

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

on Thursday 5th September 2019 at 6.00pm at WEST SWINDON LIBRARY

Present:

Cllr Michael Burtenshaw
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Timothy Makofu
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers:

Paula Harrison
Leanne Curtis

5 residents present.

Cllr Khaitan chaired the meeting.

Public Participation:

A resident asked if the Parish Council could conduct door step waste collection in a timely manner especially plastic waste which wasn't collected until late and ends up creating litter.

Cllr Williams advised that Swindon Borough Council were experiencing problems and it wasn't isolated to West Swindon. This is mainly due to staff shortages. Cllr Williams advised that the resident write to Cllr Maureen Penny at Swindon Borough Council to strengthen awareness of public concern.

A resident asked if there was a date planned for the public to visit the Rivermead site with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

The Chair advised that this would be arranged.

A resident asked if the Parish Council could issue higher fines for instances of flytipping than those given for littering.

The Chair advised that Swindon Borough Council issued fines and could fine up to £400 for flytipping. The process is dependent on evidence but people are cautioned.

A resident advised that the Purton Road to Peatmoor closed section would likely to be vulnerable to a travellers encampment.

The Chair advised that all modifications have fallen under Wiltshire Council and so it would be likely that this would do. The Chair advised that he would pass on the information to the Wiltshire Council.

Meeting start 6.05 pm

132. Apologies

Cllr Simon Firth – work commitment
Cllr Geoff Gould – holiday commitment
Cllr Nick Martin and Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith – meeting conflicts

Apologies of Absence received and approved.

133. Declarations Of Interest & Applications For Dispensation

None.

6.18 pm Cllr Mary Martin joined the meeting.

134. Flytipping Report (requested by Cllr Swinyard)

The Parish Manager circulated a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Cllr Swinyard had highlighted that flytipping in West Swindon (Grange Park and Freshbrook particularly) has increased. The Parish team collect flytipping on a daily basis and there are some parts of West Swindon more prone to the problem. Communal garage areas and copses that back onto residential houses tend to be the most vulnerable.

RESOLVED that

- a) The next Parish Link Magazine article focuses on the impact of flytipping and the number of successful prosecutions.
- b) That the Borough bulky waste collection is promoted to West Swindon residents
- c) That flytipping is linked to the national SCRAP campaign which highlights residents' responsibilities for ensuring waste is removed by a licensed carrier.
- d) Parish noticeboards are used to promote reporting of flytipping
- e) That links are made with the Junior Wardens to understand what they see on local litter picking activities and their views on the impact of flytipping
- f) That links be made with the clean and green fund to incentivise or promote positive behaviour

135. Local Plan Review – Emerging Strategies Consultation

Councillors noted the start of Swindon Borough Council's consultation, a link to the documents online was circulated with a copy of the map for West Swindon sites which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book.

6.27 pm Standing Orders suspended.

Councillors heard from a resident that site S0366 at Hillmead should be considered as an important environmental site, with 2-3 ponds and dense vegetation that is making a real contribution.

6.29 pm Standing Orders reinstated.

RESOLVED that the following feedback be submitted on behalf of West Swindon Parish Council;

- a) future developments needed to be sustainable with transport links
- b) charging points with new builds should be considered
- c) developments should link to and retain footpaths and cycle path networks

d) Hillmead site S0366 environmental considerations be taken into consideration

136. Annual Winter Shrub Cut

The Parish Manager advised that the grass cutting season would be likely to ending by the end of September and at that point, the team would focus on the annual shrub cut. Unless otherwise directed, the team will follow the same routine as previous years. The order of the shrub cutting schedule will be posted on the Parish website and circulated to Councillors. Where some shrub beds were significantly reduced last year, many have seen good growth over the growing season. Any shrub beds that need particular attention should be highlighted to the Parish Office.

137. Managing Grounds Maintenance (requested by Cllr Gould)

The Parish Manager reported that Cllr Gould had asked that the Committee consider whether there are circumstances when the Parish Council might cut back overgrown shrubbery on private land (e.g. not public open space). At the inception of the Parish Council it became apparent that there are spaces that remain unadopted and for some residents, there have been boundary issues where they found themselves newly responsible for a boundary shrub bed or hedgerow. The Councillors discussed the issue and agreed that where there are problems blocking access, it may be in the public interest to take action, also noting that Swindon Borough Council Highways have responsibilities for the public highway.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager undertakes further work to assess the situation and reports back to a future meeting.

138. Feedback on Rivermead visit.

Councillors reported that the visit to Rivermead with Mr Neil Pullen (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) was very interesting. Whilst it is not a Parish project, it will need careful communication to ensure that residents are well informed about any major changes to the landscape and environment.

The Chair agreed that another visit would be set up for community activists in the Parish.

139. Planning Report

RESOLVED that the following be submitted in respect of the planning applications:

139.1 S/HOU/19/115	26 Icomb Close, Toothill SN5 8HH	Erection of a conservatory to rear No objection
139.2 S/HOU/19/1191	1 Tregoze Way, The Prinnels SN5 6NW	Erection of a single storey rear extension, rear dormer window and part conversion

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of garage into habitable
space
No objection

139.3 S/HOU/19/1146 8 Chesterfield Close,
Westlea SN5 7DT Erection of a single storey
rear extension and
conversion of garage into
habitable space.
No objection

139.4 S/19/1100 The Quadrant, Stonehill
Green SN5 7HB Erection of 12no. dwellings
and associated works

The following response has already been submitted from West Swindon Parish Council in respect to planning application 139.4, The Quadrant, whilst at pre application stage.

Whilst the supporting information suggests that post-development there would still remain spaces in the adjoining flat complex which would be 3 spaces above the planning standard, we question this assessment.

At present we have noted that on a day to day basis, the existing car park is already used to capacity. The additional parking demand arising from this scheme may therefore manifest in additional remote street parking in nearby streets to include Bentham Close and Stonehill Green and the highways implications of this should be considered; particularly in the light of the existing problems of street parking in this area and further strain on this arising from new developments in the pipeline.

Meeting closed at 7.06 pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2nd October 2019 6.00 pm.

Signed:
Chair of Planning & Environment Committee

Date:.....