

SOUTH SWINDON
PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2017 at 6.30pm
in the Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr N Hopkins (Chair)
Cllr B Thompson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr N Burns-Howell
Cllr M Dickinson
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr J Short
Cllr C Watts
Cllr N Watts

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

Public Three

Public Session There were no public questions or comments.

147 **Apologies**
Cllr J Ali
Cllr A Hawkins
Cllr J Howarth
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr T Robson
Cllr I Shaikh
Cllr D Wood

148 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

149 **Town Gardens**
The Clerk submitted emails dated 17 July 2017 from the Asset Strategy Manager at Swindon Borough Council, dated 17 July 2017 from the Property Asset Manager at Swindon Borough Council and dated 31 July 2017 from the Asset Strategy Manager at Swindon Borough Council, copies of which appear as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The email provided details of issues concerning the Bowl Changing Rooms, the Café and the removal of an old beech tree.

There was some discussion about the current running of both Town Gardens and Queens Park including the deterioration of facilities. Councillors were concerned that issues were being brought to them individually and that a clear business plan needed to be drawn up for the future management of both parks.

RESOLVED

- a) that a Gardens Working Party be set up to draw up a Business Plan for the running of parks within the parish;
- b) that the Gardens Working Party reports to Leisure & Amenities Committee;
- c) that the Members of the Gardens Working Party be Cllrs Burns-Howell, Dixon, S Pajak, Short, Thompson, N Watts, C Watts;
- d) that the Terms of Reference for the Gardens Working Party be agreed at the next meeting of the Council.

(Cllr J Miah arrived at the meeting during this item)

150 Legal Transfer of Open Space and Play Area – Royal Mead (Min.90 – 11.07.17)

The Clerk submitted an email dated 17 July 2017 from the Asset Strategy Manager at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The email informed the Parish Council that there was no Section 106 funding remaining for Angel Ridge Play Area, which was noted by Councillors.

151 Campers at Queens Park & Lawns (Min.93 – 11.07.17)

The Clerk submitted an email dated 1 August 2017 from the Head of Housing and Community Safety at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The email gave details of latest position regarding the campers at Lawns, which was noted by Councillors.

152 Polo Ground Arboretum

The Clerk submitted an email dated 2 August 2017 from the Ranger Team and Volunteering Supervisor at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The email gave details of the maintenance of the Polo Ground Arboretum. Cllr Short stated that he had asked for this to be put on the agenda and he was concerned about the lack of maintenance of the site especially as residents had paid to plant the trees, which were never strimmed or the paths cleared. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the Grounds Service Manager at Swindon Borough Council which Cllrs Hopkins and Short would attend and report back.

153 Radnor Street Cemetery

The Clerk submitted emails dated 7 August 2017 from the Asset Strategy Manager at Swindon Borough Council and dated 21 August 2017 from Cllr Dixon copies of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The emails gave details of the maintenance of the Radnor Street Cemetery which was still the responsibility of the cemetery department at Swindon Borough Council and had not been transferred to the Parish Council. Cllr Dixon informed Councillors that the cemetery had been strimmed in the last week, but he said that he was still unhappy about the way the war graves were looked after. Cllr S Pajak added that there were a number of famous people buried in the cemetery. The Clerk was asked to raise the concerns of the Parish Council with the relevant department at Swindon Borough Council

and find out whether there was a standard required by the War Graves Commission and report back.

(Cllr Short left the meeting at the end of this item)

154 Spring Bedding Plants

The Clerk submitted emails dated 25 July 2017 and 21 August 2017 from the Grounds Operations Supervisor at Swindon Borough Council copies of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The emails gave details of the costs for spring planting in the parks and other areas of open space in the parish, including work to the bed at Marlborough Road and Scotby Avenue. The Parish Council had also received a request from West Swindon Parish Council to contribute towards the planting at Mannington.

Cllr Firmin said that the Parish Council were being asked to consider one-off requests, but there needed to be a plan work looking at all beds within the parish.

RESOLVED

- a) that the quotation for the spring planting of parks and other beds totalling £10,216.65 be accepted and the cost be met from the Planting Budgets;
- b) that the Parish Council will not contribute towards the cost of planting in West Swindon;
- c) that the Clerk obtain more details of the planting for the Marlborough Road bed and the decision for planting be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair;
- d) that a plan be draw up for future work to beds in the parish.

155 Badbury Park Community Centre

Cllr Dickinson reported that he had not attended the meeting about the future of a Badbury Park Community Centre and Cllrs Hawkins and Short would make a report to the next Committee Meeting.

156 Library Working Party

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

The report contained an update of the progress towards the running and refurbishment of Old Town Library and included a number of recommendations. Cllr N Watts asked the Library Working Party to look into the cost for the mural and Cllr Milner-Barry asked that the Wednesday Book Club be accommodated in the future.

RESOLVED

- a) that the opening hours for Old Town Library from 1 September 2017 be
Tuesday 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 10.30am to 4.30pm
Friday 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Saturday 10.00am to 1.00pm;
- b) that the member of staff at Old Town Library should be DBS checked;
- c) that the allocation of books be 60% children books and 40% adult books;
- d) that the running refurbishment details contained in 2.4 to 2.9 of the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

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