

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2018 at 7.00pm at 32 The Circle

- 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 D Small
Cllr S Thompson
Cllr J Yeowell
- Officers** Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
Bernice Mack (Community Assets Manager)
- Public** Two
- Public Session** There were no questions or comments from the public.

61 Apologies

Cllr P Baker
Cllr H Fullick
Cllr K Parker
Cllr T Smith

The Parish Manager informed Councillors that Cllr Hannah Fullick had not attended a meeting for 5 months and that if she did not attend the July Parish Council Meeting she would cease to be a Councillor.

62 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

63 Minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr Henderson referred to Minute 18 and stated that the Social Cohesion Group were working on their Terms of Reference and these would be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

Cllr Rodrigues referred to Minute 25 and 28 and asked the Parish Manager to confirm the position regarding Petty Cash and the insurance for the Even Swindon building. The Parish Manager confirmed that the office did not use Petty Cash and that the Even Swindon building had been removed from the Parish Council insurance which had meant there had been a refund of over £600.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 16 May 2018 be approved as a correct record.

64 Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr P Exell informed Councillors that the Planning Application for the Snow Dome would be considered at the next Planning Committee at Swindon Borough Council in July 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 2 May 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

65 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 6 June 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

66 Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 2 May 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

67 Leisure & Amenities Committee

The Chair referred to Minute No 54 and stated that both South Swindon Parish Council and West Swindon Parish Council would also be involved in the Magnificent Meadows project with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Cllr Montaut referred to the Community Forest project undertaken by Swindon Borough Council and understood that there may be funding available from Swindon Borough Council. The Parish Manager said that Swindon Borough Council were involved in grant funding for tree planting and he had been working with them to identify schemes within the parish.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 6 June 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

68 Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

The Parish Manager submitted the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 be approved.

69 Accounting Statement 2017/18

The Parish Manager submitted the Accounting Statement 2017/18 a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statement 2017/18 be approved

70 Whitworth Road Grass Verges Consultation

The Parish Manager gave a presentation on the consultation organised by the Planning & Environment Committee.

The majority of respondents agreed that parking on grass verges was an issue in the parish. The most popular solutions were small timber posts or grasscrete. The Parish Manager stated that timber post involved additional maintenance and the mowers struggled to go around them when cutting grass. Grasscrete was a better solution, but would be very expensive.

There was some discussion about parking on verges, which was not just a parish problem, but happened all over the country. Suggestions were made about easing the restrictions on dropped kerbs, asking residents to contribute toward the cost and

enforcement where dropped kerbs are blocked.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a resident of Whitworth Road to join in the discussion.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Cllr P Exell stated that he and the Parish Manager would be meeting with Officers of Swindon Borough Council to find a solution and a report would be made to a future Full Council Meeting.

71 Sports Pitch Condition Survey

The Chair referred Councillors to the plans for the new sporting hub development at Moredon Playing Fields. Officers from Swindon Borough Council had planned to give a presentation of the plans to the meeting, but this had now been postponed to the next Full Council Meeting.

There would be a public consultation on 18 July 2018 and a public meeting at Moredon Community Centre on 20 July 2018. Swindon Borough Council had indicated that they would like to submit a Planning Application in September 2018.

Cllr Small referred to the Sports Pitch Condition Survey and stated that the report had highlighted the poor condition of the pitches which was due to a lack of investment by Swindon Borough Council. He proposed that the next step should be a meeting with Swindon Borough Council to arrange for leases for the recreation grounds and then look at possible grant funding from the FA.

The Chair stated that the report also covered 2 pitches that were within South Swindon Parish Council and he would find out whether they were happy to proceed with a joint venture.

(Cllr Small and Cllr S Exell arrived during this item)

72 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 1 May 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

73 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 5 June 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

74 Future Leases

The Parish Manager submitted a report a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The report set out the current procedure for the negotiation of leases with Swindon Borough Council and proposals on how the Parish Council should proceed in order to take over assets. This included streamlining the process so that every request did not have to be signed off by a Cabinet Member.

Councillors asked questions and identified that some sites were not on the list. The questions included more information required about the fabric of the buildings, condition surveys for the buildings, more information about the former library site at The Circle

which was proposed to be sublet to a private nursery, St Marks Recreation Ground had not been included and a request was made to look at whether the former paddling pool area at Penhill could be reinstated. Cllr Small also asked for the open space to be called recreation grounds, as when sport was not being played they provided an open space for the public to use.

It was agreed that the Finance & Staffing Committee should look at the additional resources required before any decision was made regarding the assets.

75 Admission of Public and Press

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 3d) that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw; the reason being staffing employment. The Deputy Clerk and Community Assets Manager left the meeting.

76 Staffing

The Parish Manager circulated a report which provided details of the role of Community Assets Manager and whether to continue the existing temporary contract for a further year. While members were supportive of the post holder there remained decisions to be had regarding the emerging trust's role in employing staff.

There was also a discussion about the employment of library staff and this would be considered by the Finance & Staffing Committee.

RESOLVED that the temporary contract for the Community Assets Manager be extended by one year.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council