

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 09 July 2019 at 6.30 pm  
in the Main Hall, Broadgreen Community Centre

<b>Present</b>	Cllr N Hopkins	(Chair)
	Cllr J Firmin	(Vice-Chair)
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr M Gladman	
	Cllr S James	
	Cllr L Kasmaty	
	Cllr M J Miah	
	Cllr J Miah	
	Cllr P Herring	(Not Committee Member)
	Cllr M Strinkovsky	(Not Committee Member)
	Cllr C Watts	(Not Committee Member)
	Cllr C Watts	(Not Committee Member)
	Rob Core	(Clerk)
	Jake Mee	(Deputy Clerk)

**Public** Five

**Public Session** A member of the public asked why the Secret Garden at Queens Park was closed after recent damage had occurred, the member of the public stated that there is no safety issue, and the public go to the secret garden daily and they do not understand the need for it to be locked.

Cllr N Hopkins stated that the In-Bloom is being held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019, which now is a priority and closure of the garden would be time limited. Cllr S James stated he had discussed the issue with Borough Councillors Paul Dixon who is involved with the Secret Garden and who recognises the concern but agreed that it is a time limited closure whilst the In-Bloom event is being held.

A member of the public gave the view that it was not good to close just for the In-Bloom event. Cllr N Hopkins was appreciative of the member of the public's concerns but confirmed that the parish are trying to make the whole area environment more accessible and enjoyable. Cllr J Firmin stated that the expectation is that it will open by Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Would the parish council consider paying for parish resident TV Licences for those who are over 75. Cllr Hopkins stated that the Parish would not consider paying for the TV licenses as it is not the Parish's purpose, however local Councillors and MPs may push back on this.

A member of the public requested that a ramp be installed on either side of the entrance to the Remembrance garden in Queens Park. Cllr Hopkins said that both parks would be looked at and included to the list of works to be looked at with accessibility in mind.

**741**

**Apologies**

Cllr V Ayris  
Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr S Pajak

**742 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

**743 Presentation from Swindon Town Football Club (STFC) Foundation**

Standing Orders were suspended in order to receive a presentation from Mr Shane Hewlett, Assistant Head of the Swindon Town Football Club (STFC) Community Foundation.

Cllr J Miah arrived during this item

Mr Hewlett gave a presentation about the foundation which delivers football and multi sports-based programmes within Swindon and the County and wish to increase the participation of people ages ranging from 3 years old to 80 they have four key themes of sports participation, education, social inclusion and health. The Foundation have recently opened their football pitch which is being well used and a new community building is currently being built which will house an activities room, four changing rooms and a café which will be an open access building leading to the County Ground, running track and football pitches. The foundation would like help with replanting and wondered if the parish have any interest in creating a play area near the building. They would like to create a relationship with the parish and the wider community. There are two site managers who work 10am – 8pm and patrol the site regularly including litter picking. The foundation would like to ask if the parish can help with providing waste bins which if provided would be regularly checked by the site managers.

Cllr Hopkins advised that the land and play area at the County Ground were not owned by the Parish Council so would not be able to assist with building a new park on this site.

The Clerk recommended that the request for collection of waste be approved as the litter picking in public areas was Parish Council responsibility.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council agreed to temporarily provide a weekly collection of waste bin bags from the site.

**744 Landscape Works to Secret Garden – Queens Park**

The Deputy Clerk submitted an email from The Secret Garden a community garden at Queens Park, Swindon a copy of which appears as appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Clerk stated that the garden and paving are in poor condition and the team are looking into it as it would require a lot of work and a significant sum spent on it.

**RESOLVED**

- a) that the Gardens Working Party would work with the Queens Park Secret Garden to identify work required and quotes to complete the work.
- b) that the Parish Council take on the volunteers for the park directly as they would be covered by the Parish Council Insurance policy.

**745 Tree Canopy Cover within Swindon South Parish (L&A Min. 578 – 09.04.19)**

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report from John Wilshaw, Community Forest Officer a copy of which appears as appendix B in the Minute Book.

The report estimates tree cover in Swindon and comparisons with other UK towns and cities, which included the benefits of urban trees.

The Deputy Clerk advised there is Government funding available to consider and the recommendation is to look at sites that currently do not have many trees and opportunities in open spaces.

**NOTED**

- 746**      **Sculpture for Remembrance of International Mother Language Day**  
The Deputy Clerk submitted an email from Borough Councillor Abdul Amin, a copy of which appears as appendix C in the Minute Book.

The email updated the parish council that Swindon Borough Council had now given consent for the construction of the Sculpture and work will commence in July 2019.

**NOTED**

- 747**      **PSPO Protection Order for Lydiard Park**  
The Deputy Clerk submitted a media release from Swindon Borough Council which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The media release states that Swindon Borough Council are asking people if they think rules which ensure dog owners act responsibly at Lydiard Park should be kept in place.

**NOTED**

- 748**      **Queens Park and Town Gardens Byelaws**  
The Deputy Clerk submitted a copy of Byelaws which appears as appendix E in the Minute Book.

Cllr P Herring arrived during this item.

The byelaws had been submitted in relation to the parish formal gardens and were discussed by the committee. The Deputy Clerk advised that although they were old the principles of the byelaws were still applicable. Cllr J Firmin stated that it is a matter for the gardens working party to work on updating the byelaws or replacing them with something more appropriate.

**RESOLVED** that the gardens working party make a report.

- 749**      **GWR Park Play Area**  
The Projects Officer submitted a report which appears as appendix F in the Minute book.

The Projects Officer provided a report which included a proposal for redevelopment of the play area in GWR Park, the project officer confirmed that the current equipment has limited play value and the safety surface is damaged and uneven, the current play area site is shrouded by trees and therefore dark and damp, this play area would not be removed but phased out over the next 5 – 10 years . The proposal is to build a completely new play area in a more suitable part of the park which will allow better access to the site.

Cllrs Hopkins and Firmin stated it is important to speak to ward councillors, the community group and the nearby nursery before plans are finalised. Cllr Herring queried access to the site.

Cllr Allsopp stated that he was in favour although there are concerns regarding the maturity of trees and wanted to know if there was an active tree management policy The Projects Officer stated that the trees will be spaced out accordingly.

**RESOLVED** to agree pursuance of further quotes and the project officer to bring a formal proposal to the committee at a later meeting.

- 750**      **Play Areas Update**  
The Projects Officer gave a verbal update on the play areas.

Cllr L Kasmaty arrived during this item.

1. Rushey Platt - Good feedback had been received
2. Dudmore Road - Good feedback had been received
3. Savernake - Good feedback had been received although neighbouring residents had complained that the musical flutes were too loud after which the project officer contacted the manufacturers who suggested muting them, but the projects officer was asked by councillors to remove the equipment.
4. Hesketh Crescent - There had been a delay with a street bench which will be fixed within the next week, a spelling board issue had now been resolved, a swing seat is to be replaced. The project officer is researching options for a roundabout seat which is becoming too hot to use in the summer heat. Generally good feedback had been received.
5. Lordsmith Green - The play area will be finished by the end of July 2019.
6. Cavendish Square - The current design needs to be simplified and the project officer had located a designer and will bring plans to a future meeting.

**NOTED**

**751 Town Garden Gates**

The Projects Officer gave a verbal report on the Town Garden gates.

The project officer is awaiting a specification report from the contractor for the work on the gates. When the report is received the project officer will share with the parish council and the heritage officer from Swindon Borough Council, if the heritage officer accepts the report, the project officer will then forward the details to the grant provider.

Councillors thanked the Project Officer for all the work he has put in.

**NOTED**

**752 Formal Parks Updates**

The Deputy clerk gave a verbal update regarding the formal parks.

The new machinery had arrived excluding the tractor which will be a further three weeks. All Swindon Borough Council equipment has now been removed which provides more storage for the new equipment. There had been great work done at both parks, work had been intensified due to the In-Bloom event taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The Deputy Clerk had been approached by a group who would like to hold an event in the Town Garden/Queens Park. Lots of events are already held in these parks and the Deputy Clerk suggested a need for an events co-ordinator and said that there is a possibility that Swindon Borough Council may be able to help provide information regarding a co-ordinator.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Cllr N Hopkins will ask Swindon Borough Council for information about co-ordinating of events.

**753 Outdoor Activity Week**

The Deputy Clerk submitted a press release from Swindon Borough Council which appears as Appendix G in the Minute book.

The Deputy Clerk said that Swindon Borough Council had sent a release which promoted a week of activities to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors, Swindon Borough Council had included several community groups in the event, however they had not liaised with the parish concerning any involvement with them. The Deputy Clerk advised that he would liaise with Swindon Borough Council regarding future events.

754

**Oakfield Development**

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which appears as Appendix H in the Minute book.

The Deputy Clerk asked the Committee to consider a report detailing estimated finance and the terms of a 99-year lease for the open space on the Oakfield Development.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to take a 99-year lease for the open space on the Oakfield Development site subject to heads of terms being agreed.

The meeting closed at 08:05pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council