

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2017 at 7.00 pm
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr C Watts (Chair)
Cllr J Ali
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr N Burns-Howell
Cllr M Dickinson
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr A Hawkins
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr J Miah
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr I Shaikh
Cllr B Thompson
Cllr N Watts
Cllr D Wood

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Ruth Wakeley (Administration Assistant)
Gifty Tawiah (Community Centre Development Manager)

Public Five

Public Session Mr R Walters asked 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 responded that the Planning Department had confirmed that the building conformed to current Building Regulations and she had informed Mr Walters of this as soon as a response was received. Mr Walter said that the Fire Service was aware of the serious issue of relying on plaster board for fire resistance. The Chair suggested that, as this was a development by Swindon Borough Council, that he ask a Ward Councillors to take this matter further and Cllr Stan Pajak offered to take this up with the Borough Architect.

346 **Apologies**
Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr T Robson
Cllr J Short

347 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None.

348 Minutes of the previous meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 21 November 2017 be approved as a correct record.

349 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 28 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

350 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 28 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

351 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 12 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

352 Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 12 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

353 Information from Borough Councillors

There were no reports from Councillors.

354 Parish Council Representatives' Report

There were no reports from Councillors.

355 Chair's Report

The Chair referred to the reopening event at Old Town Library on Saturday 9 December 2017 and thanked Councillor for attending. The new children's section had been very well received by the public and the Christmas story time had been very popular. He said that the Parish Council should be justly proud of this achievement.

356 Calendar of Meetings 2018/19

The Clerk submitted a draft Calendar of Meetings a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Councillors asked the Clerk to look at reducing the number of evenings that meetings were held and holding more than one meeting on the same evening. It was agreed that consideration of the Calendar of Meetings should be deferred to the next meeting.

357 Future Maintenance of Town Gardens and Queens Park

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

The report provided details of the costings for the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of Town Gardens and Queens Park from 1 April 2018 and employ the staff that currently maintain the 2 parks. This would include a TUPE transfer of the staff that are employed by Swindon Borough Council.

Councillors agreed that that they would like to take complete control by taking a lease

for both parks and improve the facilities which had been sadly neglected by Swindon Borough Council. The Chair stated that the Gardens Working Party would now be able to start looking at what would be involved and making recommendations.

Cllr Dickinson asked about the supervision of the staff when they are employed by the Parish Council and whether a more senior role should also be established. The Clerk responded that this could be considered at a later date, but to start with the staff would report to the Clerk.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council take responsibility for the maintenance of Town Gardens and Queens Park from 1 April 2018;
- b) that a TUPE transfer be made of the staff currently employed by Swindon Borough Council.

358 Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2018/19

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

The report provided details of the tender process and the lack of time between setting up the Parish Council which came into existence in May 2017 and the tendering process being completed to be considered as part of the budget process.

Cllr Wood had put forward to proposal regarding the funding of additional litter picking in Eastcott Ward and for the Parish Council to fund the gritting routes that had been withdrawn by Swindon Borough Council.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2018/19 be renewed with StreetSmart at Swindon Borough Council for the price of £932,010;
- b) that the Parish Council do not go ahead with additional litter picking in Eastcott Ward;
- c) that the Parish Council does not fund additional gritting routes in the parish as this is a statutory duty of Swindon Borough Council.

359 Budget and Precept 2018/19

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

The report contained a draft budget that had been drawn up by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and following the direction given at the Finance and Staffing Committee Meeting on 28 November 2017.

Cllr Pajak proposed that the budget be reduced by 1% due to the amount of surplus the Parish Council would hold at the end of this financial year and he said that it would send out a positive message to the public. Cllr Hopkins stated that the reason for the surplus was that many assets that were planned to be transferred to the Parish Council had not yet been completed. It was known that most of the assets needed major investment and that reducing the Precept at this stage, without knowing the full picture of costs would not be responsible. The Chair also pointed out that the Parish Council could be capped next year. The motion was seconded by not carried.

Cllr Dickinson proposed that the Councillor Allowances Budget be removed and the saving be added to the Grants Budget for local groups and organisations. There was some discussion about the reasons for allowing Councillors to claim an allowance. The motion was seconded but not carried.

RESOLVED

- a) that the budget for 2018/19 which appears as Appendix D be approved;
- b) that the Precept be set at £2,071,000.

360 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.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

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