

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 04 April 2018 at Pinetrees Community Centre

Present Cllr T Smith (Chair)
Cllr S Thompson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr J Yeowell

Cllr J Ballman (Non-committee member)
Cllr D Moffatt (Non-committee member)
Cllr S Henderson (Non-committee member)

Officers A Reeves (Parish Manager)

Public One

Public Session There were no questions or comments from the member of the public present.

416 **Apologies**
Cllr P Baker

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

418 **StreetSmart Services**

The Parish Manager explained for those who may be unaware of the variation in the expected cost of StreetSmart services for 17/18. The first budget included £81k for services, the revised budget included £85.5k and the actual cost was approx. £92k.

If an alternative contractor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) was selected to provide StreetSmart services from 19/20 they would have the full support of SBC after signing a non-disclosure agreement.

Cllrs have not yet decided what they would like to allocate to services in terms of finance but have been advised by audit that it is perfectly reasonable to qualify in an assessment process the quality of the service expected so you are not dictated by the cheapest quote(s).

It was explained that new bins and safety barriers for installation in Rodbourne Cheney had been requested. The old bins have already been removed.
Cllrs asked for this to be investigated as a high priority.

The Parish Manager informed Cllrs that the Parish Council are legally allowed to remove items from private properties providing a disclaimer has been received. One had already been requested by Cllr S Exell.

Several questions were asked about the new grass cutting equipment recently purchased by SBC; Has it been purchased outright by SBC, what would happen to it should the Parish Council not continue contracting Street Services from SBC beyond March 2019. SBC confirmed that the equipment had been purchased outright which demonstrates a considerable investment from SBC. The equipment includes a mix of machines with detailed specifications.

Cllr J Ballman stated that Cllrs had not been informed that the Tree Courts housing land in Pinehurst had been transferred to the Parish Council. SBC confirmed this.

Several Cllrs questioned the work still to be completed at Tree Courts, such as the collection of the cuttings and the removal of the remaining hedge as both could be a hazard.

The Parish Council stated that they should be informed of any work before it is commissioned especially if they are paying for it.

The Parish Manager explained that the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had recently approached him regarding works they wish to complete on lands within the Parish which they are seeking permission for.

Although the Parish Council supports the work the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust want to do they are not, in principal, the land owners.

It was asked who was responsible for the grass cutting and hedge trimming at the old pumping station down Malvern Road as it has been sprayed with chemicals, rather than been cut, which has killed off the frogspawn.

It was confirmed that Thames Water are responsible.

Cllrs stated that they would like to officially complain about the use of chemicals at the site concerned.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager would write to Thames Water regarding the matter of chemicals being used at the old pumping station site on Malvern Road.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council