

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2017 at 6.30 pm
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr B Thompson (Chair)
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr N Burns-Howell
Cllr M Dickinson
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr A Hawkins
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr J Howarth
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr C Watts

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

Public One

Public Session There was no questions or comments from the member of the public present.

250

Apologies

Cllr N Watts (Vice-Chair)
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr J Short

Not Present

Cllr J Ali
Cllr T Robson
Cllr I Shaikh
Cllr D Wood

251

Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

252

Planning Applications

The responses made by the Chair and Vice-Chair and set out below were approved retrospectively.

252.1

S/17/0665/TB

Former Aspen House
Temple Street

Outline application for the erection of a mixed use development comprising up to 118no. flats and commercial (Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 & B1 (a)) – All matters reserved

DECISION: Objection for the following reasons:

1. Not in keeping with the street scene in terms of height of the building. The former building on this site was 6 storeys in height and the plans for the building of 13 storey in this location would dominate the surrounding area. The height should be similar to the height of the former building.
2. Impact on properties in surrounding street in terms of reduction in daylight and privacy. The height of the proposed building will take all the light from the small shops and flats in Temple Street and will overlook the surrounding properties.
3. The number of flats to be contained within the building will mean that they will be very small in size. The Parish Council would like to see a better-quality design that is more suitable for people to live in.
4. There was no assessment of car parking for the development. It is understood that Swindon Borough Council's Policy does not require car parking to be addressed for new housing in the town centre, but this document is dated 2007 and an urgent review is needed of this policy. Many of the nearby car parks are closed at night and parking for residents and visitors would be a problem.
5. The Parish Council questions why the contribution to affordable housing either on or off site would make the development unsustainable and would like to see an independent assessment that this was the case.
6. Impact on local services not sustainable. It known that local services like doctors and schools in the town centre do not have the capacity to take on more people.

The Parish Council supports more residential properties in the town centre and the development of this site in particular. However, they would want to see a new building that was more in keeping with the local area.

252.2 **S/17/1175/HC** Conversion of 1no. dwelling to 3no. flats and
19 Station Road erection of a single storey rear extension
SN1 2BB

DECISION: No Objection

253 **Planning Applications delegated to the Chair & Vice-Chair**

The Clerk submitted reports containing the delegated responses of the Chair and Vice-Chair a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Chair reminded Councillors that if they had issues with a Planning Application in their Ward they should contact the Chair and Vice-Chair to give them their views.

RESOLVED that the responses of the Chair and Vice-Chair that appear as Appendix A be approved.

254 **Planning Decisions**

The Clerk submitted for information reports containing the decisions made by Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

255 **Planning Applications to be considered by Swindon Borough Council**

The Chair stated that he had attended the Swindon Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting on 10 October 2017. He reported that he had spoken at the meeting giving the view of the Parish Council on the Planning Applications for Aspen House and Market Hall

and the Vice-Chair spoke about the Planning Application for Croft Road. Despite the views of the Parish Council, all the Planning Applications were granted.

The Chair referred to the situation where other Councillors attended Swindon Borough Councils meetings and spoke although they were not representing the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to draw up a document for approval which contained a Protocol to cover this situation. This would be brought back to a future meeting for approval.

256 **Transfer of Land – Walton Close, Park South**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 25 September 2017 from the Property Assets at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The email referred to the sale of land by Swindon Borough Council to a local resident and asked for the view of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the sale of land by Swindon Borough Council.

257 **Tree Planting in the Parish**

Cllr Milner-Barry reported that she had attended a meeting with Cllr N Watts, the Clerk and the Landscape Architect and Tree Officer at Swindon Borough Council.

The Landscape Architect reported that the cost of planting new trees in pavements would be £2-3K per tree. The main problem with the planting of new trees is the future maintenance in terms of watering and this would have to be added to the StreetSmart duties.

There was very little budget for trees within Swindon Borough Council and where trees are removed due to being dead or diseased, there is no funds for them to be replaced. Cllr Milner-Barry stated that tree planting should be given a higher priority as it mitigated the poor air quality.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should undertake a survey of where trees are missing in roads and where new trees could be planted. The survey would be advertised on the website and in the next Newsletter. Following the survey, the Parish Council can draw up a plan of tree replacement.

258 **Parking Issues in Farnborough Road**

Cllr C Watts reported that a number of local residents had been in contact with him about parking issues in the Farnborough Road area, where parking spaces were at a premium. It was also not helped by people parking to use the allotment site in Cranmore Avenue.

There appeared to be a possible solution by using grasscrete on existing grass verges to make them suitable for parking. He had spoken to an officer in Highways at Swindon Borough Council and they had no objection to the scheme. He would now speak to HRA as they owned the land and obtain some costings to be considered at a future meeting.

259 **Town Centre Highway Improvements**

Cllr Firmin and Cllr Thompson reported on a meeting they had attended on 11 October 2017 and hosted by Swindon Borough Council Highway officers. A copy of the presentation appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Cllr Firmin expressed his concerns about the scheme and in particular the use of Fleming Way as the new bus depot.

Councillors asked whether it would be possible for Swindon to ban petrol and diesel cars

from the town centre in the same way as Oxford and the Clerk was asked to put forward this suggestion.

260 Transport Requirements for Development Presentation – 26 October 2017

The Clerk submitted an email dated 13 October 2017 from the Senior TDM Engineer at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The email referred to a meeting to be held on 26 October 2017 and invited 2 Councillors to attend. It was agreed that Cllrs Burns-Howell and Firmin would attend.

261 StreetSmart Figures

The Clerk submitted a report containing StreetSmart Phone Figures from April to August 2017 a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

Councillors said that they were pleased to see the figures and asked if the figures for grass cutting and trees and shrub maintenance could be separated in the future.

262 Mill Lane – Speed Limit

The Clerk submitted an email dated 18 October 2017 from the Traffic Engineer at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.

The email contained details of a proposal to reduce the speed limit in Mill Lane that was not covered by the 20mph hour limit to 30mph.

RESOLVED that the proposal to introduce a 30mph speed limit to Mill Lane as detailed in Appendix F be supported.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm

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