

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 27 June 2022 at 6.00 pm
Unit 25 Westmead Industrial Estate, SN5 7YT

FULL COUNCIL

Present:

Cllr Umar Ali (v)
Cllr Mike Burtenshaw (v)
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Prakash Khaitan
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Tim Swinyard (v)
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Others: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: One virtual; Four in person

Public Questions:

Residents from The Prinnels asked about progress on installation of Neighbourhood watch signs. The Parish Manager advised that this was in the hands of the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith chaired the meeting.

35. Welcome & Declarations of Interest/Applications for Dispensation

The Chair invited declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 23 May 2022. None received.

36. Minutes of the previous meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22 May 2022 be approved and adopted.

37. Minutes of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Monday 06 June 2022 be approved and adopted.

38. Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 31) that expenditure for May 2022 of 47 payments listed above totalling **£65,365.83** be approved.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 33) that expenditure for purchase of an electric Toyota Proace Van totalling **£30,865** be approved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 08 April 2022 be approved and adopted.

39. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Sydney Smith advised that Swindon Borough Council were bringing highway weedspraying back in house. This should improve the situation.

Cllr Philpot asked that consideration be given to using alternatives to glyphosate.

Cllr Sydney Smith advised that city fibre had disrupted access to wheelie bin collection for residents but this should be rectified.

Cllr Sydney Smith reported that work to replace crash barriers on Mannington to Blagrove was to start – further information to follow.

40. Updates from Parish Council Representatives

Cllr Gould reported that the Freshbrook litter picking group was meeting on the first Tuesday. A new group meeting on the third Saturday has been set up but no residents have attended so far. To continue to trial.

Cllr Singh reported that work had progressed to promote better parking in the Charolais Drive area of Ramleaze.

Cllr Swinyard joined the meeting. 6.09 pm.

41. Reminder - Community Safety Group

The Parish Manager reminded Councillors that the next meeting of the West Swindon Community Safety group was planned for 14 July 2022. This would be in the form of a MS Teams meeting. Agenda to be circulated next week. All welcome.

42. Year End Accounts 2021-22 – Annual Governance Statement

The Parish Manager had circulated the Annual Governance Statement, a copy of the papers appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager asked the Parish Council to approve the accounting statements as set out in the formal Annual Governance Statement for the financial year end accounts 2021-22. The Parish Council answered yes to the following:

- *This Council has made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.*
- *This Council has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.*
- *This Council has during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.*
- *This Council has considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.*
- *This Council has arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.*
- *This Council has responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and*

external audit.

- *This Council has disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.*

RESOLVED that this Council approves the Annual Governance Statement as part of the 2021-22 Annual Return

43. Year End Accounts 2021-22 – Accounting Statement

The Parish Manager had circulated the Year End Accounts 2021-22 and the Accounting Statement, a copy of the papers appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors received the Year End Accounts 2021-22 and the Accounting Statement as part of the 2021-22 Annual Return.

RESOLVED that this Council approves the Year End Accounts 2021-22 and the Accounting Statement as part of the 2021-22 Annual Return.

Date of next meeting: Monday 25 July 2022 6.00 pm

44. Admission of Public and Press

RESOLVED in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that ‘in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw’.

Reason: Play Area Lease matters

6.35 pm. Meeting resumed.

- 45.** The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out issues arising as reported by the Parish Council’s solicitor in relation to the detail of the lease arrangements for play areas in West Swindon. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Parish Manager to engage with Bradleys with regard to ongoing maintenance arrangements at Bloomsbury Park.
- b) The Parish Manager to enquire into the demise for Bess Road and other areas to ascertain changes to maintenance liabilities
- c) The Parish Manager to initiate feedback to Swindon Borough Council that the Parish Council does not find it an acceptable proposal to exclude Eastleaze play area from the ongoing lease arrangements and that this be communicated to Shaw ward Councillors.

Meeting closed 18.55

Date:.....

Signed:
Chair of West Swindon Parish Council