

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

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 at 6.30pm  
in the Council Chamber, Parish Council Offices Gladstone Street

- Present** Cllr C Watts                      Chair  
Cllr J Howarth                      Vice-Chair  
Cllr S Ahmed  
Cllr J Ali  
Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr J Firmin  
Cllr D Griffiths  
Cllr A Hamid  
Cllr E Heavens  
Cllr N Hopkins  
Cllr W Horley  
Cllr S James  
Cllr L Kasmaty  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr J Miah  
Cllr S Pajak  
Cllr T Philpot  
Cllr M Strinkovsky  
Cllr N Watts
- Officers** Rob Core                      Clerk  
Jake Mee                      Deputy Clerk
- Public** Five
- Public Session** The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr C Watts requested a minute's silence in tribute to Cllr Des Moffatt of Central North Swindon Parish Council who had sadly, recently passed away.
- A member of the public asked if the Chamber meeting tables were being exchanged for tables with modesty screens. The Clerk said that the parish are in the process of replacing the tables which include modesty screens.
- A member of the public said that contractors working in two of the parks had torn up the grass and are parking half on the path and half on the grass leaving damage to the verges. The member of the public also said that a tree had come down in Queens Park and he noted that the contractors had driven over the footbridge and asked if the parish were aware that the footbridge had a weight restriction and would the parish check that the vehicle should have that kind of access.
- A member of the public said that the parish had all types of contractors and if they are not properly instructed it may cause more work in the future.
- A member of the public said that the ground in GWR Park is damaged around all of the edges.
- The Clerk said that the points regarding GWR park and travelling/parking on verges were noted and that both Swindon Borough Council contractors and the Parish Teams had been told not to drive on the grass and that the areas would be reinstated in the spring. The Clerk had not been aware of a weight restriction on the footbridge in Queens Park, but a larger emergency works vehicle had been required and due to waterlogging in the park it resulted in the larger vehicle using the bridge. A meeting had been arranged in relation to installing gullies and drainage to drain into the lake.

- 979**     **Apologies**  
Cllr V Ayris  
Cllr M Gladman  
Cllr P Herring  
Cllr J Milner-Barry
- 980**     **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**  
None
- 981**     **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.
- 982**     **Finance & Staffing Committee**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Meeting held on 26 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.
- 983**     **Planning & Environment Committee**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Meeting held on 26 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.
- 984**     **Leisure & Amenities Committee**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Meeting held on 10 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.
- 985**     **Planning & Environment Committee**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Meeting held on 10 December 2019 with amendment be approved as a correct record.
- 986**     **Chair's Report**  
The Chair gave a verbal report stating that he and the Deputy Clerk had attended a meeting with Swindon Borough Council the previous week. Present at the meeting were representatives from most of the Parish Councils, the Chief Executive, the Leader and other senior members of Swindon Borough Council.  
Item one had been the current financial situation at Swindon Borough Council where the financial outlook looked bleak, and the reduction of the Revenue Support Grant which, will eventually disappear, and is the borough councils' biggest concern since 2010. It emerged that over the next three years the borough council will have to make major cuts, which will impact on all of the parish councils, at this point the parish councils agreed that parish precepts should not be increased to cover the cuts that the primary authority need to make, and that the primary authority should return to Central Government in an effort to cover any shortfall.  
Item two had been a discussion on partnership working and how parishes could work more effectively with the borough council, there was no resolution regarding the partnership working as the parishes wanted to discuss the item away from the current meeting.  
The Chair had attended a Swindon Area Committee meeting where other parishes had agreed that they cannot be used to try and cover austerity and which the parish agree with and which ties to a policy the parish had already put forward. The parish had also noted that there had been delays in the borough council providing quotes for work and other changes at the borough which lead to work having to be outsourced due to the parish being unable to wait for the borough council to respond/provide the information required.
- 987**     **Responses Working Party Update**  
The Chair of the Responses Working Party said no meetings had been scheduled yet.

The meeting closed at 06.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council