

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2018 at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

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

Cllr D Moffatt (Non-committee member)

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

Public None

85 **Apologies**
None

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

87 **StreetSmart Managers**

The Parish Manager introduced the Swindon Borough Council (SBC) StreetSmart staff in attendance; Rob Core, Luke Jones and Rachel Ind.

Rob Core introduced himself as the Grounds Maintenance, Parks & Open Spaces Service Manager. He updated Cllrs and informed them that due to the recent warm weather, grass and hedges had grown very quickly, some of the hedge cutting had been held off due to the nesting of birds and weed spraying had begun.

Cllr D Moffatt asked about the status of the football pitches. Rob confirmed that pitches are mown every fortnight.

Cllr M Lucas asked about the long grass which grows around lampposts. Rob stated that rounds to cut these areas had begun that same week.

Cllr J Rodrigues asked about the cutting of cricket pitches and queried some damage done to a pitch at Mannington Rec previously. Rob confirmed that StreetSmart are contracted to complete 3-week cuts and are not contracted to provide a cut and collect service. Luke Jones stated that the damage mentioned was caused by members of the public.

Cllr D Moffatt stated that the cycle track down the old canal path was very overgrown and asked if this was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Rob confirmed that the area referred to is not for the Parish Council to maintain; the maintenance is split between SBC and the nearby Leisure Centre.

Rachel Ind introduced herself as the Service Manager for Environmental Cleansing & EnviroCrime. She confirmed that the new bins requested by the Parish Council would be ordered that same week. They would be Green Glasdon Jubilee bins with Parish Council branding. The supply time is approx. 6 weeks and they will be installed as soon as they are received by SBC.

The Parish Manager stated that a map of bin locations within the Parish was still to be provided. Rachel stated that an up to date map of bin locations did not exist and that this information was held on a spreadsheet along with details of the condition of the bins. Rachel confirmed she would arrange to have the information she has mapped for the Parish Council.

Cllr J Rodrigues asked if it was the intention of the Parish Council to put their logo on all existing bins. Rachel suggested stickers like the assets numbering stickers used by SBC could be produced and placed on all bins.

RESOLVED that officers find out the cost of producing stickers to place on all existing bins and a report be provided at a future Finance & Staffing Committee meeting.

Cllr D Moffatt asked about graffiti. Rachel confirmed that graffiti is removed as and when it is reported and that this was included in the existing contract.

The discussion was moved onto the 3 new staff and equipment the Parish Council had requested.

Rachel confirmed that the staff would be employed on a temporary to permanent basis via Matrix SCM and that they would be recruited once the requested 'barrows' had been purchased and delivered. Procurement of the barrows was to take place that same week once the Parish Council had confirmed if they wanted the equipment branded.

Rachel went on to explain that the vacuum barrows will pick up a limited amount of rubbish and leaves in gullies but would not be capable of picking up some of the excessive leaf fall experienced within the Parish area.

A conversation was had about the capability of the barrows and whether it was suitable for the Parish Councils needs and expectations.

Rachel suggested a demonstration of the equipment be arranged for the Parish Council. All agreed.

Cllr J Ballman moved that SBC staff are asked to provide the Parish Council with a demonstration of how vacuum barrows work and what they can achieve. Seconded by Steve Thompson.

RESOLVED that SBC be asked to provide Cllrs with a demonstration of the vacuum barrows they use currently.

Rachel confirmed that she would hold off recruiting any staff until instructed by the Parish Council.

88 **StreetSmart Best Value Review**

The Parish Manager confirmed that the review was in progress and it is hoped that the final report will be received in August.

89 **Update from Deputy Clerk**

The Deputy Clerk explained that she would be meeting with Queensbury Shelters and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) on 17th July 2018 to visit the sites where the Parish Council would like to install bus shelters.

An email had been received from SBC confirming that they had no issues with a fence being installed around the sand pit at St Marks Rec in principal, but the Parish Council would need to supply details of the fence to be installed.

A bench to be installed outside Lidl's in Gorse Hill is to be purchased imminently and will be installed by SBC or one of their approved contractors.

The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that she had been working on allocating vacant allotment plots and clearing the waiting lists for the Leisure Garden sites and that this was being done one site at a time.

At the date of the meeting there were 3 vacant plots remaining at the Akers Way Leisure Garden site with 1 person interested.

Warning letters had been sent to tenants at the Redcliffe Street Leisure Garden site who were not cultivating their plots to an acceptable standard.

The Allotments Officer added that water troughs at several the Leisure Garden sites had been repaired in recent weeks.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the compost toilet to be installed at the Pickards Field Leisure Garden site.

The Parish Manager replied that a quote had been received and the location of the toilet was to be confirmed and then the toilet provider and installer would be contacted. He added that there was some confusion over who could use the toilet. Cllr J Ballman stated that he would be happy for the Open Door Centre to take on management of the toilet but it would not be for use by them exclusively.

The Parish Manager went on to say that the Grants Manager had submitted a grants application for the tennis courts at St Marks Rec for new floodlights and gates and another for approx. £50k for improvements to Even Swindon Community Centre. A decision should be received for both around August-September.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee