

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

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018 at 6.30pm  
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

**Present** Cllr C Watts (Chair)  
Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr N Burns-Howell  
Cllr P Dixon  
Cllr J Firmin  
Cllr M Gladman  
Cllr P Herring  
Cllr J Miah  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr D Pajak  
Cllr S Pajak  
Cllr T Philpot  
Cllr T Robson  
Cllr I Shaikh  
Cllr J Short  
Cllr N Watts

Cllr B Mattock (Swindon Borough Council)

**Officers** Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

**Public** Thirteen

**Public Session** Ms Ford reported that there had been more incidents of drug dealing in GWR Park particularly behind the old toilets. The Chair said that he would bring this up at the next Community Safety Forum and also asked Ms Ford to report this activity directly to the Police.

Mrs Freegard asked about the improvement work at Broadgreen. The Clerk confirmed that a new Projects Officer had started work for the Parish Council and this should mean that work on project moves forward much quicker. Mrs Freegard also complained that children were getting access to the water tap at the rear of the Community Centre building and making a mess. The Clerk confirmed that the Community Centre Development Manager was aware and dealing with the matter.

Mr Williams from Newburn Crescent asked about a letter than had been hand delivered to the Parish Council which he understood was discussed at the Leisure & Amenities Committee and was unhappy about the report made in the Swindon Advertiser which recounted a funny story from the Chair and appeared to make light of their serious concerns. He thanked Cllr Allsopp for his time in visiting the allotments to find out more about the issues. The Chair apologised for some of the information in the Swindon Advertiser, which he had incorrectly quoted and the Clerk apologised for the delay in answering the letter which should have been dealt with more promptly.

Mr Townsend thanked the staff at the Parish Office for their swift action in getting some fly-tipping removed.

**151 Apologies**

Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr J Ali  
Cllr M Dickinson  
Cllr A Hawkins  
Cllr N Hopkins  
Cllr B Thompson

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

None

**153 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Chair referred to the public session and said that Mrs Freegard's name had been incorrectly spelt.

**RESOLVED** that with the amendment detailed above, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 12 June 2018 be approved as a correct record.

(Cllr Milner-Barry arrived during this item)

**154 Finance & Staffing Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 19 June 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**155 Planning & Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 26 June 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

(Cllr Dixon arrived during this item)

**156 Leisure & Amenities Committee**

The Clerk confirmed the page numbers were incorrect and would be amended.

**RESOLVED** that with the amendment detailed above, the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 10 July 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**157 Planning & Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 10 July 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**158 Information from Borough Councillors**

Cllr Mattock referred to the Joint Planning Session that took place on 28 June 2018 which looked at Public Health and the planning process and in particular isolation and loneliness. Cllr Maddock said that the Director of Health would be happy to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss this further and he offered to make the arrangements.

Cllr Firmin said that several Parish Councillors had attended the event and that this should be included in future Planning Policies of the Parish Council.

**159 Chair's Report**

The Chair reported that an email had been received from the Broad Street Area Community Council thanking the Parish Council for staging the Street Food Festival and in particular congratulating Gifty Tawiah for the professional way the event was organised.

The Chair informed Councillors that the Clerk and himself had met with Swindon Borough Council Officers to move forward the transfer of assets to the Parish Council. One of the main reasons for the delay appeared to be the lack of resources at Swindon Borough Council.

The Chair apologised for having to cancel the sponsored litter pick and he would arrange another date and circulate it to Councillors.

The Chair introduced Councillors to Mr Jake Mee, who would be starting work for the Parish Council as the Deputy Clerk from the following Monday.

(Cllr J Miah and Cllr S Pajak arrived during this item)

**160 Community Safety Forum**

The Chair reported that the next Community Forum Meeting would take place at Broadgreen Community Centre on 25 July 2018 and he asked Councillors to let him have any issues to raise at the meeting as soon as possible.

**161 World War 1 Working Party**

The World War 1 Working Party submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The report provided details of the progress on the various ideas that had been put forward. Cllr Short stated that he was not happy with the recommendation of the Working Party to not support the Centenary Events being organised by the Rotary Club. The Chair agreed that he would speak to the Rotary Club to find out more information and would bring this back to a future meeting.

Councillors noted the report.

**162 StreetSmart Contract – Best Value Review**

The Clerk circulated the conclusion pages from the Best Value Report a copy of which is attached as Appendix B to these Minutes.

The complete report ran to 74 pages and this had been circulated to Councillors by email the previous day. The conclusions, in brief, stated that the Parish Council was receiving good value for money, but there were issues to be addressed in terms of reporting and data management.

The Clerk asked Councillors to make a decision regarding whether a full tendering process would be required for next year, based on the results of the independent report. The Chair added that the report would be considered in detail by the Services Working Party and all the issues would need to be dealt with as part of the negotiation for the Contract for the following year.

Cllr Burns-Howell stated that he felt that the Parish Council should undertake a full tendering process due to the value of the Contract. He also had some concerns about the services currently being given and recounted an incident where it took StreetSmart 7 days to reply to his report of litter.

Cllr Firmin pointed out that the Parish Council considered whether to undertake a full tendering process or commission an independent Best Value Review at the Full Council Meeting in March 2018. A decision was made at that meeting to request a Best Value Review to inform the Parish Council whether the full tendering process was necessary and the conclusion of the report was that the current Contract was good value and that should form the basis of the decision.

Cllr Short said that he felt sure that StreetSmart could provide the Parish Council with the information that was required.

The Chair said that the report provided a good base to discuss the future delivery of the services with StreetSmart and to make improvement.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the Parish Council does not carry out a full tendering process for the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning Contracts for 2019/20;
- b) that the Services Working Party work through the Best Value Report with StreetSmart and make recommendations to a future Full Council meeting.

**163 Legal Issues with Swindon Borough Council**

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

The report provided details of all the legal issues waiting currently being dealt with by Swindon Borough Council and the latest progress following a meeting with Swindon Borough Council officers.

Cllr Allsopp referred to paragraph 2.8 of the report and said that improving the football facilities would be well received by local people.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the report be noted;
- b) that the additional clause on contamination for the Play Area Leases in 2.6 be approved;
- c) that the Leisure & Amenities Committee look into the future of the football pitches at Buckhurst Crescent Recreation Ground and how to improve the sporting facilities;
- d) that more work be carried out on the transfer of Community Centres and a report be brought back to the Full Council Meeting in September.

**164 Local Council Award Scheme**

The Clerk submitted details of the Local Council Awards a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The Local Council Awards were broken down into 3 categories; Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold. The Clerk informed Councillors that the Parish Council would not yet be in a position to apply for the Quality Gold due to the time they had been established.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council make an application for the Quality Award and work towards the Quality Gold Award in the next 3 years.

**165 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.

**166**     **Staffing Issue**

The Clerk reported that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee needed to be amended to reflect the final outcome.

**RESOLVED** that the amended minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee dated 17 May 2018 be approved.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

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

DRAFT