

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 05 November 2019 at 6.30 pm
in the Lounge Hall, Broadgreen Community Centre

Present Cllr N Hopkins Chair
Cllr J Firmin Vice-Chair
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr V Ayris
Cllr D Griffiths (Sub Cllr M Gladman)
Cllr S James
Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr S Ahmed (Sub Cllr J Miah)
Cllr S Pajak

Cllr P Herring (Not Committee Member)
Cllr M Strinkovsky (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 said that the Broadgreen main hall was not suitable for meetings as it echoed, and he asked that the councillors speak clearly. The Deputy Clerk said that from the following week the meetings would be held in the new offices in Gladstone Street.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for and on behalf of all the users of the Eastcott Community Centre for the new doors.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council were aware that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) had claimed part of GWR park as they had put notices up saying that there would be legal enforcement. The member of the public also questioned whether the boundary is on the lease. The Clerk thanked the member of the public for sending photos of the signs to him and said that he had not seen them before and he had queried the issue with property services and the grounds manager to find out if there is an outstanding agreement as there is nothing in the lease regarding sharing the space with the MOD. The member of the public said that the parish had mentioned opening and closing the gates which they would not be able to do if the MOD have use of the area. The Clerk responded that the issue is being considered.

A member of the public asked what the dates are for the restoration of the Town Gardens gates.

The Clerk said that the gates are being started next week and the timeline is throughout the winter and into the spring of 2020 the grade two listed gate will be the last to be done

A member of the public said that the first gate to be done should also be listed

Cllr C Watts confirmed that he had spoken to the Deputy Clerk and the grade listing issue would be addressed.

904 **Apologies**

Cllr M Gladman (Sub Cllr D Griffiths)
Cllr J Miah (Sub Cllr S Ahmed)
Cllr J Milner-Barry

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

None

906 **Queens Park – Lake Safety**

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

The Parish Health and Safety Officer wrote a report regarding public access and water danger at Queens Park. The Council discussed the report and the current flotation devices which raise awareness of the risks to visitors/public when entering the water. Information on the depth of the water and the danger of misuse by the public. The devices had been seen by some as unsightly and not suitable for the park's ambience.

RESOLVED to replace the flotation devices with signage in both lakes and to leave the flotation devices in situ until the signs are erected.

907 **GWR Working Party**

The Chair of the GWR Working Party gave a verbal update of improvement works at GWR park alongside a written report on the progress which appears as Appendix B in the Minute book

The report provided details and recommendations for the current maintenance requirements of the park including the play area.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be approved:

- 1) To arrange quotes for the refurbishment of the former public toilet to allow both Parish Staff and Volunteer use.
- 2) To arrange quotes for the reinstatement of the depot/yard security fence to allow for secure staff parking.
- 3) To commission a report on the design of gates for the park incorporating any likely costs for added security and late-night locking.
- 4) To work with HAZ on the final design of the play area.
- 5) Carry out repairs to the internal walls around the park.
- 6) To progress the plans to refurbish the play area within the park.
- 7) As a matter of urgency reduce and remove some shrubs from around the former toilets.

908 **Allotments Working Party**

The Chair of the Allotments Working Party gave a verbal report on the Allotments.

Cllr M Strinkovsky arrived during this item.

The Chair said that there is an unfenced area at Shrevenham Road allotment site which had led to vandalism and theft from the allotments, a new fence is needed to ensure security as a long-term investment to the site.

RESOLVED that three quotes for repair will be pursued and brought to the Finance and Staffing Committee recommending the use of CIL.

909 **In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife**

The Chair of the In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party gave a verbal report.

The Chair said that it had been hoped that the Town Gardens gate restoration would be ready for the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Gardens, unfortunately they are not

ready therefore the chair hoped they would ready for the Old Town Festival celebrations and if not a celebration would be held when they are replaced.

It was agreed to commission Flicky Harrison of Media Productions to make a video diary of the gates being taken away and if possible, the restoration of the gates.

With the success of the “it’s your neighbourhood garden” in Swindon this year the working party have tried to get some gardens in Eastcott to enter next year. There is also a garden where a house was bombed during the war, unfortunately there is a wall which has collapsed but when this is resolved the community garden plan can move forward.

A group from the parish walked the wildlife corridor from Shaftesbury Lake to Coate Water, along the old railway line and onto Rushey Platt, it is a lovely walk but there is a lot of work to be done including clearance, signage and seating.

The Chair said that there could be welcome signs to the parish which advertise that the parish entered Britain in Bloom and won silver and that a parish logo would also advertise the work being done in the parish.

The working party looked at planting schemes for Town Gardens and Queens Park and decided that in addition to the annual planting perennial, bulb and wildflower mixes would be planted.

There is a flower bed on Drove Road that was previously planted, and the working party will look at re-establishing the site and adding a sign with the parish logo. A logo for the in bloom would also be needed and could also be added.

There are plans for rewilding along the old railway line and bank subject to Swindon Borough Council agreement.

The next In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party meeting is being held on the 3rd December 2019.

Cllr C Watts said that there is a huge body of work to be done and focus should be afforded to the work in hand.

NOTED

910 World Wars Working Party

The Chair of the World Wars Working Party gave a verbal report.

The Chair said that the party had discussed work to be done next year and events which would be focused on in May and July possible dates

- 1) look at memorials currently in the parks which need works e.g. stonework damage, refresh the roses in QP - look at what is already there ensure what is there is visible and in good order.
- 2) work around the civilian population and the effect on them of the war which may lead to a permanent feature to reflect the work done by them.

To bring things forward a softer event to decorate the community centres for schools and children we would like to widen the membership of the committee. We would like to display some of Mark Sutton’s previous work which could be revisited with photos etc. the working party have several ideas but need to look at pricing and assets to find out what to refurbish existing elements of the parks.

Cllr C Watts requested that the Richard Webb memorial be part of the works to be looked at.

Cllr S Pajak said that some of Mark Suttons first world war photos made into posters last

year and put up at various points in Queens Park and were put up again this year which created a lot of interest for visitors to the park. The same theme could be done for the Second World War as the war changed Swindon hugely with a population growth of people from Poland and Italy so a similar thing could be done along with the remembrance garden being better signposted and a community/family event held to celebrate.

Cllr J Firmin confirmed that the Cllr Pajak’s suggestions were in line with discussions that had been had by the working party.

NOTED

911 Events Working Party

The Chair of the Events Working Party gave a verbal report.

The Chair said that they had not met yet, but there was a lot to discuss including booking arrangements relating to parks and facilities which raised some questions and actions which may be necessary by the Parish Council. A meeting would be arranged within a few weeks.

NOTED

912 Old Town Library

The Deputy Clerk gave a report regarding the usage of the Old Town Library and future stock costs which appears as Appendix C in the Minute book.

The Deputy Clerk provided a report which detailed the ongoing improved usage of the Old Town Library since being operated by the Parish Council with an increase in lending of 65% in one year. The Deputy Clerk gave information regarding the costs for next year and gave recommendations to be discussed.

The Parish Council gave thanks to the staff and volunteers of the library for all their hard work and on their wonderful achievements.

RESOLVED

- a) That the stock costs budget of £5,565 from Swindon Borough Council as detailed be approved.
- b) That an additional amount of £435 be added to the budget to directly purchase and process more baby books for the Library be approved.

The meeting closed at 7:17pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council