

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2018 at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

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

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

Officers H Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
H Armagan (Allotments Officer)

Public None

215 **Apologies**
Cllr T Smith (Chair)
Cllr P Baker
Cllr J Ballman
Cllr R Ballman

The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that Cllr P Baker wished to resign from the Committee as he couldn't give it the time it deserved.

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

217 **StreetSmart VfM Working Group**
The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that the Parish Council were awaiting a response from Swindon Borough Council on the suggested Terms & Conditions of a new contract.

218 **Petrol Generator**
Cllr M Lucas explained that he had been presented with an opportunity to purchase a second-hand Honda generator. The generator had been viewed by the Allotment Officer whose view was that it would be useful to have when the need for the use of power tools arose at the Leisure Garden sites. Cllr M Lucas added that the generator could be used at the annual Pinehurst Fun Day where generators are usually needed and hired by the Pinehurst Initiative Forum.
Cllr M Lucas stated that he was seeking approval of the Committee to spend £100 on the generator.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the condition of the generator. It was confirmed that the generator started up with no problems. It was the expected size and the Allotments Officer was able to lift it.

Cllr J Rodrigues asked how much a new generator would cost. It was confirmed that a similar generator new would cost approx. £400.

Cllr S Thompson asked if the generator had been PAT tested. Cllr M Lucas responded that this could be arranged by the Parish Office. Cllr S Thompson added that he supported the idea of purchasing a second-hand generator. All agreed.

RESOLVED that a second-hand generator be purchased for £100.

219 **Update from Deputy Clerk**

Allotments

Cllr M Lucas passed to Cllr D Moffatt to update the Committee on Rodbourne Farm Leisure Garden site at Barnfield Close.

Cllr D Moffatt explained that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had allowed developers to a) install a TRO for no parking across the whole length of Barnfield Close and b) implement Double Yellow Lines (DYL) before the date the TRO came into effect.

He went on to say that it had been arranged for tenants of the Rodbourne Farm site to park in the B&Q Car Park which was across the road and 200-300m away. Cllr D Moffatt had attempted the journey from B&Q to the Leisure Gardens himself and confirmed that this trip led to safety issues as it would often be required to run across Great Western Way.

It is expected that, once the current TRO expires, developers would want to make the DYL permanent.

Having thought about the situation Cllr D Moffatt suggested a layby could be created outside the Rodbourne Farm site for tenants of the site to park in and that the Parish Council part fund the cost of a layby with CIL funds from the development at the location if these were match funded by SBC.

Given the latest frustrations caused by SBC and their unwillingness to do anything about the parking situation for the Leisure Garden tenants Cllr D Moffatt believed that the Parish Council should write formally to SBC to ask them to use CIL receipts to implement 4 or 5 parking places outside the Leisure Garden site.

Cllr J Rodrigues asked about the cost of installing parking places. Cllr D Moffatt said this had not yet been investigated.

It was confirmed that the Leisure Garden site in question was not a statutory allotment site.

The Committee were asked to note that this issue had come to the Parish Council via Cllr S Exell in her role as a SBC Ward Councillor. Cllr S Exell confirmed she supported Cllr D Moffatt and the Parish Council should follow process and engage with SBC to find out their position, so the Parish Council can decide upon theirs.

Cllr D Moffatt said that there was a case for parking as the rules re: the TRO were broken. He added that it's important for the Parish Council to act before the TRO and DYL become permanent.

The Allotments Officer suggested the hedging and fence line at the Rodbourne Farm site could be moved closer to the kerbside which would give room for parking inside the site.

Cllr M Lucas asked the Committee to confirm they were happy for Cllr D Moffatt to draft a letter to SBC which would be redrafted and issued by Parish Officers All agreed.

RESOLVED that a letter drafted by Cllr D Moffatt re: parking at the Rodbourne Farm Leisure Garden site be redrafted and issued to SBC by Parish Officers.

Cllr S Exell suggested a timescale for an expected response from SBC. Cllr D Moffatt added that it was SBC policy to respond within 14 days, but he would include a suggested deadline for a full response.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Allotments Working Group had met on the 27th August and it was suggested that the fees for the 18/19 billing year be reduced from £30.60 to £30 for a half plot and from £61.20 to £60 for a full size. This would mean an approx. loss of income of £375.90. The reason for the suggested reduction was so people paying for a half plot by card

in person at the Parish Office could do so via contactless payment which saved time and money on administrative tasks and resources.

All agreed.

RECOMMENDATION that the fees for allotment plots for the 18/19 billing year be reduced from £30.60 to £30 for a half plot and from £61.20 to £60 for a full size.

Cllr M Lucas informed the Committee that a questionnaire would be sent out to all tenants along with the bills for 18/19 re: an Allotment Shop.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the compostable toilet paid for from Ward Allowances had now been installed at Pickards Field Leisure Garden.

The Allotments Officer confirmed he had recently passed his spraying exam which would enable him to deal with wasp nests found at the Leisure Garden sites.

Cllr M Lucas informed Cllrs that SBC had given the go ahead to install a dropped kerb and highway crossing at the Churchward Avenue Leisure Garden site which was approved by the Finance & Staffing Committee the previous evening. The installation of the hardstanding would be delayed whilst slow worms on site were dealt with.

Railings around sandpit at St Marks Rec

The Deputy Clerk that the quote received from the preferred contractor was £500 more than the agreed budget of £5,000. The Finance & Staffing Committee had agreed the additional spend the previous evening.

Cllr M Lucas asked the Committee to consider two additional agenda items.

The Rodbourne Green and Rodbourne Cheney Resident Associations had asked for the Parish Councils backing for a crossing to be installed at the bottom of Church Walk South to allow people to cross safely from Rodbourne Cheney Road to St Marys Church and Vice Versa. He added that cars come around the roundabout too fast which caused safety issues. The Associations were also looking to install a 20mph speed limit in the area.

Cllr S Thompson asked what time of crossing would be installed. Cllr M Lucas confirmed it would be a Beacon crossing.

Cllr M Lucas went on to ask if the Parish Council could meet with Highways to what can be done to address the issue of cars getting lost when looking for houses in Vicarage Road. This was due to signs posting people in the right direction(s) being removed.

Cllr D Moffatt stated that he had wanted to spend some of his Ward Allowance on signs for Cheney Manor Lane stating that it is a conservation area and informing the public of what house numbers could be found in specific areas. He added that he also wanted to install slowing down barriers for cyclists who leave Akers Way coming down a hill, over a bridge over Hreod Stream, at high speeds putting themselves and dog walkers at risk.

It was said that if the Parish Council formally supported the suggested activities it would help Ward Councillors and SBC Colleagues.

Cllr S Exell asked if Parish Council signs could be installed. Cllr D Moffatt responded that this was what was suggested to SBC and they had said it wasn't the right thing to do.

Cllr M Lucas asked the Committee if they would be happy to support the Association suggestions. All agreed.

Cllr D Moffatt suggested these items be presented at Full Council. All Agreed.

RESOLVED that items be included on the agenda of a future Full Council meeting re: the Rodbourne Green and Rodbourne Cheney Resident Association suggestions for a crossing

and speed limits to be installed at the bottom of Church Walk South.

Cllr M Lucas informed the Committee that he had been approached by a resident of The Broadway re: a lack of wheelchair crossings in the area. Some pictures of such crossings were displayed. He added that the only way the resident concerned could access their bungalow was via a back entrance.

It was suggested that the cost of installing a wheelchair crossing would be approx. £10k.

Cllr S Exell said that it pays to do several such projects at one time, but installation of wheelchair crossings should be the responsibility of SBC, not the Parish Council. There is then the issue of what areas to prioritise.

Cllr M Lucas stated that the lack of wheelchair crossings was across the whole of Rodbourne Cheney where several mobility scooter users have to use the roads.

Cllr D Moffatt confirmed that he would take the issue up as an SBC Ward Councillor and would follow up on the matter.

Cllr D Moffatt went on to discuss a matter with a tree on an allotment plot at the Pickards Field Leisure Garden site which a resident of the property behind had asked to be pruned or cut down. Cllrs agreed that Parish Officers could make a decision on any action to take.

RESOLVED that Parish Officers investigate what could done about the tree and make a decision as to any action to be taken.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Vice-Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee