

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018 at 6.30 pm
in the Main Hall, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr N Hopkins (Chair)
Cllr J Firmin (Vice-Chair)
Cllr S Allsop
Cllr N Burns-Howell
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr T Philpot

Cllr P Herring (Substitute – Cllr J Milner-Barry)

Cllr C Watts (not Committee Member)
Cllr N Watts (not Committee Member)

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

Public Eight

Public Session There were no questions or comments from the public present.

336

Apologies

Cllr M Dickinson
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr J Milner-Barry

Not Present

Cllr T Robson

337

Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

338

GWR Park

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Mrs Martha Parry of the Mechanics Institute Trust.

Mrs Parry outlined a brief history of the park and the work undertaken by The Mechanics Institute Trust and the Grassroots Gardeners Initiative, a sub-committee of The Mechanics Institute Trust.

They had received approximately £75,000 in Lottery Funding which was used for benches, bins and the installation of a play park.

They had also received a grant of £12,000 from Tesco which had been used to restore and convert the toilet block into a base for the gardeners. The building was not used in the summer due to health and safety fears related to drug taking in the area. More local people were being sought to help with the looking after the park and the flower beds.

Mrs Parry showed Councillors plans of a pavilion that The Mechanics Trust would like to build in the centre of the park serving as a café and toilets.

Cllr Firmin enquired as to the cost of this project and how it would be funded. Mrs Parry stated that she anticipated the cost to be approximately £150,000, but no details were given about the funding of the project or the future running of the building.

Cllr N Burns Howell asked what work could be done quickly in order to improve the park straight away. Mrs Parry recommended the removal of broken or unused signage and the play area needed to be refurbished especially the play surface.

A member of the public commented that they were disappointed with the Council's decision to let the Princes Trust commence work on one of the flower beds in the park.

The Clerk reminded the Council that no lease was in place for the park, so they were limited in the work that they could do at this time.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Cllr Firmin proposed the setting up of a GWR Working Party.

RESOLVED

- a) that a GWR Working Party be set up to look at the future needs of the GWR Park;
- b) that the GWR Working Party reports to Leisure & Amenities Committee;
- c) that the members of the GWR Working Party be Cllrs Firmin, Hopkins and Howarth;
- d) that the Terms of Reference for the GWR Working Party be agreed at the next meeting of the Council.

339 Allotments (Min.273 – 09.10.18)

The Deputy Clerk submitted a paper a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The paper contained statistics of the current proportion of allotment plot holders that did not reside within the Parish which was requested at the last meeting.

340 Swindon in Bloom (Min.80 – 05.06.18)

The Clerk submitted an email dated 22 October 2018 from South West in Bloom a copy of which appears as appendix B in the Minute Book.

The email contained details of the application process for entering the In Bloom competition in 2019. Cllr C Watts suggested including other organisations in the work like Old Town Residents Association, Swindon Growers and the Secret Garden at Queens Park.

RESOLVED

- a) that an In Bloom Working Party be set up to look into an entry into the In Bloom entry for 2019;
- b) that the In Bloom Working Party reports to Leisure & Amenities Committee;
- c) that the members of the In Bloom Working Party be Cllrs Hopkins, Philpott and C Watts;
- d) that the Terms of Reference for the In Bloom be agreed at the next meeting of the Council.

341 Evelyn Street Toilets Site

The Clerk submitted an email dated 12 October 2018 received from the Head of Operational Assets at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The email stated that Swindon Borough Council had not decided on the future of the Evelyn Street toilet building. Cllr N Watts asked for the signs on the building to be removed and the Clerk was asked to find out a timeline of when Swindon Borough Council would make a decision on the building.

342 Winter Opening of Toilets in Town Gardens & Queens Park (Min.363 – 09.01.18)

The Clerk submitted an email from the Services Manager, Grounds Maintenance at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The email confirmed that, following a request from the Parish Council, Swindon Borough Council would keep the toilets open during the normal working hours of the staff for the winter period subject to the Parish Council meeting the cost of additional cleaning consumables.

Councillors agreed that they were pleased with this outcome.

343 Magnificent Meadows

The Clerk submitted an email from the Reserves Manager, Conservation and Land Management at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The email stated that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had been unsuccessful in securing funding for their Magnificent Meadows Project. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council funding their own part of this project.

344 Community Project

The Clerk submitted an email from the Team Leader at the Prince's Trust a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The email provided details of the work carried out by the Prince's Trust in planting up a flower bed in GWR Park with Pansies and bulbs for Spring flowering.

The meeting closed at 7.13pm

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