

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

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018 at 6.30pm  
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

**Present** Cllr C Watts (Chair)  
Cllr J Ali  
Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr N Burns-Howell  
Cllr P Dixon  
Cllr J Firmin  
Cllr M Gladman  
Cllr P Herring  
Cllr N Hopkins  
Cllr J Miah  
Cllr I Shaikh  
Cllr B Thompson  
Cllr N Watts

**Officers** Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)  
Jake Mee (Deputy Parish Clerk)

**Public** Seven

**Public Session** Ms Ford asked about Section 106 funding for GWR as she believed Swindon Borough Council was holding £4k when the Shadow Parish Council was set up which should now come to the Parish Council.

Mrs Freegard thanked the Parish Council for moving forward with the refurbishment of Broadgreen Play Area.

Mrs Brownlee, representing Walcot Community Group asked if the Parish Council were aware of the development at Oakfield Campus and that there would be consultation with the local community. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had received a presentation from the developers at a meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee. Mrs Brownlee suggested that the building currently on site within the Oakfield Campus could be used for a Youth Club again. The Chair said that if there was a group that wanted to start up then they could contact the Parish Council for a possible grant.

Mrs Brownlee also stated that she had not received a copy of the Autumn Newsletter. Cllr Allsopp confirmed that he had received his copy that morning and that distribution was continuing in that area. The Chair asked Mrs Brownlee to let the Clerk know if the newsletter had not been received in the next 2 weeks.

Mrs Brownlee thanked the Parish Council for including Buckhurst Play Area on their initial list of play areas to be refurbished. She believed that there were some Section 106 funds being held by Swindon Borough Council and that other funding may be possible through the SWAP community group. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

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**Apologies**

Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr M Dickinson  
Cllr A Hawkins  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr D Pajak  
Cllr S Pajak  
Cllr T Philpot  
Cllr J Short

**Not Present**

Cllr T Robson

220

**Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

221

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire to make a presentation to the meeting and answer questions from the public and Councillors.

Mr Macpherson said that he would be visiting the newly set up Parish Council in Swindon to find out how they were working with the local Police force.

There had been publicity in the press that day about the fact that Wiltshire was poorly funded by Central Government and had one of the lowest Precepts in the South West. Wiltshire was in need of more funding, but this was going to be difficult to achieve.

It had been a difficult year for Wiltshire Police due to the Novichok poisoning in Salisbury which had meant that a lot of officer had spent time in the city and not in their own areas. He did confirm that all the costs of Salisbury were being reimbursed by Central Government and there would be no cost to the people of Wiltshire.

The Chair asked for questions from the public, followed by Councillors.

A member of the public complained about the 101 service which he regularly phones at least twice a week. The issues were the time it takes for the call to be answered, the charge of 15p and that the call handler then asking questions that could not be answered.

A member of the public asked about the future of Wiltshire Police and whether there were any plans to merge with other forces. Mr Macpherson confirmed that there were no plans for Wiltshire to merge with any force. However, Wiltshire Police do have joint working with Avon and Somerset on some crimes. These tended to be large or specialist area, like murders. Wiltshire Police had strong working relationships with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council and he would not want to see this change.

A member of the public asked about the use of drones. Mr Macpherson said that Wiltshire Police used them very successfully and were a training centre for other forces. The drones were solely operated by members of the special constabulary and were not used by police officers. As a result of drones, Wiltshire Police were reviewing the use of helicopters which was expensive.

Cllr Firmin asked about reporting crime anonymously as some people were not happy to give their names to the 101 service. Mr Macpherson said that he understood the concerns and that these people could use the Crime stoppers service. Cllr Firmin continued by stating that the public had little confidence in the 101 system because reports were not followed up and there was no feedback on any action taken. Mr Macpherson said that the 101 service had considerably improved recently and he would provide information about this to the Clerk to be distributed to Councillors. Cllr Firmin suggested that some form of relaunch should be considered to inform the public.

Cllr Allsopp asked about working with local community for information sharing as there had been a return of hates crimes following Brexit. Mr Macpherson agreed and confirmed that the Police were working more towards setting up local advisory groups in different communities.

The Chair referred to the Community Safety Forum which had been successful in highlighting local issues and now needed to start addressing what actions could be taken to resolve these issues.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

(Cllr Dixon arrived during this item)

**222 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council Meeting on 17 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**223 Finance & Staffing Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 24 July 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**224 Planning & Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 31 July 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**225 Leisure & Amenities Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 4 September 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**226 Planning & Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 4 September 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**227 Information from Borough Councillors**

There were no reports from Borough Councillors.

**228 Parish Council Representatives' Reports**

There were no reports.

**229 Chair's Report**

The Chair stated that he had nothing to add that was not included in an agenda item.

**230 Community Safety Forum**

The Clerk submitted the minutes of the Community Safety Forum held on 25 July 2018 a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Chair informed Councillors that a further Police Meeting with local community groups had taken place on 6 September 2018. Following that meeting the PCSO for the local area had visited the Parish Office on Monday and the Police had also visited that morning to arrange to use the front office for a couple of hours each week as a drop-in point for local residents.

**231 Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (Min.93 – 12.06.18)**

The Chair reminded Councillors that there would be an open meeting on Thursday 13 September 2018 to discuss with the local community groups and parishioners the merits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

A number of Councillors confirmed that they would be attending the meeting.

**232 World War 1 Working Party**

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

The report provided details of the progress of the working party and provided details of the design of the war memorial had been selected by the Working Party having been delegated this authority.

A number of Councillors said that they were very pleased with the design that had been selected.

**RESOLVED** that the report of the World War 1 Working Party be noted.

**233 Services Working Party**

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

The report informed Councillors of the progress towards the new Contracts for StreetSmart Services next year. The Working Party had agreed to look at the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning Contracts separately as they had different outcomes from the Best Value Review.

The Chair added that he and the Clerk had met with the Head of Street Cleaning and had a very positive meeting. She had taken on board the requirements of the Parish Council and a further meeting was being arranged to go through how these would be delivered from April 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Services Working Party be noted.

**234 Election Expenses (Min.543 – 17.04.18)**

The Clerk submitted a breakdown of the By-Election expenses for Eastcott Ward a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

Cllr Dixon pointed out that the final figure was £3K more than the original figure that had

been quoted.

The Clerk was asked to obtain more information which included the total cost for the elections in 2019; were the costs based on the ward and the number of Polling Stations used; what was the cost of the recent election in Wanborough. Cllr Allsopp stated that he would raise the question of election costs at the next Full Council of Swindon Borough Council.

**235 2019-20 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation**

The Clerk submitted details of the consultation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in respect of Council Tax Referendum Principles a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The main interest for the Parish Council was contained in Section 4.3 which addressed the question of referendums for Parish/ Town Councils.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supports the views stated in paragraph 4.3.3 to withdraw the requirement for a referendum by Parish and Town Councils and also requested that the threat of a referendum is taken off the agenda for the future.

**236 School Crossing Patrol – Eastcott (Min.190 – 31.07.18)**

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

The report investigated the possibility of the Parish Council providing school crossing guards through funding to Swindon Borough Council. The response from Swindon Borough Council was that they did not have the resources to make this arrangement.

Cllr Allsopp said that this was a sign of the times within all departments at Swindon Borough Council. Cllr Dixon asked the Clerk to find out about the additional signage which was stated would be installed at the Planning Committee of Swindon Borough Council.

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Clerk be noted.

**237 Terms of Reference – Grants Working Party**

The Clerk submitted a draft Terms of Reference for the Grants Working Party a copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** that the draft Terms of Reference for the Grant Working Party in Appendix H be approved.

**238 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.

**239 Community Centres (Min.163 – 17.07.18)**

The Clerk circulated a report regarding a meeting that was held with Eastcott Community Organisation about the lease of their community centre and maintenance issues. The first step would be to arrange for a basic survey to be conducted to establish the future life of the building and Eastcott Community Organisation asked for some financial assistance from the Parish Council towards these costs. They also wanted to establish a secure lease for the building through the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the Parish Council provides half the funding of the survey of the building with a maximum sealing figure of £5K;
- b) that the Parish Council agree in principle to start negotiations with Swindon Borough Council to lease Savernake Street Social Hall depending on the result of the survey.

**240 Broadgreen Play Area (Min. 203 - 04.09.18)**

The Clerk submitted a report which detailed the 3 separate projects to take place at Broadgreen Play Area. Cllr Gladman had circulated information about her site visits to look at play areas installed at other local locations by the companies being considered.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that Phase 1 for the work to the MUGA be awarded to Sutcliffe Play and the cost of £17,562 be funded from CIL receipts;
- b) that Phase 2 for the new path be awarded to Sutcliffe Play and the cost of £15,308 be funded from CIL receipts;
- c) that Phase 3 for the new play equipment be awarded to Sutcliffe Play and the cost of £15,900 be funded from CIL receipts.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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