

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 at 6.30pm  
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

**Present** Cllr C Watts (Chair)  
Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr J Ali  
Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr N Burns-Howell  
Cllr M Dickinson  
Cllr P Dixon  
Cllr J Firmin  
Cllr M Gladman  
Cllr N Hopkins  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr D Pajak  
Cllr S Pajak  
Cllr T Philpot  
Cllr T Robson  
Cllr B Thompson  
Cllr N Watts  
Cllr D Wood

Cllr A Amin (Ward Councillor)

**Officers** Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

**Public** Five

**Public Session** Mr Townsend asked if it would be possible to have a copy of the minutes of the last meeting with the agenda. The Chair agreed that 5 copies would be made available for people to read and they were available on the website.

Ms Ford said that the weeds in Reading Street and Oxford Street which Mr Core had confirmed at the last meeting would be done the following week had still not been done. The Clerk was asked to contact StreetSmart about this and find out the reason for the delay. Ms Ford also expressed her concerns about the drugs being used in the GWR Park and the Railway Village and she had reported this to the Police. Ms Ford referred to the planter at Faringdon Road & London Street which was planted by volunteers and she had heard that the Parish Council had asked for it to be taken away. The Chair confirmed that this was not the case and that the Parish Council wanted to encourage planters in the parish. Ms Ford referred to the change of an allotment and Cllr Dixon confirmed that this was being sorted out.

Mr Walter asked if any response had been received about the building standards for the new houses in Euclid Street as he did not believe that there was insufficient fire resistant between the separate properties. The Clerk was asked to chase this matter up.

Mrs Brownlee asked about unused Section 106 funding and whether this would now be transferred to the Parish Council. The Chair stated that he understood that a review of Section 106 funds was being undertaken by Swindon Borough Council and he would

chase up the results with Mark Walker. Mr Townsend stated that there were some Section 106 funds for parking issues at Old Walcot and he had been told that this had been timed out and wanted to know whether that meant that it was still available. The Chair said that he would find out more detail about this.

Mr Townsend asked about when trees in the pavements would be cut back and the Chair confirmed that this was the work of Swindon Borough Council and not the Parish Council. The Chair also confirmed that Swindon Borough Council had very few funds for tree maintenance and that only urgent work was carried out. Mr Townsend asked if the Parish Council would be repairing the pathways at Lawns and the Chair confirmed that this would be the responsibility of the Parish Council in the future and something that would deal with.

Mrs Vanguard asked about the issues with the MUGA at Broadgreen Community Centre and the Chair informed her that the Parish Council were waiting for a quotation in order to get this work completed.

**282      Apologies**

Cllr A Hawkins  
Cllr J Miah  
Cllr I Shaikh  
Cllr J Short

**283      Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None.

**284      Minutes of the previous meetings**

Cllr Hopkins referred to Minute No. 233 and asked whether any advice had been received from NALC. The Clerk confirmed that NALC had responded but the reply only stated that Swindon Borough Council had the power to decide whether to support a name change and that they had not acted outside of the legislation.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 17 October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**285      Finance & Staffing Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 24 October 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

**286      Planning & Environment Committee**

Cllr Ali stated that he had given his apologies, but this had not been recorded. Cllr Wood asked about the next StreetSmart report and the Clerk confirmed that this would be on the agenda of the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that with the amendment to apologies the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 24 October 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

**287      Leisure & Amenities Committee**

Cllr Ali and Cllr Gladman stated that they had given their apologies, but this had not been recorded.

Cllr Pajak pointed out how confusing it was to work out whether maintenance issues were the responsibility of the Parish Council or Swindon Borough Council and the public were not finding it easy.

**RESOLVED** that with the amendment to apologies the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 7 November 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

**288** **Planning & Environment Committee**

Cllr Ali stated that he had given his apologies, but this had not been recorded.

Cllr Pajak stated that Planning Application No S/17/1227/RAAD for the improvement of sports facilities at the County Ground had been considered at the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee on 24 October 2017 and the decision was to refuse Planning Permission.

**RESOLVED** that with the amendment to apologies the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 24 October 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

**289** **Information from Borough Councillors**

Cllr Amin reported that there had been a spate of burglaries and car break-ins in the area and asked Councillors to make the public aware. He had also received reports of an old couple sleeping rough in the Old Walcot area and this was being dealt with by Swindon Borough Council.

**290** **Parish Council Representatives' Report**

There were no report reports from Councillors.

**291** **Chair's Report**

The Chair reported that he and the Clerk had met with the Director of Law at Swindon Borough Council to resolve the boundary between South Swindon and Nythe, Eldene & Liden Parish Councils. There were 3 maps in existence which all showed a different boundary, but the main issue seemed to be that the map used for the order showed the boundary as being Shaftesbury Avenue. The Chair of Nythe, Eldene & Liden Parish Council had indicated that he also wanted the boundary to be the western edge of the lake. As both Parish Councils were in agreement, the Director of Law indicated that if this was confirmed to him by both parties, the boundary could be changed with immediate effect and then amended by Swindon Borough Council at the next review. The Chair said that this was being done and then the Parish Council would be able to obtain quotations for the works at Shaftesbury Lakes.

The Chair referred to the 2 newly created Polling Districts within the parish by Swindon Borough Council which the Parish Council had not been informed about. He had been informed by the Monitoring Officer that the new Polling Districts will be reviewed at the next boundary review to bring them into existing districts. Cllr Firmin asked the Clerk to find out whether the electors in the new Polling Districts had a vote at the election for the Parish Council.

The Chair reminded Councillors that the Old Town Lights event would be held on 26 November 2017 starting at 1.00pm. The Broadgreen Christmas Fayre would take place on Saturday 25 November 2017 from 9.00am and he asked Councillors to support this and the reopening of Old Town Library would take place on Saturday 9 December 2017 at 2.00pm.

**292** **Community Safety Forum**

The Clerk submitted the draft minutes of the Community Safety Forum Meeting held on 31 October 2017 a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book

The Chair reported that the first meeting of the Community Safety Forum for South Swindon which was arranged by the Parish Council had been a great success. It had been well attended by the other Parish Councils. The invite may need to be extended to

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council in the future. The idea of the meeting was to bring all Parish Councils together on a regular basis to discuss issues, as it was not possible for the Police to attend all the meetings of Parish Councils. This may be extended to include other groups and organisations.

The meeting established the need for the public to phone 101 to report crime and Cllr Pajak made Councillors aware of a poster that had been produced by Wiltshire Police. It was agreed that Community Safety information should be added to the website.

The Chair asked Councillors to inform him of item they would like to be discussed at future meetings.

**293 Swindon 105 Community Radio**

The Chair stated that he had been interviewed on the radio the week before and this was going to be a regular spot. The radio station had a satellite booth at Liden Library and they were looking for additional premises near the town centre. The Chair proposed that the outside room which was separate from the building could be a possible solution, as it was possible to access without needing entry to the building. Councillors agreed that this should be explored with Swindon 105 Community Radio.

**294 Swindon Borough Council's Codes and Protocols**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 13 November 2017 from Committee and Members Services at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book

Cllr Burns-Howell suggested that the Parish Council should have a Whistle-Blowing Policy for staff and Councillors. The Clerk was asked to draw up a Policy for consideration at a future meeting.

There were no other comments on the other codes and protocols.

**295 Council Tax Care Leavers Consultation 2017**

The Clerk submitted a consultation paper from Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The consultation paper referred to Council Tax discount for Care Leavers.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the Parish Council supports that Council Tax discounts should be given to Care Leavers until the age of 21;
- b) that the Parish Council supports that further discounts should be available for Care Leavers under the age of 25 if it can be shown that the payment of Council Tax would cause undue hardship.

**296 Engagement with Community Groups & Residents' Associations**

The Chair stated that this item would be deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Short was not present.

**297 Admission of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order 3d) that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw; the reason being Staffing Matters.

**298**     **Staffing Matters**

The Clerk reported that an Environment Officer had been recruited and he would be starting at the beginning of December 2017.

The Chair informed Councillors of the latest position regarding the recruitment of the Clerk and that it was not possible to make the appointment at the moment. The Clerk confirmed that she would remain in post until the end of January 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

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

DRAFT