

# **CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018 at 7.00pm  
at Pinetrees Community Centre

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

**Officers** Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)  
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)  
Bernice Mack (Community Assets Manager)

**Public** None

**383** **Apologies**

Cllr K Parker  
Cllr S Thompson  
Joyce Holman

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

None.

**385** **Minutes of the previous meetings**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 21 February 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**386** **Planning & Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 7 March 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

**387** **Finance & Staffing Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 6 March 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

Cllr R Ballman commented on the high number of paper copies of minutes etc. produced for Full Council meetings.

Cllr D Moffatt suggested reducing the number of paper sets produced for the April 2018 meeting to 10 copies with a view to further reducing to 5 copies in the future.

All agreed.

**RESOLVED** that only 10 copies of papers be produced for the Full Council meeting in April 2018.

**388**     **Seven Capital- North Star Development & Consultation**

Cllr D Moffatt confirmed he had spoken with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) regarding a meeting with Seven Capital.

The Parish Manager had contacted Seven Capital and a meeting had been scheduled to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to which Parish Councillors and Rodbourne Ward Councillors would be invited. This would be an opportunity for Councillors to influence Seven Capital to consult and engage with the public at future meetings which could be facilitated by the Parish Council.

Comments were made about possible issues the public may have, such as; access, unreasonable fees, displaced parking, noise, height & light pollution.

Cllr J Rodrigues queried the SBC investment as suggested in one of their recent publications.

It was confirmed that the SBC investment is in the form of the land the development will be built on by way of a 999-year lease.

The cost of the development & all buildings will be met by Seven Capital.

Cllr K Small voiced concerns on the overall traffic on Great Western Way (GWW) and the possible relationships between retail and residential occupants within the development. Cllr J Ballman stated that traffic would be serious problem as the Moonrakers roundabout sits in between the North Star Development and Northern Developments and these cant be looked at in isolation of one another.

Further similar comments regarding traffic were made.

**389**     **Parish Transport**

Cllr J Ballman requested a previous proposal to provide a Parish Council vehicle to be used a pool car be revisited as involvement across the parish is increasing and there are insurance issues with staff using their own cars for business.

Cllr D Montaut stated that this proposal would need careful evaluation.

Cllr K Small confirmed that the proposal had been considered at a previous Finance & Staffing committee meeting and the decision made not to invest in a pool car. It was suggested that usage of staffs' personal vehicles be monitored, travel expenses paid to staff and the situation be reviewed in the future.

The Parish Manager confirmed that a LWB transit had been purchased by the Parish Council via capital budget and should be delivered to the Parish Council within the coming weeks.

Cllr J Ballman confirmed that the van purchased is essentially job specific, intended for the Allotments Officer.

Cllr P Exell shared concerns over staffs' personal insurance policies not covering business travel.

Cllr K Small moved that the proposal be brought back to a future Finance & Staffing committee meeting with further details re: costings. All unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that a report on the costings of providing a Parish Council pool car be brought to a future Finance & Staffing committee meeting.

A conversation was had around the decision-making process of the Parish Council and what was thought to be best practise.

It was suggested that too much emphasis was put on the Parish Manager to write requested reports and these could be provided and presented to the relevant committees by Councillors

**390 Chairs, Officers and Members Report**

**390.1 Asset Transfers**

The Parish Manager circulated a list of the assumed assets to be transferred to the Parish Council and stated that the Parish Council needed to decide which assets should be transferred as a priority before meeting with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to discuss terms of leases.

Assets thought to be a priority by the Parish Chair, Vice-Chair and Parish Manager were highlighted within the circulated list.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council seek to have the assets highlighted as priority transferred as soon as possible.

Cllr D Moffatt spoke about land at the back of Ferndale School which could be offered to the Parish Council. All agreed that the Parish Council should ask to take on the land concerned.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council put a writing in request to take on the land at the back of Ferndale School.

**390.2 Parish Logo**

Cllr D Moffatt sought views and opinions of Councillors on draft logos created for the Parish Council. Discussions around the Parish Logo ensued and several amendments to the drafts suggested.

**390.3 Pinetrees Community Centre Volunteers Grounds Maintenance**

The Parish Manager informed Councillors that the gardens and grounds around Pinetrees Community Centre were maintained by a volunteer named Charles who is occasionally helped by others who have learning difficulties.

The Parish Manager sought permission to a) write to Charles to recognise and thank him for the work he completes and b) to provide a report to the Finance & Staffing committee regarding employing casual staff to carry out additional gardening works, estimated cost of £700-800 pa. All agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Manager a) writes to Charles to thank him for the gardening works completed in and around the Pinetrees Community Centre site and b) presents a report at a future Finance & Staffing committee meeting re: employing casual staff to complete additional gardening works as required.

**390.4 Ward Allowance Policy**

Cllr D Moffatt stated that he was keen for all Councillors to utilise their 17/18 Ward Allowance allocation and encouraged Councillors to try and ensure allowances are spent on capital projects, rather than those that may incur future revenue spend.

Cllr K Small suggested Bus Shelters could be purchased if Councillors are struggling to find appropriate projects.

**391 Parish Council Representatives' Report**

None

**392 Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the public and press be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting: Reason – Commercial Confidentiality.

**393 Street Services Tendering Phase 1**

The Parish Manager introduced a confidential report. All agreed with recommendations.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council action recommendations of report to seek quotes for Street Services and complete best value review.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council