

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 05 July 2017 at 8.00pm at Pinetrees Community Centre

Present Cllr T Smith (Chair)
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr K Parker
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers A Reeves (Parish Manager)

Public None

79 **Apologies**
None

80 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

81 **Play Areas & Open Spaces**

Discussion took place as to the ongoing maintenance of the green spaces. Currently this is managed by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) until April 2018.

SBC have advised that a number of capital items require procurement such as mowers/side arms etc. SBC officers are reluctant to embark on renewal of equipment until they are aware of the Parish Council's future intent with regards the commissioning of street based services. The Parish Manager advised that the parish would need to commence a procurement process into a new StreetSmart service no later than October, around the same time as SBC wish to procure the Capital items.

At some point the Parish will be obliged to ensure we are obtaining Best Value for the contract and this will be a requirement of the Auditor. The Parish Clerk on behalf of the Parish Manager has sought advice from the internal auditor for Central Swindon South Parish Council and they have been advised that a further 12-month extension for the StreetSmart contract with SBC would be acceptable given the length of time the Parish have been given to embark on such a large project.

Cllr R Ballman recommended that the Committee set forward to full council a recommendation that StreetSmart continue to offer the grounds maintenance service for a further 12 months up to April 2019 with a procurement process to commence next year in September 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: All unanimously agreed to recommend a further 12-month extension to StreetSmart Services.

Cllr M Lucas advised weeding is required around The Broadway. Parish Manager to arrange rectification with Rob Core (SBC).

Cllr J Yeowell advised the Council should consider as part of a procurement process further consultation on important issues with local residents.

RECOMMENDATION: All unanimously agreed to recommend consultation to take place with residents to help shape a future 'StreetSmart' agreement/SLA.

82 **Allotments**

Parish Manager advised that Allotments are still being managed by Mark Jennings and operational responsibility will transfer before the October pitch payment.

Cllr J Yeowell advised he would like to see a soil sample completed for each of the allotment areas.

83 Community Engagement

Parish Manager advised that SBC’s community engagement capacity has been reduced as a result of changes to the Localities Team and the work on helping community groups establish/function has been reduced.

The Parish Manager advised that requests had been raised for assistance in community group capacity, more recently from the Friends of St Marks group.

Cllr R Ballman advised this was an important piece of work and the consideration may need to be given as to how the Parish Council could support this function in the future although as it stands this is still the responsibility of SBC.

84 Chairs Items (Deemed Urgent)

None

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council