

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 at 7.50 pm
in the Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr N Hopkins (Chair)
Cllr B Thompson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Ali
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr N Burns-Howell
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr J Miah
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr I Shaikh
Cllr J Short
Cllr C Watts
Cllr N Watts

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

Public Six

Public Session Mr Finch asked what was happening about the toilets in Town Gardens and Queens Park as there was nothing on the agenda. The Clerk explained that it had proved difficult to arrange the winter opening and that the Parish Council would be in a better position to organise this in the future once they took over the running of the two parks themselves in April 2018.

Mrs Freeguard asked why Spring Gardens was not on the list of parks to be transferred to the Parish Council. Cllr C Watts stated that this had never been on offer to the Shadow Parish Council and this was a question for Swindon Borough Council to answer through the Ward Councillors.

Mr Townsend said he believed that Swindon Borough Council did originally have plans to develop the site, but that they had changed their minds and it was now going to be refurbished.

Mr Seaward asked if the Parish Council had a list of the most popular titles taken out from Old Town Library. The Chair confirmed that this would be available direct from the library.

422 **Apologies**
Cllr M Dickinson
Cllr J Howarth

Not Present

Cllr A Hawkins
Cllr T Robson
Cllr D Wood

423 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

424 Old Town Library

The Clerk submitted an email dated 26 January 2018 from the Library Supervisor – Community Libraries at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Cllr C Watts said that it was not just about the number of books being borrowed. The story time was proving very popular and a local school visited the library the previous week. Cllr Dixon asked if more information could be provided about other activities in the future and not just book numbers. The Information provided to Councillors was noted.

425 Badbury Park Community Space

The Clerk submitted a leaflet from Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The leaflet provided more information about a drop-in event being staged by Swindon Borough Council. The Parish Council was being asked to attend to make contact with the public to encourage involvement in running of the community facility that was planned for Badbury Park. If local volunteers could not be found, then the future running of the facility may fall to the Parish Council.

Cllr Firmin offered to attend the event along with the Clerk.

426 Rotary Tree Challenge

The Clerk submitted information from the Rotary Club of Swindon a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The information from the Rotary Club of Swindon gave details of a nationwide initiative in conjunction with the Woodland Trust to plant more trees. The Chair asked Councillors to make suggestions to the Clerk of locations in their ward which would benefit from tree planting.

427 The Avenue, Lawns

The Clerk submitted an email dated 29 January 2018 from the Clerk a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Cllr N Watts reported on a meeting that had been held on site which was attended by herself, Cllrs Burns-Howell and Miner-Barry, Russel Weymouth from Swindon Borough Council, the Clerk and representatives from Old Town Residents' Association.

Several years ago the site consisted of an avenue of trees, but these had died and the replacement trees had also perished; it was believed that both had a honey fungus. The trees now planted were very small, with some dead and the others not growing well. Mr Weymouth suggested that the first action should be a soil survey. Swindon Borough Council would then be prepared to work with the Parish Council to draw up plans to improve the whole area. These included levelling the grass area, new tree guards, re-laying the stones at the entrance and new seating and bins.

RESOLVED that plans be drawn up with Swindon Borough Council for the refurbishment of The Avenue.

428 **Allotments (Min.367 – 09.01.18)**

The Clerk reported that the work had started at two allotment sites, to clear away rubbish at Glenwood Close which was being carried out by StreetSmart and to cut back the overgrowth at the car park at Shrivenham Road.

The Parish Office had already received feedback from allotment holders that were very pleased to see work being done to improve the allotment sites.

429 **Plans for GWR Park (Min.365 – 09.01.18)**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 18 January 2018 from the Head of Operational Assets at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The email stated that Swindon Borough Council had given CARIG a short-term lease of 3 years for the toilet block in GWR Park. Cllr C Watts gave a more detailed explanation of the circumstances leading up to this new lease being agreed. The position was noted by Councillors.

430 **Angling Lease Information**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 5 January 2018 from the Grounds Maintenance, Parks & Open Spaces Service Manager at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The email provided more information about the leases for angling clubs which were due for renewal. The leases would be issued for a 10 year period with a six-month termination clause. There was one angling club in the parish being Lawns Angling Club which used Lawns Upper and Lower Lakes.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the issuing of a new lease to Lawns Angling Club.

431 **Football Pitches**

The Clerk informed Councillors that North Swindon Parish Council were in process of having a condition survey carried out on their football pitches by the Football Association and had asked if South Swindon Parish Council would like to carry out a survey of pitches at the same time. The cost would be approximately £150 per pitch.

RESOLVED that the offer from North Swindon Parish Council be accepted and a condition survey be carried out on the football pitches within the parish.

432 **Broadgreen MUGA Area**

The Clerk reported that she had started the process of receiving three quotations for the work required to improve the MUGA area at Broadgreen, but that there was an issue that needed to be resolved.

In order to tarmac the area square to be in line with the MUGA would mean that the tarmac would be extremely close to the teenager shelter which would make it dangerous both to play sport on the tarmac and use the teenage shelter. Cllr C Watts suggested that the local residents were consulted by the Ward Parish Councillors for their views.

RESOLVED that a decision regarding the future of the teenage shelter be delegated to the Ward Parish Councillors.

433 **Shaftesbury Lake**

The Clerk reported that quotations were being obtained for the work to improve Shaftesbury Lake. One of the contractors had pointed out that the lake would require

continuous maintenance after the work was completed, otherwise the improvements would soon slip back to what it looked like today. He was offering to put forward a price for weekly maintenance, but the Clerk said that this could be something that was possible for the Environment Officer to carry out. She would put forward further ideas for consideration by the Finance & Staffing Committee.

434 **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 Contracts.

435 **Old Town Library Staffing**

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Library Service at Swindon Borough Council which confirmed the details of the Contract for the Library Assistant at Old Town Library. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about extending the length of the contract and report back.

The meeting closed at 8.36 pm

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