

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 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 A Hawkins
Cllr P Herring
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr T Philpot
Cllr B Thompson
Cllr N Watts

Officers Rob Core (Parish Clerk)
Jake Mee (Deputy Parish Clerk)

Public Ten

Public Session A member of the public asked a question about item 8 on the agenda and if digital recordings would be made public and if it was thought this would stifle the flow of conversation.
The recording is for accurate transcription of minutes only and will be disposed of once complete.

A member of the Press asked if the Parish Council would be addressing the current state of the Whalebridge car park.
The car park is under the control of Swindon Borough Councils Parking Services and not an area of Parish responsibility.

483 **Apologies**
Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Miah
Cllr D Pajak
Cllr J Short
Cllr M Gladman

Not Present
Cllr T Robson
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr I Shaikh

484 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

485

Extended Public Spaces Protection Order 2018/19 (Min.373 -13.11.2108)

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr Mark Walker, Town Centre Localities Lead at Swindon Borough Council to give a presentation on the Public Spaces Protection Order that has been in force since 2015, this order has been extended to 2020.

The order covered anti-social behaviour, skating, drinking in public, dogs on leads, cycling in the town centre. There were persistent concerns with aggressive begging. It was advised that on average 100 people were spoken to per week and that an offence only occurred when an individual did not desist after having been spoken to. The Police could make arrests for crimes and the Council had the power to make injunctions.

There have been 20 injunctions in the last year with repeat offenders receiving custodial sentences.

Cllr Thompson enquired as to whom employs and pays for the Town Centre Wardens. Mr Walker said that these are funded through the bid area levy and are under the control of InSwindon. They do not hold any powers of enforcement.

Cllr Herring stated that the number to report breaches of the order was not well known and could not be found on the Borough Council's website.

Mr Walker said that the number to call is 01793 464703 and is advertised on signs around the Town Centre.

Cllr Allsopp stated that cyclists are regularly seen in the town centre pedestrian areas, is CCTV being used to combat this.

Mr Walker advised that is important that all sightings are reported through the contact number so that sightings are recorded, and that resources allocated.

Cllr Thompson asked if rough sleepers are deprived of bedding and worldly possessions if left unattended.

Mr Walker responded that there was an obligation to public safety to remove items left on the public highway where they posed a danger.

Councillors requested information about the use of CCTV in the area

Mr Walker advised that there are four cameras in the area and two of these are fitted to the outside of the Broad Green Community Centre. These are not linked to the Swindon Borough Council Control Room. Councillor Ali will meet with Mark Walker to discuss the location and the increased fly tipping in the area.

Cllr Firmin asked if there was funding for more cameras?

Mr Walker responded that there is no more funding available from Swindon Borough Council.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

486

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the Parish Council Meeting on 15 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

487

Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 22 January 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

488 Leisure & Amenities Committee

A date correction to be made to read February instead of January on the report header.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 5 February 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

489 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 5 February 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

490 Digital Recording of Council Meetings

The Clerk made a verbal report to discuss digital audio recordings of Parish Council committee and Full Council Meetings

Cllr Herring enquired as to whether traditional hand taken minutes would still be recorded and it was advised that they would.

RESOLVED that the recordings would be made for the accurate preparation of minutes and then deleted once the corresponding minutes had been adopted as a true record.

491 Information from Borough Councillors

There were no reports from Borough Councillors.

492 Parish Council Representatives' Reports

There were no reports.

493 Chair's Report

The Chair outlined a proposal from Councillor Amin regarding the erection of a monument to celebrate International Mother Language Day within Great Western Park nearest to south gate to Farringdon Road.

RESOLVED to issue a letter of support to the Borough Council for this project.

494 Updated Council Policies

The Clerk presented a report detailing the new and updated Council policies regarding Whistleblowing, Safeguarding, Lone Working, Financial Regulations and Data Protection a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Responsible Financial Officer (Deputy Clerk) explained some material changes within the Financial Regulations relating to increased spending limits and the ability to apply for a Debit Card for minor purchases.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Data Protection & IT Security Policy as per Appendix B be adopted;
- b) that the Financial Regulations as per Appendix C be adopted;
- c) that the Lone Working Policy as per Appendix D be adopted;
- d) that the Safeguarding Policy as per Appendix E be adopted;
- e) that the Whistle Blowing Policy as per Appendix F be adopted

495 Assets Working Party

The Deputy Clerk reported that at a meeting with the Property Manager from Swindon Borough Council it was advised that the Parish Council might want to reconsider shorter lease periods of 25-50 years on transferring assets.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council maintain their request for 99-year leases on all sites and that the Clerk would pursue repairs or transitional funding for identified existing maintenance issues at Queens Park and the access road to Town Gardens Depot.

496 **Rough Sleepers Reduction Strategy 2019/20 (Min 454 – 15.01.19)**
The Deputy Clerk submitted a response from Nick Kemmett, Housing Strategy & Development Manager at Swindon Borough Council in relation to questions asked in the Parish Council’s response to the Rough Sleeper Reduction Strategy Consultation.

The report was noted and the Deputy Clerk will request a meeting with Nick Kemmett when all the responses from stakeholders have been collated.

497 **Admission of Public and Press**
To resolve in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that ‘In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and were instructed to withdraw, the reason being – Staffing.

498 **TUPE Transfer of staff (Min. 424 – 18.12.18)**
The Deputy Clerk outlined the revised position on the salaries of transferring staff and confirmed that this would not be at detriment to the staff. The revision would allow incoming staff progression through spinal points in the future.

It was confirmed that the transfer date of 1st April was achievable pending leases for the sites being issued.

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm

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