

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2019 at 6.30pm
in Lounge, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr C Watts (Chair)
Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr V Ayris
Cllr P Dixon
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Gladman
Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr M Hamid
Cllr E Heavens
Cllr P Herring
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr W Horley
Cllr S James
Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr J Miah
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr N Watts

Officers Rob Core Parish Clerk

Public Five

Public Session A member of the public asked if a parish van had been received yet. The Clerk confirmed it is ready albeit the signage is to be completed.

A member of the public asked what the Parish Council's view of £851,000 Swindon Borough Council had spent on Wellington Street. The Chair responded that it is not Parish money therefore the Parish were not in a position to comment. The Chair also stated that Cllrs personal opinion could be sought by members of the public after the meeting. The member of the public stated that he was disappointed in The Chairs response.

A member of the public asked how long it would be for the no smoking and no dogs signs to be put up. The Clerk responded that the signs will be put in place soon.

A member of the public referred to the last Full Council meeting's item number 651 and asked if the Parish Council are taking over the whole of Broadgreen site. The Chair responded that the offices are in good condition, with more room and no other site can offer the whole footprint.

A member of the public stated that there had been a lot of support for the Broadgreen Community Centre Food Festival and the Old Town festival which had both been very

good events. Regarding the Youth Worker and graffiti in the community what can the Parish do, would CCTV be appropriate. The Clerk responded that there is a lot of legislation around CCTV but would investigate the possibility.

A member of the public asked if there was a by-law regarding horse manure due to horse droppings around the Woodbine Terrace area, also a sign in the same area was facing the wrong way. The Clerk stated that the sign would be reported to Swindon Borough Council and he would investigate the byelaws regarding the horse droppings issue and respond accordingly.

709 Apologies

Cllr S Ahmed
Cllr J Ali
Cllr M Strinkovsky

710 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

711 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 14 May 2019 be approved as a correct record. A copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

712 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Meeting held on 21 May 2019 be approved as a correct record a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

713 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Meeting held on 21 May 2019 be approved as a correct record a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

714 Leisure and Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Meeting held on 4 June 2019 be approved as a correct record a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

715 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Meeting held on 4 June 2019 with amendments be approved as a correct record a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

Cllr J Miah arrived during this item.

716 Information from Borough Councillors

None.

717 **Chairs Report**

The Chair gave a verbal report including an update on the Parish playgrounds: Rushey Platt has now been completed, Hesketh is 99% complete with some snagging to be done which the Projects Officer is dealing with. Savernake is progressing and after the next inspection will be signed off, Lordsmith Green should be completed in the next week, Dudmore Road work has been completed. There is more work to be done at East Wichel, GWR Park, Horsham and Cavendish Green are moving forward.

The Broad Street Food Festival held on Sunday 16th June 2019 was very well received and a great success with volunteers patrolling and no safety issues. The cricket was broadcast and proved a big draw along with food stalls, including a strawberries and cream stall set up by Gifty Tawiah the Centre Manager which made a small profit. The event is something that the Council would like to build on next year and the Councillors would like to give a big thank you to Gifty Tawiah, Centre Manager for a well organised and run event. Councillor Gladman stated that there were no issues regarding the local church. The event had a good write up in the local advertiser paper.

The Old Town Festival was well received and at least 1,800 people enjoyed the bands in the Bowl.

The Chair attended Swindon Borough Council regarding their call centre issues which are having a detrimental effect on the Parish Council's. Answer times are an issue as well as abandoned calls. The Borough Council must make £21million of cuts in twelve months and there seem to be no Borough Solicitors. This will have an impact on parish operations.

Councillor S Pajak stated that despite comments from Commissioner Angus MacPherson at the 16 April 2019 Council meeting "that there is no reason to not continue phoning 101 for assistance" it is clearly not working, and it is quicker to send an email. The Chair responded that unfortunately there is no faith in the service.

718 **Old Town Library Opening Times**

The Clerk submitted a report regarding Old Town Library, a copy of the which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The report showed that the statistics for the Old Town Library had improved since South Swindon Parish Council had taken over and there are now three trained volunteers who work in the Library. There was an opportunity to extend the opening to six days a week to include a Monday. The estimated cost for this would be approximately £2,500 per annum.

Swindon Borough Council have stopped the free wi-fi access and this needed to be provided for the public as a service.

RESOLVED that the opening hours be extended to include Mondays and free wi-fi will be installed by the Parish Council.

719 **Terms of Reference – Youth Worker Working Party**

The Clerk provided a report to consider the structure of the Youth Worker provision a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the report be taken to the next Finance and Staffing meeting, where if the proposal is accepted it is to be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair to move forward after the Finance and Staffing meeting.

720 Oakfield Development Update

The Clerk provided an update with the level of revised maintenance figures a copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute Book

NOTED

721 Fencing Quotes Town Gardens

The Clerk provided a report including quotes to be considered for Town Gardens fencing a copy of which appears as Appendix I in the Minute Book.

Cllr Watts commented that the fencing will protect private properties and gardens which people are using as a cut through within the area.

RESOLVED that quote for £15,300 be accepted.

722 Town Gardens Gates

The Project Officer gave a report to be considered for the Town Garden Gates refurbishment a copy of which appears as Appendix J in the Minute Book

The Project Officer stated that there is considerable work to be done by skilled restorers and a guaranteed grant has been secured.

RESOLVED

- a) That quote 3.1 as set out in the report be approved
- b) That recovery of the grant as set out in 3.2 of the report be approved.

The Project Officer left the meeting after this item

723 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 they be instructed to withdraw’. Reason – Staffing

724 Staff Training

The Clerk provided a report on staff training and compliance to be considered a copy of which appears as Appendix K in the confidential Minute Book.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council