

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

**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 at 7.15 pm  
in the Main Hall, Broadgreen Community Centre

**Present** Cllr N Hopkins (Chair)  
Cllr J Firmin (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr N Burns-Howell  
Cllr M Dickinson  
Cllr P Dixon  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr T Robson

Cllr P Herring (Not Committee Member)  
Cllr C Watts (Not Committee Member)  
Cllr N Watts (Not Committee Member)

**Officers** Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)  
Richard Beale (Britain in Bloom)

Cllr J Firmin (Vice-Chair) in the Chair.

**Public** Six

**Public Session** Mr Finch stated that a tree had been felled in Queens Park at the wrong time of the year and had been left in the lake. He had now seen 6 dead fish in the lake in the last 5 days.

Three residents from Newburn Crescent spoke about the problem they suffered with flooding and one of the residents pass a letter to the Vice-Chair. The residents had already spent years talking to Thames Water, Swindon Borough Council and the Environment Agency and nothing had been done to improve the situation. They also complained about the poor state of the allotment and that allotment holders put rubbish in the river.

**78** **Apologies**  
Cllr M Gladman  
Cllr T Philpot

**79** **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**  
Cllr Allsopp declared a personal interest in Allotments (Minute 83)

**80** **Britain in Bloom**  
The Vice-Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr Richard Beale from Britain in Bloom to make a presentation to the meeting.

Mr Beale said that he had worked in the Parks Department at Swindon Borough Council and he was now a judge for Britain in Bloom. There were a small number of community projects entered for the 'In Bloom' competition and he wanted to encourage more activity in Swindon.

Some of the entrants for this year within the parish were the Secret Garden at Queens Park, Old Town Residents Association, Kent Road Wildlife Corridor and Coate Water volunteer rangers.

He encouraged the Parish Council to consider entering the competition next year and suggested the Pendant Category. This would mean completing an application in March 2019 and Mr Beale offered to help the Parish Council with this entry.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council enter South Swindon Parish Council in the Pendant Category of Britain in Bloom for 2019.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

**81**      **Gardens Working Party**

The Gardens Working Party submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The report gave details of the site visit made by the Garden Working Party and listed various works that needed to be addressed. Cllr Burns-Howell stated that both parks were in need of investment and Cllr C Watts said that he was concerned that the condition of buildings would deteriorate the longer work was delayed.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the Gardens Working Party be asked to draw up a priority list of works to be completed together with an idea of costs;
- b) that the Parish Council chases Swindon Borough Council for the agreement in principle to lease Town Gardens and Queens Park.

**RECOMMENDED** that when a commitment is received from Swindon Borough Council to lease Town Garden and Queens Park that the Parish Council starts work on the maintenance required to Town Gardens and Queens Park prior to entering a formal lease.

**82**      **Allotment Working Party**

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

The report gave details of a meeting that took place on 17 May 2018 and contained a number of recommendations. Cllr Burns-Howell asked for confirmation that the spraying would be environmentally friendly and the Clerk confirmed that this would be the case. Cllr Robson asked whether the new fencing would be rabbit proof and suggested adding this if that was not the case. The Clerk informed Councillors that one quote had been received for the fencing and it looked likely that the price would be approximately £5K. There was no budget for this capital work and the cost would need to be funded either from General Balances or the Open Spaces Fund.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the vacant plots be offered for to strim or rotavated and Greenshove be used for the rotavating for an initial period and then be assessed;
- b) that the fees for non-residents be increased to £70 from October 2018 and then increased by £10 each year for the following 2 years;
- c) that the waiting list rules remain unchanged with parishioners having priority on the waiting list over non-parishioners;
- d) that the spraying of weeds be carried out in the same way as the previous year by Swindon Borough Council;

- e) that the fencing of the 3 allotment plots be approved in principle and further quotation be received and a report be made to a future meeting of the Committee.

(Cllr Allsopp declared a personal interest in this item)

**83 Town Gardens Opening & Closing Hours**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 18 April 2018 from Cllr N Watts a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

Cllr N Watts said that the issues regarding the times on the gates of Town Gardens had now been resolved.

**84 Tennis Courts – Quarry Road**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 22 April 2018 from Cllr N Watts a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The email referred to the tennis courts at Quarry Road which were in a poor condition and requested the Committee to consider carrying out improvements. The Clerk confirmed that the tennis courts did not form part of Town Gardens and the park at Quarry Road including the tennis courts would be a separate lease.

The Vice-Chair said that the Parish Council were already working on a number of leases and the Parish Council should wait until some of these were completed before embarking on any more leases.

**RESOLVED** that a commitment to improve the tennis courts at Quarry Road be approved in principle and a lease for Quarry Road park be pursued once the current leases being negotiated are completed.

**85 Museum Flower Bed**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 30 May 2018 from Cllr Milner-Barry a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The email provided details of the flower bed outside the Museum which had been planted up by Old Town Residents Association but StreetSmart also planted the bed with annuals on behalf of the Parish Council. Old Town Residents Association were asking to solely maintain both beds at the Museum. Cllr C Watts pointed out that if the Parish Council decided to ask StreetSmart not to plant up the beds with annuals, then the plants could be used at another location.

**RESOLVED** that both beds at the Museum be solely planted and maintained by Old Town Residents and StreetSmart be asked to no longer plant the bed with annuals.

**86 Broadgreen Play Area**

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

The report additional work to be carried out to Broadgreen Play area in addition to the tarmac surfacing of the MUGA.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the MUGA resurfacing, new path and new piece of play equipment at the play area be approved;
- b) that the teenage shelter be removed and not replaced;
- c) that the site is not suitable for caged cricket and another location be identified for this sporting facility.

**87 Westcott Bowls Club**

The Vice-Chair reported that Cllr Howarth and himself had met with members of Westcott Bowls Club. They were requesting help from the Parish Council for two issues.

They would like to apply for Advertising Planning Permission to display on their boundary with Wootton Bassett Road and asked for help from Councillors with the completing the application. Cllr Allsopp offered to help and it was also suggested that Ward Councillors could also be asked to assist.

They also requested that the track to their car park and the allotment site was improved. The Vice-Chair confirmed that the track was the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Swindon Borough Council to press them to repair the track.

**88 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 Commercially Sensitive

**89 South Western Corner of Queens Park**

The Clerk submitted a letter from a local resident requesting the Parish Council to support their proposal.

**RESOLVED** that the proposal not be supported but the area be improved to attract wildlife once the Parish Council take over the maintenance of Queens Park.

**90 Wildlife Working Party**

The Wildlife Working Party submitted a report regarding the creation of a Wildlife Corridor in the parish.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the creation of a Wildlife Corridor in the parish be approved and the Working Party be delegated to work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on this project;
- b) that the Parish Council enter discussions with Swindon Borough Council and other parties to acquire the land required to establish the Wildlife Corridor.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

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