

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
PLANNING, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on **Monday 11th November 2024 at 6.00 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali
Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Leon Grother (Chair)
Cllr Rose Llewellyn
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Andrew Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers: Steven Anns (Operations Supervisor), Paula Harrison (Parish Manager/Clerk)

Public: Three

Presentation by Tim Howe The Longevity Games

Mr Tim Howe introduced the concept of the Longevity Games - an event focused on promoting and celebrating longevity, good health and overall well-being. It encompasses activities such as endurance, strength, explosive exercises all geared towards improvement of quality of life. The Committee watched a video of the event at the County Ground. Mr Howe invited Councillors to participate in a test event at Delta Tennis Centre in preparation of a formal Longevity Games event on 9th February www.thelongevitygames.co.uk and facebook for more information. Options to subsidise places for West Swindon residents is an option for future consideration.

The Chair thanked Mr Howe for his presentation.

Public Questions: None.

Meeting start 6.15pm

132. Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies received from Cllrs Dayan, Ertas, Singh and Wilson. Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20 May 2024: None

133. Play Update

The Operations Supervisor that improvement works continue at Whitehill Park and monitoring of damage to equipment at Shelfinch is ongoing. The Parish Manager advised that there was an opportunity to tie the request for quotations stage of Shaw Ridge play area to link with a joint proposal with Central Swindon North Parish Council. Linking West Swindon expenditure of

£100,000 with the Central Swindon North Parish Council proposed expenditure of £250,000 could generate savings across both parties. The cautionary note being that the timeframes anticipated by Central Swindon North are later with a view to going out to market in February 2025. It also may not work if both Council's do not agree on the same provider.

Councillors discussed the matter and agreed it would be worthwhile testing out a joint proposal.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager works with Central Swindon North Parish Council to link play area improvement tenders to the same advertised opportunity.

134. Hedgerows and shrubs update

The Operations Supervisor updated that following participation in the hedgefest event there were some questions arising in relation to the choice of shrub species for local hedgerows. Replacement planting could be typical species such as blackthorn or hawthorn or could be more ornamental such as hornbeam. Both give wildlife suitable cover. Councillors discussed the options and agreed that the grounds team could select the most appropriate planting for the space.

The Parish Manager circulated a report on shrub bed management, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The report asked the Committee to consider a change to the policy on shrub bed management. Councillors discussed the report.

RESOLVED that the Parish Team review shrub beds across the Parish and determine a prioritization list for those that would benefit from additional resources such as clearing and replanting.

135. Library of things

Councillors received a report setting out an initiative called the Library of Things, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the report noting that this type of project had complexities to it. Councillors agreed that the timing was not right for this type of initiative due to lack of premises.

136. Noticeboard request

Councillors received a verbal request on behalf of residents to consider an additional noticeboard for the Grange Park area. Councillors discussed the matter.

RESOLVED that there was no suitable central shopping or meeting point in Grange Park to host a noticeboard.

137. Projects Update

Officers updated Councillors on a number of projects. It was reported that the Community Pantry was getting closer to fruition. All registrations have been

accepted and the team are waiting for the go ahead to book food collections. It is hoped this will be operational by the end of the month.
Officers reported that following delays to the defibrillator cabinets, the installation was now planned for the end of the month.
Officers asked for feedback on the litter picking A Board. Councillors asked for a pilot to continue as previously discussed and agreed.

138. ATB sessions

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out options to work with Swindon ATB to hold regular sessions for youth engagement. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the value and constraints of the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager works with Swindon ATB on Option A to hold a weekly session from March to September subject to details being confirmed for delivery and promotion.

139. Planning Report

Councillors received the Planning Report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. No objections were raised.

Meeting ended 7.15 pm

Signed:.....

Chair, Planning & Leisure Committee

Date: