

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 05 February 2019 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 M Gladman
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr T Philpot
- Cllr P Herring (Sub. Cllr P Dixon)
- Cllr D Pajak (not Committee Member)
Cllr S Pajak (not Committee Member)
Cllr I Shaikh (not Committee Member)
Cllr J Short (not Committee Member)
Cllr B Thompson (not Committee Member)
Cllr C Watts (not Committee Member)
Cllr N Watts (not Committee Member)
- Officers** Rob Core (Parish Clerk)
Jake Mee (Deputy Clerk)
- Public** Four
- Public Session** Mr Finch enquired about why items were treated as confidential on the agenda. Cllr Watts advised that commercially sensitive items including a tender process would always be treated as confidential so that prospective contractors had a fair process. The Parish Council follows the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and publishes all of its financial information monthly including expenditure.
- Mr Wedge asked if confidential items could be removed from the agenda. This wouldn't be possible as councillors can use the agenda to decide whether an item is one that they wish to speak on. It would also go against the transparency ethos and could appear as if there were items that were being discussed behind closed doors.
- 465** **Apologies**
Cllr P Dixon (Sub. Cllr P Herring)
- Not Present**
Cllr T Robson
- 466** **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None
- 467** **Smokefree Play Parks**
Standing Orders were Suspended in order to receive a presentation from the Public Health Programme Manager at Swindon Borough Council.

The report detailed the negative effects of smoking around children including second-hand smoke and statistics showed that smoking addiction started at 12 years old on average.

It was advised that the project would not be a case of enforcement but voluntary and would drive behaviour change.

West Swindon Parish Council had agreed to implement the project and Stratton Parish Council had already implemented the project.

Cllr Firmin asked if there was any evidence of the signage working. It was advised that the framing and targeting of the signage was important and should not be a typical enforcement sign. Evidence showed that signage worked better when voiced from the point of view of a child.

Cllr Allsopp asked if implementation would have a negative impact on the attendance at play parks and would discourage parents from taking their children to parks.

Cllr S Pajak asked if E-Cigarettes and vaping were to be included in the ban. It was advised that research showed that vaping was not being taken up by children and that smoking was the primary target.

Cllr Watts proposed that the Parish Council adopt the policy and incorporate this into the programme of play area refurbishment works.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED to adopt the policy across all of the Parish Council play areas and implement as the pay areas were refurbished.

468 **Spring Gardens – Footpath Works**

The Deputy Clerk submitted an email from the Leisure Projects Officer at Swindon Borough Council, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book

Cllr Firmin enquired as to what had happened to suggested plans for the rest of the site and the Clerk agreed to look into this and report back to a future meeting.

469 **Dorchester Road – Cycle Barriers**

Cllr Short reported that there had been concerns from residents around Dorchester Close regarding the speed which cyclists came out of the Lawns Park on Cycle Route 45 and into the public highway.

Cllr Short advised that Swindon Borough Council had been approached to install cycle barriers at the end of the path but had declined.

The Clerk would liaise with the Highways Department at Swindon Borough Council to look into the possibility of having a cycle barrier installed and report back to a future meeting.

470 **Queens Park – Bill Wicks' Work**

The Deputy Clerk reported that Cllr Pajak had collated and framed a collection of historic photos showcasing the work of the former head Gardener Bill Wicks at Queens Park.

Cllr Pajak would organise an informal meeting to unveil the work.

471 **Town Gardens – Bandstand Concerts**

The Deputy Clerk submitted a programme of performances in the Town Gardens for the 2019/20 season from the Asset Strategy Manager at Swindon Borough Council, a copy

of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Town Gardens had a target date to be transferred as an asset to the Parish Council of 1st April 2019 but the Asset Strategy Manager at Swindon Borough Council had agreed to manage the performances for the 2019/20 season.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the concerts were to be funded by the Parish Council but that the budget set was insufficient as the cost at that time was not known. The Deputy Clerk will present a report to Finance & Staffing Committee to approve the additional expenditure.

Cllr Hopkins stated that previous concerts had been sponsored by a local Estate Agent and that this should be looked into.

472 Admission of Public and Press

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) 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.

473 Play Areas

The Projects Officer submitted a report regarding the planned upgrade works to the first tranche of play areas.

Four quotes were provided for each of the play areas and explained by the Projects Officer.

Cllr N Watts said that funds should still be available from Swindon Borough Council for some improvement.

Cllr Herring enquired if contractors had been chosen based on other factors such as being local to the Parish where possible. The Projects Officer advised he had chosen companies on price, play value and quality of the project being delivered. Proximity to the Parish had not been mentioned as a requirement when seeking quotes.

Cllr Hopkins suggested a policy should be adopted by the Parish Council with regards to procurement of services at a future Finance & Staffing meeting.

Councillors agreed that where possible, quotes should be sought and amended if necessary, to include additional accessible equipment.

RESOLVED

- a) To recommend to Full Council to accept quote 2 for Hesketh Crescent Play Area with inclusion of accessible equipment and associated cost of that equipment where possible.
- b) To recommend to Full Council to accept quote 4 for Dudmore Road Play Area with inclusion of accessible equipment and associated cost of that equipment where possible.
- c) To recommend to Full Council to accept quote 2 for Lordsmith Green Play Area with inclusion of accessible equipment and associated cost of that equipment where possible.
- d) To recommend to Full Council to accept quote 4 for Rushey Platt Play Area with inclusion of accessible equipment and associated cost of that equipment where possible.

474 Town Gardens - Gates

The Projects Officer submitted a report regarding the restoration of gates at Town

Gardens.

The Projects Officer said that he was not seeking approval of quotes at this stage as he wanted to get another quote. The quotes had varying levels of the quality of finish and the Parish Council would need to decide what they would accept.

Cllr Watts advised in spite of the high costs of restoration that the transfer of the assets should not be delayed any further but he would enquire with SBC as to whether any transitional funding was available to help with this.

The Projects Officer said that he was looking into any grant funding but had so far been unsuccessful and would present the quotes at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council