

# **CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at  
The Reading Rooms, 32 The Circle, Pinehurst, Swindon  
on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.00pm.

**Present** Cllr Telcy Araujo  
Cllr John Ballman  
Cllr Ray Ballman  
Cllr Ian Edwards  
Cllr Mick Lucas (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Dan Miller  
Cllr David Patey  
Cllr Kevin Small  
Cllr Will Stone  
Cllr James Yeowell

**Virtual Attendees** Cllr Marilyn Beele  
Cllr Raj Patel  
Aaron Cripps (Libraries Manager)  
Jodie Smart (Head of Finance Governance)  
Glynis Hales (Raybrook Meadows Community Group)  
Nicky Iddon (Raybrook Meadows Community Group)

**Officers** Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)

**Public** There was one member of the public present who made representations regarding the footpath at Kembrey Copse and whether the Council would support its reinstatement on the definitive maps.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council does not have the authority to add a note of support but could state no objection to the request by the resident. Cllr Yeowell has suggested forming a working group to look at the rights of way within the parish.

The clerk read out a statement by a resident not present at the meeting a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book. Members agreed to note the residents comments.

**FC149** **Apologies**  
Cllr Paul Exell, Cllr Steph Exell (Chair) and Cllr Javes Rodrigues.

**FC150** **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr J Ballman declared interests as a Member of the RSPB and HBUF.

Cllr M Beale declared an interest as a Member of the Penhill Orchard.

**FC151**

**Raybrook Meadows**

Members received a presentation from Nicky Iddon of the Raybrook Meadow Community Group (via zoom) regarding Raybrook Meadows, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

Cllr K Small questioned whether 2,500 trees would fit on the site. Ms Iddon responded that this was suggested by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust but that the community group were suggesting fewer trees.

*Raj Patel joined the meeting (virtually) at 7.27pm.*

Cllr J Yeowell commented that some of the path had underlay that might need to be pulled up and asked whether there will be any fencing around the balancing pool. Ms Iddon replied that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had spoken to Thames Water who own the pond but was not sure what has been agreed as yet. Ms Iddon felt that the community group would not be involved in the path but thought it would be a Swindon Borough Council responsibility.

Cllr K Small stated that the ownership of this particular piece of land was secured for the local community. It was always school land and agreed as community open space as there was no parish at the time it went to the Swindon Borough Council, the borough should pass it on now that there is a parish in situ. The waterscape area is already a wetland, very little work to do there. Cllr Small added that some of the figures needed looking at ie. the number of trees and that he would personally like to see a little more to tidy up the newt pond without disturbing the wildlife. Cllr Small stated that he had two points of concern and asked of the 9 volunteers how many live in Rodbourne, Ms Iddon confirmed that all lived in Rodbourne. Secondly Cllr Small was concerned that he had not been consulted as a resident and that there should be communication with the whole of Rodbourne.

There followed some discussion on how this could be achieved without pushing the project back several months and being unduly costly. The general consensus was that the Community Group would place notices around the site and provide Cllr Small with a small article to go into a newsletter he would be distributing around the local area within a number of weeks. Cllr R Patel also offered assistance in liaising with local shops and businesses to communicate the plans for the Meadow. Ms Iddon also suggested use of social and local media for communications.

Cllr R Ballman asked how the screen of trees along the road could be planned when it is not known where the utilities are and they may be by the road. Ms Iddon stated that the Group did not know yet but that they will have to revise the plan if that is the case. The Clerk confirmed that the utilities map has been requested from Kathy Sherratt at Swindon Borough Council and that he was liaising with her on this matter.

Cllr M Lucas stated that there was emergency access which could not be build on. Ms Iddon responded that she had been told it was not required anymore as it was for building works which are now complete.

Cllr J Ballman stated that he would like confirmation of the ownership of the land as he had had issues with land in Pinehurst and Gorse Hill previously.

Ms Iddon asked how the project could now move forward.

The Clerk responded that the second phase on approving the lease for the area was now under review. Once agreed, how the site is managed will be down to the parish council. The proposal will be reviewed by the Community Wellbeing Committee and be fed into Full Council. Council has already approved the management plan for the Meadows. The

Community Group should ensure that the parish are engaged with the consultation process. The Clerk confirmed that there was no approval as such yet and that it would be approximately mid to late April.

Cllr D Patey commented that the parish had already committed £1,600.00 for the rent of a baler for the Meadows and didn't expect the project to require any further funds from the Parish.

Cllr D Miller stated that the Community Group might need to prepare the ground to ensure that the fruit trees will last and produce fruit. Ms Iddon responded that the Community Group were being advised by Neil Pullen of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Cllr Marilyn Beale.

*Nicky Iddon and Glynis Hales left the meeting at 7.54pm.*

**FC152**            **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to be approved as a true and correct record.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 as a true and correct record.

**FC153**            **Environment & Planning Committee**

The Committee Chair presented the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 to be approved as a true and correct records.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 as true and correct records.

**FC154**            **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The Committee Chair presented the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 to be approved as a true and correct record.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 as a true and correct record.

**FC155**            **Leisure & Recreation Committee**

The Committee Chair presented the minutes of the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 to be approved as a true and correct record.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 as a true and correct record.

**FC156**            **Community Wellbeing Committee**

The Committee Chair presented the minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 to be approved as a true and correct record.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 as a true and correct record.

**FC157**            **Policy Review Working Party**

Members considered the formation of a Policy Review Working Party.

Member agreed that rather than set up a working party they will review the Press & Media policy ahead of the Annual Council meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will produce a draft Press & Media policy for review at the April Full Council meeting.

**FC158**

**Councillor Allowances**

Members considered increasing the Councillor Allowance from 1 April 2022 following the 1.75% NJC increase for staff salaries.

**RESOLVED** to approve the 1.75% increase in Councillor Allowances from 1 April 2022 resulting in a monthly payment of £95.39 per Member.

**FC159**

**Update on Partnership Working**

Members **NOTED** the verbal report of the Clerk regarding partnership working and specifically the recent peer review meeting. The Clerk informed Members that it was important that relationships with the principle authority are developed as much as possible. The Clerk stated that, at the peer review meeting participants went through future working with Swindon Borough Council and drafted a constitution like agreement between the Parish Councils and Swindon Borough Council. Parish's were concerned at how little consultation with parishes is done when drafting policy or strategic plans. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council had good relationship now, but that there were still issues of trust which manifests itself when parishes can only negotiation 99 year leases rather than freehold. Parishes needed to consider Swindon Borough Council policies when developing their own and vice versa. There is a need to engage better and not duplicate work.

Cllr R Ballman stated that she was a bit concerned that these meetings go ahead but are not brought back to the rest of the council. There is no report of what happened. The Clerk responded that he had sent a link of the recording of the meeting to all Members.

Cllr J Ballman stated that the Neighbourhood Plan had been started by the parish three years ago with a Consultant and made no progress since that day. This affects what you get in CIL money and should be looked into.

There was further debate about commencing the Neighbourhood plan project, the Head of Finance & Governance reminded Members that no resolution could be sought on this matter as it was not an agenda item.

**ACTION** – Clerk to request that the Environment & Planning Committee review the Neighbourhood plan projects feasibility.

**FC160**

**Community Wellbeing Resolutions**

Due to the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 being inquorate, the following decisions require formal resolution:

**RESOLVED** that Community Wellbeing Minute **CW100** be approved; That Councillors retrospectively approve additional expenditure of £1,852.40 including VAT in respect of the existing committed project for digital mapping and that Councillors approve an additional expenditure of £954.00 including VAT to develop a Parish wide base map.

**FC161**            **Exclusion of Press and Public**  
**RESOLVED** that in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items on the basis of staffing matters.

**FC162**            **Complaint**  
Members **NOTED** the conclusion and Solicitors response to the complaint regarding tree planting at Cricklade Road Recreation Ground, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

**FC163**            **Allotments Officer and Administration Assistant Recruitment**  
**RESOLVED** to suspend the recruitment of the Allotments Officer and recruit an Administration Assistant on the same conditions as the existing post at 30 hours per week.

**FC164**            **Annual Salaries Increment**  
Members **NOTED** the report of the Clerk regarding annual salary increments for all staff, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.  
  
**RESOLVED** to approve that all staff will receive two scale increments from 1 April 2022 which will be recovered with no scale increment in 2023/24. To allocate unbudgeted impact of £13,034.17 from code 1250 Moredon Sporting Hub Loan Servicing for 2022/23.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

Signed.....

Date.....  
Chair of the Council.