

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 at 6.30pm
at a VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Present	Cllr N Hopkins	Chair
	Cllr J Firmin	Vice-Chair
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr M Gladman	
	Cllr S James	
	Cllr L Kasmaty	
	Cllr MJ Miah	
	Cllr J Miah	
	Cllr J Milner-Barry	
	Cllr T Philpot	Not Committee Member
Rob Core	Clerk	
Jake Mee	Deputy Clerk	
Matt Bradley	Events and Communications Officer	
Shaun Wright	Services Supervisor	

Public Two

Public Session No public questions received.

1174 **Apologies**
Cllr S Pajak

Not present
Cllr V Ayris

1175 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

1176 **Play Area Refurbishment 2020**
The Chair Cllr N Hopkins gave a verbal report on the play area refurbishments completed since the last meeting.

Cllr Hopkins said that the Parish are responsible for 21 play areas and to date ten had been refurbished, going forward it is important to identify and prioritise the remaining play areas that require attention whilst also working within the budget. East Wichel is the next play area to be done. The proposals approved at the last Full Council meeting had drawn a lot of positive comments. When the works which include a lot of drainage work is finished it will have a great play area.

The Clerk said that the annual independent play equipment inspections usually done in April had been delayed due to the lockdown. The inspection companies had also been delayed due to volume of outstanding work but had now started the inspections parish and highlighted play areas in need of refurbishment.

NOTED

1177

Service Delivery Update

The Clerk gave an update on the current service contract.

The Clerk said that the independent play area inspections had noted there is timber play equipment which had been placed in very boggy part at Westcott Place had suffered severe wet rot within the timber, the parish staff do regular inspections but the issue would not have been identified by them only by an in-depth inspection. Two items of play equipment were immediately removed from the play area and the Clerk will be meeting the Project Officer to discuss his assessment and what can be done on the site, there will be a loss of equipment at the site until a decision is made of action needed.

As a general update of services, the grass cutting at the start of the year was delayed due to SBC standing staff down which had been resolved in the past month with staff returning to work. Grass cutting across the parish had improved, and the operational teams are now moving onto shrubs and hedges which will continue until Christmas. It is a transitional period and the delivery of new sweepers mean that the parish are ready for the transfer of Street Cleaning Services. Due to the increase of usage play areas had seen more damage to equipment requiring repair, fly tipping had increased week on week requiring 20 – 25 disposal runs a week, allotment clearance had also been done. The depot staff had been doing lot of work for compliance and other related work. The Parish vehicles are now ready for teams to transfer in November.

Councillors discussed littering volumes and the increase of littering in the parish, Cllrs asked the Clerk if he would ask Swindon Borough Council to share any statistics they have on littering.

NOTED

1178

Allotments Working Party

The Chair of the Allotments Working Party gave an update on Allotment services and sites.

The Chair said it had been an interesting year regarding all the changes required around the Covid period, and gave tribute to the flexibility and adaptability of the parish staff and the support in keeping the services running, and also making plot holders aware of their responsibilities. Investment is being made at Westcott allotments, in terms of more security, and significant investment in new fencing, car park and a circular track for manoeuvring within the site.

The Chair asked if a plot holder meeting could be held online to replace the annual meeting. The Deputy Clerk said that a meeting held for people wanting to attend online would be very difficult to manage.

NOTED

1179

Events Working Party

The Chair of the events working party said no meetings had been held but gave an update on bookings.

The Chair said that due to Covid 19 and as reported previously a lot of bookings had been lost but a lot of and potential and provisional bookings for Town Gardens had been received for 2021 alongside early interest from other groups. The Chair questioned the use of the ornamental parks for sizeable events and possible future use of GWR park. The Events Manager said that the use of GWR park would have less conflict with other bookings, and if used a zoned off area could be created for events.

NOTED

1180

GWR Working Party

The GWR Working Party had nothing to report.

- 1181** **In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party**
The Chair of the In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party said a meeting had been held and they would be keeping grass longer on the green open spaces and cut around the edges, to ensure that the green areas are kept wildlife friendly as cutting grass really short is not beneficial for wildlife, and residents would also be kept updated. The working party hope to meet Neil Pullen from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to discuss Rushey Platt which the Parish may take over as a wildlife area. The In-Bloom planning is going well, and the working party are considering working with Plastic Free Swindon for well-designed litter posters to place around areas of the parish. Art works from the Swindon Collection will be placed around the Town Gardens soon to make art available in the public domain.

NOTED

- 1182** **World Wars Working Party**
The Chair of the World Wars Working Party said that all current work had been covered at the last Full Council meeting and that there was nothing new to report. The work schedule had now been completed.

NOTED

- 1183** **Swindon Summer Bowl Event**
The Communications and Events officer gave an update and said that the Fandangos event held from the 17th July to the 30th August had taken place and he had spoken to the organiser regarding how the events had done. The organiser said that a local Covid 19 outbreak had affected the number of event bookings. He had also noted a drop in numbers when the eat out to help out scheme came into place in August which had an impact on attendance at the events.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 7.18pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council