

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at **6.00 pm.**
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE 2020 AT WEST SWINDON LIBRARY

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Umar Ali
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams (Chair)

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)
Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)

Public: Four

Public Participation:

Cllr Burtenshaw raised issues on behalf of a local resident who was having problems accessing Phoenix Surgery. The premises are undergoing a re-fit which is having an impact on accessibility but mechanisms are in operation such as telephone triage. Chair advised that this was outside of the remit of the Parish Council but agreed with other comments that the matter could be raised with Healthwatch Swindon or the relevant patient advisory group.

Resident asked for it to be noted that a bin is needed between Peatmoor Lagoon and Swinley Drive, information has been given to the Parish Manager.

Resident advised that in the Mannington area, tree trunks had been left for seating and work very well.

Resident thanked the Parish Office for assisting to secure a resolution of a long running street light issue.

Meeting started 6.10 pm.

415. Apologies

Cllr Nigel Gibbons due to family commitments.

416. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Gould indicated that he would not be voting as a non member of the Committee, Cllr Khaitan noted that the same applied to him.

417. Play Area Update

The Parish Manager reported that the play refurbishment was continuing. Work had started at Nine Elms and Tumpy Field. Some issues had arisen at Shelfinch and it was agreed to hold a site visit to review these.

The Parish Manager asked for it to be noted that play areas continued to be breached despite closure notices. It would take time to reopen the spaces as they need inspecting, cleaning and reinstating.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the update information.

418. Sparcells Play Area as requested by Cllr Keith Williams

The Chair advised the committee that Swindon Borough Council recently initiated a site meeting to discuss the potential handover of the Sparcells toddler play area to the Parish Council. The Parish Manager indicated that the installation of French drain to assist with the drainage issues had created a grass bund that will present a problem for future mowing. The matter had been raised with the officer. Cllr Khaitan expressed concern that the problems may not be fully resolved and may require waiting until the weather changes to assess it properly.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not take on the play area until Spring 2021 at the earliest to allow for sufficient monitoring of the remedial action to take place.

419. Group volunteer litter picks as requested by Cllr Trish Philpot

Cllr Trish Philpot advised that a number of residents in Freshbrook had shown interest in litter picking around Bloomsbury Park. The Parish Manager referred to a report setting out key considerations for the resumption of group litter picks. This included a revised risk assessment for outdoor volunteering taking into account social distancing and risks from Covid-19. Copies appear as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager indicated that the Parish Council may not choose to create litter picking opportunities but some existing volunteers may start to renew their activity so it was important to advise them on key safety considerations. The Parish Office remains closed so access to equipment and materials is challenged. Those that have their own kits already are better able to manage social distancing, keeping equipment clean and reducing their risks to exposure. If groups choose to resume, they need to consider how it might work, how to ensure that they do not exceed Government Guidance on numbers of people from different households, and, how equipment is used or shared.

RESOLVED that all individuals and groups are reminded of current government guidance to how to respond to Covid-19 and receive the revised risk assessment

420. Communications

The Parish Manager reminded the Committee that at their last meeting, it was agreed that the Parish Council would put out a newsletter in a different way and would choose a Royal Mail delivered leaflet rather than the Link Magazine. An accompanying report appears in the Minute Book as **Appendix B**. The Leaflet Company have indicated that if copy could be provided and approved over the next ten days, it would be able to get out distribution towards the mid/end of July. The newsletter could feature the new play areas, staff transfer and impact of Covid-19. Photos would need to be taken for illustrations.

RESOLVED that Councillors be invited to send the Parish Office any information for inclusion in the magazine including photos at the new play areas.

421. Westlea Pond as requested by Cllr Suresh Gattapur

A report was circulated, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Cllr Gattapur advised that the pond overflowed for months during the Winter and in response to local concern that this may have damaged the walkway, he had asked for checks to be made.

These checks have been completed and have resolved that there is little evidence of deterioration and the area is safe for public use.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the report.

422. Bin requests

The Parish Manager indicated that supply chains are currently affected by Covid-19 so supply of goods needs to be made in advance. The Parish Council now has no spare bin supplies and has received requests for extra bins. KFC's extra bin is working well but may end up being added to the Parish bin round.

Councillors noted the following requests:

- Toothill park
- Toothill bridge to Park Springs, the replacement bin is on the Toothill side of the bridge so does not reduce littering behind Park Springs. A small mounted bin may be sufficient.
- Resident request in public question time for Swinley Drive bin
- Tower Road to Peatmoor Village Centre lacks a bin
- Worsley Road bus stops

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager responds to the above and replaces bin supplies.

423. Freshbrook Church Grant Update

Councillors noted a written report outlining the improvements at Freshbrook Church

following their receipt of a Parish Council grant. The group outlined a range of projects and activities currently active and supporting local people including blood donation and foodbank. Councillors noted their appreciation for the update and conveyed their thanks to the organisation.

Meeting closed 7.05 pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13 July 2020 6.00 pm

Signed:
Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Date: