

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021 at 6.30pm
at a VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Present	Cllr N Hopkins	Chair
	Cllr J Firmin	Vice-Chair
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr V Ayris	
	Cllr M Gladman	
	Cllr S James	
	Cllr L Kasmaty	
	Cllr MJ Miah	
	Cllr S Pajak	
	Cllr C Watts	Not Committee Member
Rob Core	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	
Jake Mee	Chief Finance Officer (CFO)	
Matt Bradley	Communications and Events Manager (CEM)	
Oliver Saunders	Projects Officer	
Theresa Gordon	Planning & Agenda Clerk	

Public Two

**Public
Session**

Ms Jane Rampim gave a presentation of Earthwatch relating to item 3 on the agenda.

Ms Rampim gave an overview of Earthwatch which is an international environmental charity with a model of science and communities engagement to help safeguard critical habitats, conserve biodiversity, and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Earthwatch plan to work with communities to plant, maintain, and monitor each tiny forest over time. Earthwatch are now linked with IVN and are planting tiny forests throughout Europe and starting with the United Kingdom they have found that people's imagination has been caught. The tiny forests take up only a tiny area and can be planted in densely built-up urban areas where there is a lack of green space. We find they are a very tangible asset that people gather around therefore enabling community engagement which allows Earthwatch along with its Citizen Science Program to engage many more people in the experiment. The first tiny forests are being planted in the United Kingdom using communities to plant, monitor and report on them. Earthwatch will remain actively involved for at least two years and are now looking at how to maintain involvement in the monitoring of the tiny forests via the development of a data platform, online training and online webinars which are currently being rolled out. It is much more than planting trees it is about creating a place where communities can engage with nature, engage with themselves and go through an active learning process playing a part in this citizen science project.

1282 **Apologies**

Cllr J Miah

Cllr J Milner-Barry

1283 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

1284 **Tiny Forest at East Wichel Project**

The Communications and Events Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the Parish Council to enter partnership with Earthwatch, a national environmental charity to establish a Tiny Forest, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book

The CEM thanked Jane Rampim for the presentation and said that a report and relevant information had been submitted with two recommendations as tabled.

Recommendation

To agree for the Parish Council to go into partnership with Earthwatch to establish a Tiny Forest at the East Wichel Play Area.

To give authority to Parish Officers to sign a Partnership Agreement with Earthwatch for a Tiny Forest project at East Wichel Play Area.

RESOLVED that both recommendations be approved.

1285 **Marketing of Parish Events Venues**

The Communications and Events Manager submitted a report seeking approval to commission an Events Marketing Plan for the Town Gardens and Town Gardens Bowl a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book

The CEM said that a report and relevant information had been submitted with a recommendation for councillors as tabled.

Recommendation

3.1 To Hire the Events Consultant to complete a Marketing Plan for events in the Town Gardens and Town Gardens Bowl based on the quote in Point 2.8 of the report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 be approved.

1286 **Invitation to Tender- Future of Town Gardens Café Operation**

The Communications and Events Manager submitted a report regarding the future operation of the Town Gardens café, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book

The Chair said that the café was up for renewal in May 2021. The CEM reiterated the report information and recommendations.

Recommendation

3.1 To agree to advertise for tenders for the running of the Town Gardens Café on an initial 3-year lease starting from 1st June 2021.

3.2 To agree the decision-making process for the Parish council's preferred tender as outlined in Point 2.5 of the report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 and 3.2 be approved.

1287 **Swindon Road Garden**

The Chief Executive Officer gave a verbal update on the Swindon Road Garden Project.

The CEO said that there had been a few problems due to COVID-19 in the last few months, but staff had now cleared the Swindon Road site, refurbished the existing benches and a floor plaque. Two end walls would be screened off with trellis to create a better view for the public, Jet washing the area would be done next and sensory plants had been ordered and be planted in February 2021. The CEO said that long term it was hoped to get community interest to maintain the garden and that the garden would be part of the Britain in Bloom 2021 if it is held.

Cllr C Watts gave thanks to the parish operatives and both parish officers for their expertise in producing the Buttresses. The Chair also thanked Cllr Kasmaty for all the work she had put in to move the project forward.

NOTED

1288 **Rushey Platt and Quarry Road Lease Request Update**

The Chief Executive Officer gave a verbal update on lease requests for Rushey Platt local nature reserve, Quarry Road open space and tennis courts.

The CEO said that the parish were looking to extend the current lease for the play area at Quarry Road to incorporate an adjacent strip of land. Lethbridge School had requested help with access to enable movement of children within current distance rules.

On the 4th November 2020 there was a further lease request for Rushey Platt which was at end of lease from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The parish were looking to take the lease on from the Borough, however the latest update said that the property team at SBC did not have capacity to service the leases for the parish at this time. SBC hope to give an update but the capacity issue means that the leases are at the back of the queue.

Cllr C Watts asked if leases are delayed would there was a risk to the assets that may have a financial impact.

The CEO said that the tennis courts and grass area at Quarry Road are being maintained under the current deed and should not deteriorate further than they already had, however, it means that no management planning is in place for Rushey Platt and there will only be a base service. The site borders the green corridor and sits next to the Rushey Platt play area. It had changed from a fenland site to a local nature reserve, but it has value locally and can be protected by taking on the lease as agreed through Council some time ago.

NOTED

1289 Play Area Renovation – Savernake and Westcott Play Areas Update

The Projects Officer submitted a report regarding the renovation of Savernake and Westcott play areas, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The Projects Officer said that the usual process had been followed with three reputable companies and he had recommended accordingly.

The CEO said that during a play area safety check in the summer it had been noted that some of the play equipment had failed because of wood rot, therefore the new the equipment is of a more suitable material.

Company	Westcott Recreation	Savernake Street
1	£36,961.00	£21,410.00
2	£32,125.64	£18,752.41
3	£32,808.00	£18,953.00

Recommendations

Company 3 to carry out both renovation projects. The company had been used before and always deliver good work and are offering a very competitive price.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3 be approved.

1290 Allotments Working Party

The Chair of the Allotments Working Party gave a verbal update regarding work being carried out on the allotment sites.

The Chair said that work to improve the roadway at Glenwood allotment site had been completed and other improvement works to other sites had shown to be working well.

The Projects Officer said that landscaping on the green corridor had now been prioritised and had started with a focus on landscaping of the footpath when the work is completed Glenwood site would follow immediately.

NOTED

1291 Events Working Party

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

The Chair said that the events working party had met on the 12th December 2020 and discussed three key items with the events consultant who had looked at commercial and

marketing plans each of which had been covered in a previous agenda item. A draft 2021/22 charging structure was discussed and needed a meeting in the next few weeks to finalise and would then be brought to Full Council.

The CEM said that he had received some event enquiries and that COVID-19 dependent he hoped to get more over the next few months, if by April the situation looks better it could mean a reasonable calendar of events over the summer months.

NOTED

1292 In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party

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

The Chair of the In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party said that a meeting had been held in November 2020. A lot had happened since the meeting and the party had been concentrating on advertising South Swindon Blooming although another meeting is required to decide on the name, and it is hoped that in the next few months people will see signs showing South Swindon blooming. The pocket garden in Swindon Road is currently a parish initiative but we anticipate getting the community involved. Rewilding plans are happening and there are plans for a new parish website which would create a parish map to indicate rewilding areas and what else is emerging with South Swindon Blooming plans. People will be able to see what is being accomplished, and logos possibly based on a Bee are being looked at.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 19.26pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council