then pick up and dispose of the bags, the parish have also supplied litter bins. The parish want to do more work with the foundation out in the community. It is not about producing professional football players, it is about creating well rounded individuals, working with the 3,000 children in our area as most live in the parish but we also need to ensure that our funds are primarily for our parishioners and elderly programmes to combat isolation.

1071 **Response Working Party Update**

The Chair of the Responses Working Party said that no meetings had been scheduled.

The Chair and Councillors discussed future meetings being held quarterly.

RESOLVED that future Response Working Party meetings would be held quarterly

The meeting closed at 07:12pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council