

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2018 at Pinetrees Community Centre

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

Cllr P Exell (Non-committee member)
Cllr D Moffatt (Non-committee member)

Officers A Reeves (Parish Manager)
H Morgan (Deputy Clerk)

Public Two

Public Session There were no questions of comments from the members of the public present

52 **Apologies**

Cllr T Smith (Chair)
Cllr P Baker

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

Cllrs S Thompson and J Ballman declared an interest in agenda item 3. as Hreod Burna Urban Forest Trustees.

54 **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**

The Parish Manager introduced Neil Pullen from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT).

Neil Pullen presented to the Committee and explained the different projects and schemes WWT are involved in within the Swindon and the Central Swindon North Parish.

Neil Pullen explained that the management agreement with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for the Rivermead Community Nature Reserve had ceased and the WWT are looking to continue their work at the site.

WWT have been working on the site since 2002 in partnership with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and SBC. The partnerships were formed to restore a section of the once polluted River Ray and to bring back wildlife to the area.

Neil would like to meet with Cllrs on site to show them around with a view to establishing a new management agreement with the relevant Parish Councils.

Neil went on to explain 'Magnificent Meadows' a Heritage Lottery Fund project which has been ongoing since 2010. The aim of the project is to create meadows across the country. One strand of the project 'Save our Magnificent Meadows' is aimed at creating better managers of meadows.

A new project is being put to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the River Ray is being proposed as a Swindon site with the intention to create meadows along the run of the river.

Neil Pullen confirmed he was looking for a letter of support and an indication that the existing and proposed projects, in particular at Rivermead and Moredon, would be permissible.

The Parish Manager stated that there was some ambiguity around the ownership of the land being discussed and SBC would need to be consulted as landlords.

Cllr D Moffatt confirmed he supported all of the ideas and suggestions made by WWT. Cllr M Lucas added that the general feeling was that the Parish Council would like to be involved but was unable to commit until the boundary lines had been determined and confirmed.

The Parish Manager stated that he would be meeting with SBC in the coming weeks to discuss the transfer of land and buildings and to refine the transfer processes and with the permission of the committee would use the meeting to explore the adoption of land concerned.

The Parish Manager asked WWT to confirm the status of an existing SLA and the timescales.

Cllr R Ballman stated that the Parish Council would need to look into what they would be expected to within a lease of the land being discussed and the possible cost implications. The Parish Manager agreed and suggested this matter be discussed at Full Council.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager discuss the lease of land with SBC and reports back to Full Council.

Cllr P Exell left the meeting 8.28pm.

55 **Allotments**

Cllr M Lucas introduced the Allotments Office, Hakan Armagan.

The Allotments Officer gave a bit of background information on himself and updated Cllrs on what he had been doing since starting in post on the 23rd May 2018.

The Parish Manager confirmed that the Allotments Officer has use of a Parish owned van and his priority would be to familiarise himself with the various Leisure Garden sites, tenants and the Parish Council Working Group.

Cllr J Ballman added that a meeting had been set-up to view a demonstration of machinery which the Parish Council could potentially purchase for the management and maintenance of allotment plots.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Allotments Working Group were circulated.

Cllr R Ballman asked for confirmation as to who's on the Working Group.

Cllr D Moffatt queried ToR 6. and it was suggested the Working Group be asked to reword it.

Cllr R Ballman queried ToR 9. And Cllr S Thompson confirmed this was already in place.

Cllr M Lucas confirmed that Allotments Working Group would be asked to rethink ToR 6. and the group will feedback at a future Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the Allotments Working Group be asked to review ToR 6.

The Parish Manager confirmed that the Projects Manager was looking into the possibility of installing carparking at the Churchward Avenue Leisure Garden site. No further potential capital projects were suggested.

56 **Lynmouth Road – unadopted land**

It was stated that the agenda item be put on hold until legal advice had been sought as agreed at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held 05 June 2018.

57 **StreetSmart Best Value Review**

The Parish Manager stated that this was a standing agenda item.

KMC are currently completing a value for money review of the StreetSmart services provided

by Swindon Borough Council (SBC), acting as a conduit between the Parish Council and SBC. The Parish Council are duty bound to go out to tender for services next year. It is hoped that the Parish Council will have a report from the review for the July or August Full Council. The Parish Council would then need to take action and establish members views and priorities.

Cllr R Ballman commented that it had been agreed previously that StreetSmart be asked to attend Leisure & Amenities Committee meetings regularly. It was suggested SBC StreetSmart Managers be asked to attend the July Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting before the review report is shared.

RESOLVED that SBC StreetSmart Managers be asked to attend July 2018 meeting.

58 **Libraries and Leisure & Libraries Trust**

The Parish Manager stated that there was some ambiguity around Libraries Act and an issue with Parish Councils providing a top up to library services. The Parish Councils Internal Auditors felt that setting up a trust is the best option.

It had taken 8 months, but the Leisure & Libraries Trust had now been set-up. It will be crucial to ensure the trust becomes independent of the Parish Council and it operates in itself. It will be up to the Trust to determine its staffing structures, grant funding required etc. A proposal will then be put to the Parish Council to decide. It will be up to the Parish Council which assets are transferred to the Trust and Swindon Borough Council would need to be consulted and a cabinet decision required to transfer assets and leases from the Parish Council to the Trust.

59 **Bins**

The Parish Manager asked Cllrs to consider installing a bin at the Cricklade & Ferndale Road junction as suggested by a parishioner. The suggested bin would be installed by the bench outside St Barnabas Church where the Parish Council has installed a WWI memorial statue. Cllr R Ballman supported the idea and stated that the bin installed previously and subsequently removed was well used. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council install a bin at the Cricklade & Ferndale Road junction.

Cllr M Lucas suggested the Parish Council install a bin by Farmfoods and Coop in Rodbourne Cheney as the bin previously in place had been removed.

Cllr D Moffatt asked if the Parish Council had a list of all bins and dog bins in place within the Parish.

The Parish Manager informed Cllrs that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had recently completed an audit of all bins and these had all bin numbered. A full GIS map of bins, frequency of emptying and routes taken would be supplied by SBC in due course. The Parish Manager suggested a wider conversation re: bins and suggestions for new bins be considered once the map has been received by SBC. All agreed.

RESOLVED that bins be included on the agenda for a future meeting one map of bin locations has been received from SBC.

60 **Bus Shelters**

The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that 6 new bus shelters were being purchased and installed as requested. Swindon Borough Council had been consulted and the installation of the shelters had been agreed in principal.

Site visits were to be arranged with the bus shelter supplier and SBC.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Vice-Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee