

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2019 at 6.30 pm
in the Council Chamber, Parish Council Offices Gladstone Street

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| Present | Cllr N Hopkins | Chair |
| | Cllr J Firmin | Vice-Chair |
| | Cllr S Allsopp | |
| | Cllr V Ayris | |
| | Cllr S James | |
| | Cllr L Kasmaty | |
| | Cllr M J Miah | |
| | Cllr C Watts | Not Committee Member |
| | Cllr N Watts | Not Committee Member |
| | Rob Core | Clerk |
| Jake Mee | Deputy Clerk | |

Public Five

Public Session

A member of the public asked why had the closing times signs at Town Gardens been removed, and had the plates been thrown away. The Clerk said that the plates needed replacing due to damage and the Projects Officer had quotes for replacements which would be taken to the next Full Council meeting. The replacement time is dependent on the manufacturers.

A member of the public said that a tree in Queens Park which had been planted as a memorial to someone who had died at the park in 1984 had been replaced with an inferior tree. The Clerk said he was not aware of any tree replacement and had no information regarding that tree. Cllr N Hopkins said that the parish will find out what had happened and deal with it appropriately. The member of the public asked if Cllr S Pajak had approached the parish council regarding the tree. The Clerk and Cllr N Hopkins both responded that they had not been approached by Cllr S Pajak.

A member of the public asked if residents are allowed to put waste bins out on the street in front of their property and not move them back for a week after the refuse had been collected. The Clerk said that all bins should be taken back onto the property and Cllr C Watts said that they should report the issue to Swindon Borough Council.

A member of the public asked if the parish knew anything about trees being cut down by the Mechanics. Cllr N Hopkins said that he had been made aware of it by a member of the public but could not comment as it is not a parish asset and is nothing to do with the parish. Cllr J Firmin said that it had been mentioned at a presentation by the Mechanics he had attended a month or six weeks ago it was mentioned that they were removing some of the foliage and trees from around the mechanics, the Clerk attended the meeting as well and it is part of the Swindon Borough Council HAZ action zone project which the parish are not part of.

959

Apologies

Cllr M Gladman Sub Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr J Miah

Cllr J Milner-Barry

Not Present

Cllr S Pajak

960 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

961 Tree Work at Cambria Bridge Park

The Project Officer submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute book.

The project officer said that there are 14 London Plane trees in the park which can become very large and proposed that the trees be cut back to reduce the effects of shade, leaf fall, root damage to hard standings and potentially private dwellings. At a cost of £2,000 at current prices the trees will require pollarding every 5 years. The project officer recommended a company to carry out the work.

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the project officer for quote 3 as detailed in Appendix A of £2,755 be approved.

962 Play Area Renovation at Cambria Bridge

The Project Officer submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute book.

The project officer said that the current play area is in very poor condition with old equipment of low play value and would be completely renovated with the proposed work to completely replace the play area with new fencing, safety surface and play equipment and maximising play provision equipment within budget. The project officer recommended a company to carry out the work.

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the project officer for quote 2 as detailed in Appendix B of £63,716 be approved.

963 Play Area Renovation at GWR Park

The Project Officer submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute book.

The project officer said that the current play area is in very poor condition with old equipment and poor safety surface. The proposed work would renovate the play area within the same footprint keeping the existing fence and gate. New play equipment with a train theme design. The project officer recommended a company to carry out the work.

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the project officer for quote 3 as detailed in Appendix C of £49,792 be approved.

964 Landscaping Improvements at Cavendish Square

The Project Officer submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute book.

The project officer said that the park had been very poorly designed and that many of the features are broken and the paving, boulders and grass maintenance would be difficult to maintain. A few major changes to the site are required to make it safe, sturdy and easier to maintain. The project officer also said that the Swindon Walcot and Parks Group (SWAP) had offered £700 from a refresh grant left to support the parish costs. The grant money could be used for additional planting to be undertaken by volunteers around the edges of the site after the major work has been completed. The project officer recommended a company to carry out the work.

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the project officer for quote 1 as detailed in Appendix D of £24,035 be approved.

965 Fence Replacement at Town Gardens

The Project Officer submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute book.

The project officer said that the old gates at the Town Gardens are currently being restored and that the fencing in the north western entrance is very old and worn and is no longer secure. The proposal is to construct 42 metres of new green palisade fencing at 1.8 metres high, placed in the north west corner to match existing fencing and which would complement the restored gate. The project officer recommended a company to carry out the work.

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the project officer for quote 2 as detailed in Appendix E of £4,475 be approved.

966 Allotments Working Party

The Chair of the Allotments Working Party gave a verbal update.

The Chair said that they are currently waiting for quotes for new fencing at the Shrivenham Road allotment site and should have them by the next meeting. The allotment working party need to organise a meeting regarding the second Badbury Park allotment site.

NOTED

967 Events Working Party

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

The Chair said that the inaugural meeting of the events working party would be held in January 2020 and would discuss the letting out of parish facilities and the look to set up the processes for events held in the facilities. The Clerk has had a number of requests for the hiring of facilities and have been informed they will have a response in the new year.

NOTED

968 GWR Working Party

The Chair of the GWR Working Party said that there was nothing to report and a meeting would be organised in January 2020.

NOTED

969 In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Party

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

The Chair said that they had a second meeting recently and talked about increasing the number of people joining “it’s your neighbourhood” community garden scheme. Cirencester Court on Drove Road who may enter this year also proposed Springfield Road and Piccard’s Field allotments who are keen to join. The groups would need to get together by 14th March and hopefully 15 groups will be entering. Another walk of the wildlife corridor was discussed to be done in March 2020 and the group will invite all parish councillors. At the Town Gardens, the perennials have been delivered for the Victoria planting scheme and are currently being planted. There is the hope of planting a bare area on Marlborough Lane next year working with Swindon Borough Council. A logo will be created for South Swindon In Bloom, with the wording shown as “Blooming South Swindon”. Gateways to the Parish were discussed and a small bed on Drove Road which had previously said welcome to Swindon had been surrounded by a hedge and now the front of the hedge had been removed to increase visibility of planting. The Chair asked what was happening with the gate restoration film. The Clerk said that the draft version had music and some captions being changed and hoped to publish on the website by Christmas. The Chair said that the next meeting is being held on the 7th January 2020.

NOTED

970 World Wars Working Party

The Chair of the World Wars Working Party said that a meeting would be arranged in the New Year.

NOTED

971 Badbury Park Allotments

A report on Badbury Park Allotment site was given by Councillor S Allsopp.

Cllr S Allsopp said that there had been a meeting with developers on the Badbury allotment site and there are 15 full size plots which would probably be made into 30 half sized plots, and the site is well placed close to a school and play area. There are things that need to be done for example updating plots and adding accessible, secure gate access to the site which would prevent people misusing the parking space. There is fencing along the site and the adjoining public right of way. Cllr C Watts asked if local residents would be offered first choice of obtaining a plot for a set period of time before offering out to the wider parish. Cllr S Allsopp said that he agreed, and it would establish a sense of permanence for the community. The project officer asked if there were water taps on the site. Cllr S Allsopp said that there is an option to negotiate two troughs, and the parish are at a stage of firming up a proposal in order to take the site on.

RESOLVED to approve to take on the site subject to negotiation with the developer including the points made by Councillors.

The meeting closed at 7:12pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council