

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 04 June 2019 at 6.30 pm
in the Main Hall, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr N Hopkins (Chair)
Cllr J Firmin (Vice-Chair)
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr V Ayris
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr N Watts (Sub. Cllr S James)
Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr S Pajak

Cllr P Herring (not Committee Member)
Cllr T Philpot (not Committee Member)

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

Public Three

Public Session None

690 Apologies

Cllr S James (Sub. Cllr N Watts)
Cllr J Miah

691 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

To receive any Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 14 May 2019.

692 Presentation from South Asian Performing Arts Company (SAPAC)

Standing Orders were suspended in order to receive a presentation from Ms Indu Sharma of the South Asian Performing Arts Company regarding their performing at the Broadgreen Community Centre Street Food Festival on Sunday 16th June.

Ms Sharma provided the background of the company and explained that they work with organisations interested in their activities which include Festival and Cultural Events, going into Schools and Colleges and Business and Corporate events. The company promote local Swindon artists and work with NHS programmes to help with mental health, loneliness and general well-being. The company's official partners are BBC Wiltshire and Community radio, Swindon Dance, local newspapers and various ethnic and local communities and the Company would like any monetary help available from South Swindon Parish Council. Ms Sharma invited the Councillors to the Companies 10th

Anniversary Cultural Programme being held on 12th October 2019 at the Hilton Hotel Swindon.

Cllr V Ayris asked if the Company would be attending the Armed Forces Day being held in Swindon. Ms Sharma confirmed that they were unable to attend the event.

Cllr S Pajak stated that the Company would be quite welcome to perform at the Queens Park at any time. Ms Sharma stated that they would be happy to perform at Queens Park depending on any other commitments.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

693 Update on Memorial Benches in the Formal Parks

The Clerk gave an update on the Town Gardens and Queens Park Memorial Benches in response to Councillor's previous concerns. The Parish would not be responsible for the upkeep and replacement of existing benches, this cost would remain with Swindon Borough Council.

DEFERRED that the finances regarding revenue will be discussed at the next Leisure and Amenities meeting being held on 9th July 2019.

694 No Smoking and No Dogs signs in Play Areas

The Clerk exhibited a sign showing an amended design which includes pictures of no smoking and no dog waste produced for the Parish Play Areas which had been manufactured by Enterprise Works Swindon.

RESOLVED that the amended signs be accepted and displayed at all Parish Council owned Play Areas.

695 Proposed Name Change of Savernake Community Centre

The Clerk submitted an email from Eastcott Community Organisation, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book .

The email detailed a request to change the name of the Savernake Community Centre to Eastcott Community Centre.

The Deputy Clerk explained that Swindon Borough Council had been contacted regarding the name change and they responded that they would leave the decision to the South Swindon Parish Council. The other parties to the lease of the buildings on site had also been asked if they had any objections and none had been raised.

RESOLVED that the name of the Community Centre be changed to Eastcott Community Centre

696 Town Gardens and Queens Park Equipment

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report detailing quotes for new machinery, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The supply of machinery and equipment currently on loan from Swindon Borough Council was coming to an end at the end of June 2019, therefore quotes had been obtained from four suppliers for replacement equipment and hand tools. A water Bowser had also been purchased to enable general watering of Queens Park.

RESOLVED

- a) That Quote 3 for £71,036 be accepted with amendments.
- b) That £25,000 be funded from the Machinery Purchase budget and the remainder be funded from the Formal Parks Earmarked Reserve.

697

Oakfield Development Open Space

The Deputy Clerk submitted a verbal report that a not for profit development of 239-homes is being developed by Nationwide Building Society on the former Oakfield Campus site at the top of Marlowe Avenue Swindon.

The developer had a large open space running through the middle of the development from Nythe to Buckhurst Crescent and would like to hand the space to the South Swindon Parish Council on a 99-year lease including the maintenance and upkeep of the area.

The Deputy Clerk estimated the annual cost would be £45,000 which Nationwide Building Society would cover for the first two years, but the Parish would only expect to receive a precept of approximately £20,000 although there is a Section 106 agreement in place and a community infrastructure levy (CIL). There is a possibility that the standard of upkeep would have to drop due to the lower amount of monies being available for the upkeep of the open space.

Cllr J Firmin asked if there are any details of how to lower the cost. Deputy Clerk responded that a lower standard of finishing had been mooted.

Cllr S Allsopp stated that the Parish could not accept to pay for this area and not the remainder of the Parish and to push back at the level of precept as the Parish cannot subsidise a private development.

Cllr N Hopkins The Parish must be careful that a precedent is not set although a few options have been covered by the Deputy Clerk, the Parish must be careful and should not be prepared to take on the area on this basis as it is not consistent.

Cllr J Firmin asked that a standard cost should be worked out as a starting point going forward. The Deputy Clerk responded that he will endeavour to provide figures for the next meeting. And a reminder that the CIL will come to the Parish anyway.

RESOLVED to defer until firmer figures are received from Swindon Borough Council for a lower standard of maintenance.

698

To Consider Maintenance of the Mill Lane Byway

The Clerk submitted a report regarding the maintenance schedule of a Bridleway between Mill Lane and East Wichel, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

A member of the public had raised a concern to Swindon Borough Council that the bridleway between Mill Lane and East Wichel had been severely strimmed back. Swindon Borough Council had responded to inform that this had been done for safety reasons relating to overhanging nettles.

Cllr S Allsopp asked if Swindon Borough Council would investigate consideration of the nesting birds to ensure there is no interference to any nesting birds.

Cllr N Watts suggested that it would be a nice area to have wildflowers.

Cllr N Hopkins if the vegetation could be cut back by less, allowing wild plants to grow.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make a representation to Swindon Borough Council to reduce the amount that this piece of land is cut back.

699 To Consider the use of Herbicides on Parish Assets

The Clerk presented an update on the current use of Glyphosate based weed control products within the Parish.

The Clerk stated that Glyphosate use on public highways South Swindon Parish are not responsible, it is the responsibility of South Swindon Parish Council to look after these areas. Glyphosate is used on the paved areas of the parishes parks and play areas. As a safety issue the parish have drastically reduced the usage of Glyphosate by using a planned use pre-no mix solution so that the users are not mixing it themselves and the dosage is a tenth of what was used previously, this is not saying that Glyphosate is safe but the parish are looking to reduce and become Glyphosate free asap. The Clerk had investigated other options but reports back were not necessarily much safer and hopefully the parish will continue to explore options and become Glyphosate free in a few years' time.

Cllr N Hopkins stated that the objective was to become Glyphosate free as soon as possible but unable to do so yet due to limited alternative treatments. He also suggested the Parish look at other authorities and what had been used successfully elsewhere.

Cllr Hopkins proposed a target date to be Glyphosate free from 2022.

Cllr J Firmin asked if this item should be with the Working Party.

Cllr J Milner-Barry asked if Swindon Borough Council could try to leave the wild areas and not spray around the trees, and that some other authorities do take on the weed control on the roads. Could Swindon Borough Council be asked if residents could take on their own areas and maintain them manually.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make a representation to Swindon Borough Council.

700 Play Area Refurbishment

The Clerk submitted a report to update Councillors on the Play Area Refurbishment Programme, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the minute book.

The Clerk presented a slide show of the before and after pictures of the Play Area repairs which have made the equipment and areas safer.

Cllr C Watts thanked the Clerk for efforts made in making the repairs and that the signage is of very good quality and supports Enterprise Works, a local business.

NOTED

701 Assets Update

The Clerk gave an update on the maintenance of the Parish Assets.

The Clerk had a condition report completed for insurance purposes and received the compliance files from Swindon Borough Council. The Clerk noted that there had been no asbestos survey for 4-5 years therefore an asbestos survey has now been completed with the required documents kept in the Parish office and a copy of the documents is kept on site for any contractors needed to work on site. There are further areas to be reported on such as electrical tests, legionella tests, fire exits, and extinguishers quotes for these areas are currently being obtained. The Broadgreen Community Centre and the Victoria Road toilets will be looked at where most of the work requires specialist treatment. Access to Savernake Street Centre will also be reported on.

Queens Park

- a) The plastic toilet paper holders had been set on fire and will now be changed to steel versions. Graffiti had been daubed all over the walls and the toilets have

subsequently been thoroughly cleaned.

- b) The correct type of pump for lake has been ordered.
- c) A wall in the depot facility is collapsing at the edge of the depot area, the quote to rebuild is £4,500. Another option is buying a trailer.
- d) Hanging baskets to be placed in the park.

Old Town Gardens

- a) The toilets were broken into and a pane of glass smashed, a down pipe was broken and graffiti on the walls, the pane has been replaced, the down pipe is fixed, and the graffiti cleaned.
- b) The Richard Webb Memorial sundial had been damaged for some time and the Parish are looking into prices to recommission the memorial which will be presented when quotes have been obtained.
- c) There are two semi-redundant garages that need refurbishing, as there is a lot of new equipment which needs to be kept secure therefore the doors have been replaced with steel covers on the inside and also steel blocks embedded into the ground with chains through handles with steel chains to make safer and which can also be inscribed with South Swindon Parish Council logo.

Broadgreen

- a) Families are enjoying the area and new benches have been ordered and will be placed further over in the play area to ensure that they are more visible and hopefully deter smokers/drinkers from hanging around the area.
- b) Ten Glasdon bins have been ordered for eight areas within the Parish.

Refurbishment of the Town Garden Gates

The Parish have secured a grant of £9,000 from community first towards the project. The Total expected cost is £75,000 which would be offset by the secured grant. The Deputy Clerk is waiting on two quotes from high quality specialist metal conservationist firms, The Swindon Borough Council Conservation Officer is meeting with the Parish Projects Officer on site to discuss the specification of finalised plans for a method acceptable to British Heritage. If the work is to be done temporary gates will be needed at Quarry Road, Springfield Road and the rear entrance to the back of Goddard Avenue. The Total

Deputy Clerk suggested that if the Parish go ahead with the gates it is best to do so properly.

Cllr N Hopkins stated that the indication is that with regular maintenance the gates should last 100 years plus.

Deputy Clerk confirmed that it is the Old Town Gardens 125th Anniversary this year and this would be a good project to start with for the Anniversary year.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on the Town Gardens Gates and the Deputy Clerk to report back once further quotes have been received.

The meeting closed at 07:50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council