

SOUTH SWINDON
PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 at 6.30pm
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr C Watts (Chair)
Cllr J Lowry (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Ali
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr N Burns-Howell
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr J Miah
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr J Short
Cllr B Thompson
Cllr N Watts

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Ruth Wakeley (Parish Administrative Assistant)

Public Fourteen

Public Session Mrs Freeguard asked if something could be done about children getting on the roof of Broadgreen Community Centre.

Mr Cheesley explained that he lived in flats in Beckhampton Street and that they were not eligible for residents parking. This meant that they had nowhere to park their vehicles and were asking if they could use a floor of the Spring Gardens car park. The Chair asked for Ward Councillors to deal with the issue and take up with Swindon Borough Council as it was not within the remit of the Parish Council. The Ward Councillor could then bring the issue back to the Parish Council for their support if it was required.

Mr Dempster referred to the amount of fly-tipping and ant-social behaviour in the Broadgreen area and asked if additional lighting could be installed and bulbs be replaced in the existing street lights to try to prevent it. He was constantly disturbed by late night drinkers outside his property and when he phoned the Police they never responded. He also asked if the planter could be removed as it was used as a seat by the drinkers.

Ms Fernandes asked if the Parish Council had been consulted about the proposals for the town centre which were being displayed at the Central Library. The Clerk stated that a formal consultation had not been received by the Parish Council.

Mr Townsend said that he had seen reports about drug waste in GWR Park and that daily clean ups were taking place and he wanted to know if the Parish Council would be paying for this. The Chair confirmed that this was the responsibility of the Parish Council and that StreetSmart had carried out the work. Mr Townsend also referred to his name

being mentioned in an email to serve on an Openness Working Party which he knew nothing about. Cllr Burns-Howell apologised for quoting his name without his prior knowledge and approval.

Mr Finch spoke about residents parking in the area around Euclid Street. Cllr S Pajak confirmed that he had looked in Mr Finch's complaint and that Swindon Borough Council had stated that the signs were incorrect and would be changed. Cllr S Pajak would chase this and if necessary come back to the Parish Council.

105 Apologies

Cllr M Dickinson
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr A Hawkins
Cllr T Robson
Cllr I Shaikh
Cllr D Wood

106 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

107 Minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr N Watts referred to Minute 63 and proposed that the Calendar of Meetings be amended to remove the meetings in August 2017.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Calendar of Meetings be amended to remove the meetings in August 2017;
- b) that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 20 June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

108 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 27 June 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

109 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 27 June 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

110 Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 11 July 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

111 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 11 July 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

112 Information from Borough Councillors

There was no information from Borough Councillors.

113 Parish Council Representatives' Report

There were no report reports from Councillors.

114 Chair's Report

The Chair had no report.

115 Transfer of Services from Swindon Borough Council (Min.65 – 20.06.17)

The Clerk submitted a report regarding the Deed for the transfer of services from Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The report provided details of the advice received from the solicitor and the suggested changes to be made to the Deed. Cllr Milner-Barry pointed out that Schedule 1 A 1) under Street Cleaning should also state 'where it is reasonably practicable for the Parish Council to remove'.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council requests Swindon Borough Council to make the changes to the Deed as outlined in 2.2 of Appendix A and the changes detailed above;
- b) that the Parish Council share the advice with North Swindon Parish Council.

The Services Working Party submitted a report regarding services for 2018/19 a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The report contained recommendations from the Services Working Party regarding the delivery of services for the remainder of this year and the next financial year.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council start the process to employ an Environment Officer to carry out the duties listed in paragraph 2.4 of Appendix B;
- b) that the Parish Council agree in principle to take over the maintenance of the Town Gardens and Queens Park in 2018/19, subject to more information being provided about the work and the costings before a final decision be made.

116 Transfer of Assets from Swindon Borough Council (Min.66 – 20.06.17)

The Assets Working Party submitted a report regarding the transfer of assets a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The report included a copy of the standard lease for the transfer of assets which had been reviewed by the Asset Working Party and a number of recommendations made.

Cllr Burns-Howell asked if the transfer of assets to the Parish Council by freehold was no longer an option. The Chair explained that a decision to pass the freehold would need to be made by Cabinet at Swindon Borough Council and although it was still possible for the Parish Councils to insist, it would mean that the transfer of assets could be held up for months and the result might still be that Swindon Borough Council would only transfer by lease. He recommended that the Parish Council only consider 99 years leases and not a Tenancy at Will which gave the Parish Council no security of tenure.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council approves the changes to the standard lease that appears as Appendix C and obtains a new lease from Swindon Borough Council which includes the amendments;
- b) that the Parish Council firstly obtains leases for the transfer of the play areas;
- c) that the Parish Council obtains legal advice from their solicitor before the final lease is agreed by the Finance & Staffing Committee.

117 Risk Management (Min.64 – 20.06.17)

The Clerk submitted a draft Risk Management Report a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The Clerk explained that is document would be expanded during the year as the Parish Council took on more responsibilities.

RESOLVED that the draft Risk Management Report that appears as Appendix D be approved.

118 **Change of Name of Parish Council (Min.67 – 20.06.17)**

The Clerk submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The report provided details of the progress towards the change of name of the Parish Council and the request by Swindon Borough Council for the Parish Council to carry out a consultation.

Councillors noted the process and that the Parish Council were now in a position to make the formal request to Swindon Borough Council.

119 **Fire Safety in Flats (Min.61 – 20.06.17)**

The Clerk submitted an email the Head of Property Maintenance at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The email answered the questions posed by the Parish Council following the discussion at the Full Council Meeting on 20 June 2017. The Clerk confirmed that Robert Buckland MP was awaiting a report from Swindon Borough Council before responding in full.

Cllr Thompson stated that he was still unhappy about some of the responses to the questions and in particular the safety of disable people, especially those that are deaf. Councillor were asked to send additional questions to the Clerk and they would be collated and send on to Swindon Borough Council.

(Cllr Ali left the meeting at the end of this item and Cllr Allsopp arrived at the meeting during the item)

120 **Library Working Party**

The Chair stated that the Parish Council had been successful in their bid to run Old Town Library and that a Library Working Party needed to be set up to look at the detail of the running of the library and the refurbishment.

RESOLVED

- a) that a Library Working Party be set up to make recommendations on the libraries in the parish;
- b) that the Library Working Party reports to Leisure & Amenities Committee;
- c) that the Members of the Services Working Party be Cllrs Burns-Howell, Hopkins, Milner-Barry, D Pajak, S Pajak, Philpot, Short, C Watts;
- d) that the Terms of Reference for the Library Working Party be agreed at the next meeting of the Council.

121 **Community Safety Forum**

The Chair referred to the last meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee where Inspector Dave Hobman had spoken about the lack of a community forum in South Swindon which would bring together local Councillors, Residents' Associations and the services to discuss issues within the community and find solutions.

The Chair said that he would contact the other Parish Councils in the South to see whether they would be interested in supporting and report back to the next meeting.

122

Parish Office

The Clerk submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.

The report provided details of the shortcomings of the current Parish Office at the Old Reference Library in terms of the IT equipment and telephones. The report also highlighted the need to provide support in the running of Broadgreen Community Centre which could be provided far easier if the Parish Office was on site.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves in principle to move the Parish Office to Broadgreen Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed.....
Date.....
Chair of the Council

DRAFT