

**SOUTH SWINDON**  
**PARISH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017 at 6.30pm  
in the Main Hall, Broadgreen Community Centre

**Present** Cllr N Hopkins (Chair)  
Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr P Dixon  
Cllr J Firmin  
Cllr M Gladman  
Cllr J Howarth  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr J Miah  
Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr T Philpot  
Cllr C Watts  
Cllr N Watts

**Officers** Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

**Public** Two

**Public Session** There were no public questions or comments.

**211** **Apologies**

Cllr B Thompson (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr J Ali  
Cllr N Burns-Howell  
Cllr M Dickinson  
Cllr A Hawkins  
Cllr D Pajak  
Cllr S Pajak  
Cllr T Robson  
Cllr I Shaikh  
Cllr J Short  
Cllr D Wood

Councillors stated that they were concerned that Members were not giving apologies when they could not attend meetings and asked the Clerk in future to record those Councillors that had not given apologies as not sent.

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

None

**213** **New Museum & Art Galley Project**

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Rod Hebden had been delayed in London and may not arrive in time to make the presentation.

**214 Consultation on the Draft Swindon Playing Pitch Strategy (Min.44 – 06.06.17)**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 30 August 2017 from the Planner (Planning Policy) at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The email included details of the consultation on the draft Swindon Playing Pitch Strategy which was available for comment online. Councillors agreed that due to size of the document it would be more appropriate for the Chair to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

**215 Badbury Park Community Centre (Min.155 – 12.09.17)**

The Clerk submitted for information a paper from the Badbury Park Community Centre Group a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Chair stated that as both Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Short were not present at the meeting this item would be deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

**216 Allotment Holders Meeting**

The Chair reported on the Allotment Holders Meeting that was held on 21 September 2017.

The meeting had been well attended with approximately 80 people present. The public were generally supportive of the approach taken by the Parish Council, but there were some non-parishioners at the meeting that expressed their anger of the new pricing structure. The meeting had elected 3 allotment holders to sit on the Allotment Working Party and there were still a number of issues to be addressed.

Cllr C Watts reported that someone, impersonating an officer, had been visiting allotment sites and informing allotment holders that the Parish Council intended to sell off all the allotment land. The Chair made it clear that this was not the case and that the Parish Council wished to invest and improve the allotment sites.

(Cllr J Miah and Cllr M J Miah arrived during this item)

**217 Hatton Grove Allotment Site**

The Clerk submitted an email from a local resident a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The email contained a request from a local resident to purchase part of the allotments to increase the size of their rear garden. The Clerk asked Councillors to make a policy decision regarding this sort of request.

**RESOLVED** that a policy decision be made that no allotment land would be sold to private individuals.

**218 Saltex Exhibition 2017**

The Clerk explained that this exhibition was worth attending in the future as it was the major trade event of the year. It was agreed that the Chair and the Clerk should consider attending the event in 2018.

**219 MUGA at Broadgreen**

Cllr C Watts reported that there were issues with the MUGA at Broadgreen Community Centre with the MUGA as the safety surfacing had not been laid up to the goals mouths and the grass had worn away.

The Clerk stated that she would arrange for StreetSmart to look at the site and give advice of what could be done to improve the situation. This would be brought back to the next meeting of this committee to consider further.

**220 Improvement Work to Shaftesbury Lakes**

Cllr C Watts reported that he had been contacted by the Angling Club at Shaftesbury Lake who are keen to reintroduce fishing at the lake and also maintain the lake in terms of algae and litter. They would be starting up a new group which would be Friends of Shaftesbury Lake and would include people that wanted to help, not just anglers. The platform in the lake also needed attention, along with the paths.

It was agreed that Cllr C Watts and the Clerk should put together a plan and bring that back to the next meeting of this committee for consideration.

**221 Plans for GWR Park**

Cllr C Watts reported that he had met with CARIG and they were keen to refurbish the toilet block in GWR Park and use it for a base for volunteers. The group had already raised £12,000 to carry out the work, but were having problems getting permission from Swindon Borough Council because of the future transfer of assets to the Parish Council.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Swindon Borough Council to resolve the issue and Cllrs Firmin, Hopkins and Howarth would attend.

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm

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

Following the close of the meeting, Mr Rod Hebden arrived and made a presentation to those Councillors that were still present.

Mr Hebden spoke about the plans for the new Art Gallery and Museum that would be sited on Princes Street. The current Museum had approximately 10,000 visitors a year and it was anticipated that the new building would have 100,000 visitors a year.

A bid for Lottery Funding was due to be submitted by 1 December 2017 and the response would be made 3 months after that date. Last year the Lottery had £40 million to give out and had bids for £230 million, so he appreciated that making a successful bid was going to be difficult.

The new Art Gallery and Museum would form part of the town centre regeneration planned by Swindon Borough Council.