

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2018 at 6.30 pm
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present 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 J Miah
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr T Robson
Cllr J Short
Cllr N Watts

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair) in the Chair

Public Nine

Public Session Ms L Ford asked about the future of GWR Park and whether the Parish Council would work with the volunteers. The Vice-Chair confirmed that the Parish Council would be happy to work with volunteers to maintain the park.

Mr Finch asked about the temporary employment of staff through an agency and whether this would be the policy of the Parish Council. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council was going to use an agency for the recruitment of only one post, to ensure that a suitable person with relevant experience was employed.

Mr Williams referred to the lack of agendas available to the public and reminded the Council of the requirement in statute to provide the public with copies of the agenda.

Mr Izquierdo referred to the parking problems in Manchester Road and the difficulties this gave to buses. The Vice-Chair confirmed that this would be for Swindon Borough Council and asked Ward Borough Councillors to look into this complaint.

Mrs Freeguard asked whether when work is done to the MUGA if the seat can be moved as it was used by people with drugs.

Mr Townsend asked whether the Parish Council would be maintaining the Civic Office as he understood that the Queens Park staff were used for this. The Clerk confirmed that the staff would only be working on the 2 gardens when they are employed by the Parish Council.

Mr Townsend supported the Food Festival for Broadgreen and asked if other local events would be supported by the Parish Council. The Vice-Chair informed him that the Parish Council would be happy to consider supporting other events in the form of a grant.

378 Apologies

Cllr C Watts (Chair)
Cllr A Hawkins
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr T Robson
Cllr I Shaikh
Cllr B Thompson
Cllr D Wood

379 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

380 Minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr Gladman pointed out that she had given apologies for the meeting, but she had been listed as being present.

RESOLVED that with the amendment above the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 19 December 2017 be approved as a correct record.

381 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 19 December 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

382 Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 9 January 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

383 Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Firmin and Cllr N Watts put forward minor changes to Appendix A and the time of the close of the meeting.

RESOLVED that with the amendments above the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 9 January 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

384 Information from Borough Councillors

There were no reports from Councillors.

385 Parish Council Representatives' Report

There were no report reports from Councillors.

386 Chair's Report

The Clerk reported that the Chair had been interviewed by the BBC and had appeared on the Sunday Politics Program on Sunday 14 January 2018. The program was still available to view on the BBC I Player.

387 Calendar of Meetings 2018/19 (Min.356 – 19.12.17)

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

The Vice-Chair stated that she had a plan for future meetings and would bring details to the next meeting for consideration. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to book the dates in the draft at Broadgreen Community Centre. Cllr Dickinson asked if consideration could be given to holding meetings at different locations.

388 Transfer of Services from Swindon Borough Council (Min.185 – 19.09.17)

The Clerk reported that the Deed for the transfer of the services to the Parish Council had been signed and the Transitional Funds had been received from Swindon Borough Council.

389 Department of Communities and Local Government – The Provisional 2018-19 Local Finance Settlement

The Clerk submitted the Central Government Local Council Settlement Paper a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Vice-Chair referred Councillors to Section 3.4 which confirmed that Parish and Town Councils would not be capped for a further 3 years. Cllr Allsopp welcomed this decision and Councillors supported his suggested that the Parish Council should formally write to the Government to this effect.

390 Swindon 105 Community Radio (Min.292 – 21.11.17)

The Clerk informed Councillors that Swindon 105 had visited Broadgreen Community Centre and agreed that the room at the front of the building would make an excellent space to record radio programs. In order to set up, the Parish Council would need to purchase a microphone recorder and headphones for a total cost of approximately £200. The recorder could then be used by the Council and local groups and organisations to make programs. Swindon 105 would provide the software needed and provide training, both free of charge

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council set up the small front room at Broadgreen Community Centre as a place to make recordings for Swindon 105;
- b) that the Parish Council purchase a microphone/recorder and headphones for a total price of £200 and the cost be met from the Miscellaneous Budget.

391 Engagement with Community Groups & Residents' Associations (Min.360 – 19.12.17)

Cllr Short put forward that the Parish Council should stage regular meetings with local community groups and organisations within the parish in order that the Parish Council could work more closely with such bodies.

Cllr N Watts stated that she already met with local groups in her ward and suggested that other Councillors should be doing likewise. Cllr Firmin suggested waiting until the Annual Parish Meeting to see what the response would be from local groups and in the meantime Councillors could find out information from their wards.

It was agreed that it would be useful if a list could be drawn up of all the known groups in the parish and Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk of local groups and organisations in their parish with the associated contact details.

392 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.

393

Staffing Matters

The Clerk reported to Councillors that the appointment of a new Clerk had still not been possible and that a decision needed to be made about the future employment of a Clerk.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council appointed Ms Andrea Durn as Clerk to the Parish Council on condition that she obtains her CiLCA qualification within 4 months of her appointment;
- b) that the current Clerk continue to be employed until the end of July 2018 in the role of mentor the new Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

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

DRAFT