

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2017 at 7.00pm in Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Present Cllr D Moffatt (Chair)
Cllr J Ballman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr P Exell
Cllr S Exell
Cllr H Fullick
Cllr S Henderson
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr K Small
Cllr T Smith
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)

Public None

181 **Apologies**

Cllr P Baker
Cllr D Montaut
Cllr K Parker

182 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

Cllr M Lucas and Cllr S Exell both declared a personal interest in the grant for Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association (Min.186).

183 **Co-option of Councillor**

Councillors considered the recommendation contained in Minute No 176 of the Finance & Staffing Committee dated 14 September 2017.

RESOLVED that Steve Thompson be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Cllr Thompson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat on the Parish Council.

184 **Minutes of the previous meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 9 August 2017 be approved as a correct record.

185 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 16 August 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

186 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute No.152 regarding the grant application from Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association for £1,500. She expressed concern that the grant application had been approved with a grant of £750 because they were the first applicant and there were other worthy groups in the parish.

It was agreed that the Finance & Staffing Committee should consider a grant process at their next meeting.

RESOLVED that with the amendment to Minute No.152 the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 23 August 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

(Cllr T Smith arrived during this item)

187 Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr P Exell referred to Minute No.156.9 which should state Cllr P Exell and not Cllr S Exell.

RESOLVED that with the amendment to Minute No.156.9 the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 23 August 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

188 Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Small asked for a review to be made of the locations for noticeboards as he was aware that some of the community centres already had noticeboards in place.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 6 September 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

189 Leisure & Amenities Committee

The Chair confirmed that the date should read 6 September 2017.

RESOLVED that with the amendment to the date, the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 6 September 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

190 Finance & Staffing Committee

Cllr Small confirmed that there would be a surplus at the end of the financial year, as provision had been made in the budget for play areas, open space and community centres that had yet to be transferred to the Parish Council. He asked Councillors to consider items for capital expenditure and there was some discussion around providing Christmas parcels and additional bulb planting and these suggestions would be considered by the appropriate committees at their next meetings.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 14 September 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

191 Transfer of Services from Swindon Borough Council (Min.143 – 09.08.17)

The Clerk submitted the notes from a meeting that took place on 22 August 2017 a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Chair added that he had attended this meeting along with the Chair of South Swindon Parish Council. The majority of the issues requested by the Parish Council had been agreed at the meeting and it just remained for the Parish Council to agree 3 further wordings in the Deed.

RESOLVED

- a) that a new paragraph 2.3 be added to the Deed which states 'This Deed shall be reviewed if a significant reduction is made to the Council Tax Base of the Parish Council following a Community Governance Review. This review shall include the opportunity for the Parish Council to amend the functions contained in Schedule 1';
- b) that a new paragraph 3.3 be added to provide the same reimbursement to the Parish Council if SBC decided to give notice on one of the anniversary break dates and that the Parish Council accepts that this would be reciprocal;

- c) that the Parish Council insists that paragraph 4.3 is removed;
- d) that with the changes detailed to a) to c) the Deed be approved for signing.

192 Parish Council Name (Min.140 – 09.08.17)

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had asked for their request for the change of name to be deferred to the next Full Council meeting of Swindon Borough Council as a meeting planned to be held with the Director of Law and Democratic Services had not taken place.

The Full Council Meeting on 28 September 2017 would only be considering the request of a change of name from South Swindon Parish Council.

Councillors considered whether they were going to pursue the change of name.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council continue to seek approval for the change of name to North Swindon Parish Council from Swindon Borough Council;
- b) that the Parish Council use the name North Swindon Parish Council as a trading name regardless of whether the change of name is approved.

193 Council Tax Support Grant

The Clerk submitted a consultation paper from the Director of Finance at Swindon Borough Council a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Chair stated that he had attended a meeting on 15 September 2017 with the Chairs of South Swindon Parish Council and Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and the Director of Finance to discuss the issues raised by the paper. The Chair provided background details of the reasons why the Council Tax Support Grant was introduced and stated his concerns about the changes being proposed by Swindon Borough Council in calculating the amount received by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Chair makes a response to the consultation paper giving the reasons why the Parish Council would only support Option 2 contained in Appendix B.

194 Parish Council Representatives' Report

There were no reports from Councillors.

The Chair said that he was unable to attend the SAC WALC Meeting on 21 September 2017 and asked if a Councillor could attend in his stead. It was agreed that Cllr S Exell would attend the meeting.

195 Chairs Report

The Chair stated that the building at Seagry Court was being offered to the Parish Council at no cost. The building was located on land owned by HRA and he would make further enquiries and provide a report for the next Finance & Staffing Committee to consider.

The Chair gave details of two occasions where members of the public had visited the Parish Office in desperate need of money to buy food. He proposed setting up a fund that could be used to make payments in these circumstances. He would work further on the proposal for the Finance & Staffing Committee to consider.

(Cllr Small left the meeting after this item.)

The Parish Council had received a consultation on gritting routes for this winter and a response was required urgently. Swindon Borough Council were suggesting that several roads were removed from their gritting rounds. The Chair stated that he was not happy that Ramsbury Avenue and Minety Road had been removed from gritting and Councillors

agreed that the Chair should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council to this effect.

The Chair referred to the highways work at Akers Way and that the completion date had been set back for the second time. The work had caused serious traffic chaos in the parish, not helped by the failure to change the timing of the pelican crossing and the re-siting of the bus stop to a position where it blocked the road. The Chair proposed that a letter should be written to the Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council making a complaint and this was supported by Councillors.

The Chair provided information about the lack of picking up grass by StreetSmart after they had cut grass at the sports fields and that parents were currently picking up the grass remains before children could play football. The Parish Manager was asked to resolve this issue with StreetSmart.

The Chair referred to the consultation currently being conducted by Swindon Borough Council on sports facilities and it was agreed that this should be considered by the Planning & Environment Committee at their next meeting.

The Chair spoke about the transfer of the libraries to the Parish Council and that there were a number of operational issues to be resolved which including cleaning, the maintenance of the sites and the work to be undertaken by the staff at the library. The Parish Manager would produce a report to be considered at a future meeting.

The Chair reported that the Tenancy at Will for Chapel Street Toilets was nearing completion and the quotation for the work could then be considered. The quotations that had been received were for more than had been expected and a report would be taken to the next Leisure & Amenities Committee for them to consider.

The Chair asked the Parish Manager to work on dates for future meetings and these would be sent out as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed.....
Date.....
Chair of the Council