

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2018 at 7.00pm at 32 The Circle

Cllr D Moffatt (Chair)
Cllr J Ballman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr P Baker
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr P Exell
Cllr S Exell
Cllr S Henderson
Cllr K Parker
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr K D Small
Cllr T Smith
Cllr S Thompson
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
Bernice Mack (Community Assets Manager)
Gladys Barr (Grants Manager)

Public One

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

259 **Apologies**
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr D Montaut

260 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None.

261 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute 222 and asked about the RAG document. The Parish Manager confirmed that it would be available for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

262 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 2 October 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

263 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 6 November 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

264 **Planning & Environment Committee**

Cllr P Exell referred to Minute 247.13 and stated that this Planning Application would be considered by the Planning Committee at Swindon Borough Council on 27 November

- 264** 2018. He was unable to attend this meeting to put forward the objections of the Parish Council and Cllr Yeowell agreed to attend the meeting.

The Chair reminded Councillors that the SHELAA would be discussed at the meeting on 4 December 2018 and he encouraged all Councillors to put forward their comments.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 7 November 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

265 **Leisure & Amenities Committee**

Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute 256 and asked about the progress with electric points. The Chair confirmed that this was still in hand and would be completed in the near future.

The Parish Manager referred to Minute 258 and stated that Councillors still had time to put forward requests for the 2019/20 budget.

Cllr R Ballman asked about the hardstanding at Churchward Allotments and the Parish Manager stated that there had been a problem with slow worms which could not be moved at the time and this was contained in an ecology report.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 7 November 2018 be confirmed and adopted.

266 **Grants Manager update**

The Grants Manager submitted a report. A copy of which appears as Appendix A to these Minutes.

The Grants Manager said that she had been employed by the Parish Council since April 2018 and worked 10 hours a week. The first 3 large grant applications had been unsuccessful and she was more hopeful for the smaller applications.

Cllr J Ballman suggested that the Parish Council should advertise their service to local groups and charities and he would like to see assistance targeted at local groups that were using the community centres. Cllr K Small asked about funding for local organisations, such as working mens clubs and commented that there was a grant of £9 Million made to Margaret Court in Rodbourne which was not mentioned in the report.

Cllr K Small referred to grant funding for the Youth Worker and the Grants Manager confirmed that this would be submitted as soon as possible. Councillors asked for a report on the youth worker to be made to the next Social Cohesion Working Party Meeting and that the Grants Manager also attend. Cllr S Exell asked if the time for future meetings could be in the afternoon.

267 **Assets**

The Parish Manager referred to the transfer of assets from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to the Parish Council. A list of the assets to be considered for leases had been supplied by SBC and these were displayed at the meeting for Cllrs to make comment.

The Parish Manager confirmed that following the setting up of the leases the Parish Council would need to draw up a 5 year capital programme for repairs and refurbishment. Some of the work had been identified by SBC ahead of the transfer and agreement had been reached that funds set aside for capital works would also be transferred to the Parish Council.

The Parish Manager provided more information about some of the sites which had issues to be resolved and these were: St Mark's Tennis Courts and the future of the café and

would the repairs to the pavilion be the responsibility of the club; Mannington Recreation Ground would be the whole site including the car park, although it was shown on 2 maps; Penhill Recreation Ground did not include the South East corner where the car park was located as this had been earmarked on the SHELAA as a possible assisted living development; John Moulton Hall including the land at the front of the building, but not the car park; the lease for Chapel Street toilets also needed to be included.

RESOLVED

- a) that the issues stated above be resolved to the satisfaction of the Parish Council;
- b) that the Parish Council enter into leases with Swindon Borough Council for all the sites considered at the meeting for 25 years and include the Chapel Street toilets.

Cllr P Baker left the meeting during this item.

268 Social Cohesion Working Group

The Social Cohesion Working Group submitted a report. A copy of which appears as Annex A to these Minutes.

Cllr S Henderson stated that the Police had stepped up their presence in the Pinehurst and Penhill area and this had led to improvements. It was planned to hold a Community Day in the Spring in Pinehurst and the Parish Council would have to take the lead on this. The Chair confirmed that a budget of £3K had been set aside by the Parish Council to support Salamander.

269 Even Swindon Community Centre

The Chair explained that the Parish Council needed to approve the quotation for the work to Even Swindon Community Centre which was considered at an earlier meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED that the quotation of £37,501 from SAS Build Ltd presented at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held 6th November for the work to Even Swindon Community Centre be approved.

270 Honorarium

The Clerk was retiring at the end of December 2018 and the Chair asked Clls to authorise an honorarium.

RESOLVED that an honorarium of £100 be made to the retiring Clerk.

The Clerk thanked the Parish Council.

271 StreetSmart VfM

The Parish Manager submitted a report, a copy of which appears as Annex B to these Minutes.

The Chair stated that the Parish Council had drawn up a Contract Performance Monitoring Plan and this could be implemented at no extra cost. The Parish Council would also be able to more closely monitor complaints as these would be directed through the Parish Office.

The Parish Council had now been informed by StreetSmart that additional management costs would be added to the contract which would mean the contract figure would rise by £34K per annum. A Best Value Review had been carried out by the Parish Council and there had been no mention of the management fees being added to the contract price. This would mean that the conclusion of the Best Value Review may no longer be correct.

The Clerk confirmed that South Swindon Parish Council had not been formally informed of this development and they had already set a figure in their draft budget for the StreetSmart contract. The Chair said that he would discuss this matter with the Chair of South Swindon Parish Council and work together to negotiate the StreetSmart contract for next year.

Cllr K Small suggested that the Parish Council only consider a 1 year contract for next year in order to make an informed decision next year. He also pointed out that the Parish Council had received no breakdown of costs within the contract and he would like to see a deadline of the end of February for this to be provided.

The Chair reminded Cllrs that this paper was for discussion and that a decision regarding the StreetSmart contract would need to be made as part of the setting of the Budget for 2019/20 and the Precept. The consensus from the meeting was that Cllrs wanted to take another 1 year Contract and then reconsider the Best Value of the contract in readiness for the following year.

272 Library Trust

The Central Swindon North Libraries & Leisure Trust submitted a report, a copy of which appears as Annex C to these Minutes.

The report provided details of the work of the Trust towards the running of the 4 libraries in the North Swindon parish and included future costings.

Cllr S Exell stated that the costs had increased substantially from the original figure and she asked whether the Parish Council or the Trust would be responsible for the staff. Cllr J Ballman said that he believed that there were alternative ways of running the libraries which would be less costly and he felt that these should be explored.

RESOLVED

- a) that the library funding detailed in the first column be supported for inclusion in the budget setting process;
- b) that ongoing commitment to the library service in future years is confirmed.

273 Councillor Vacancy – Co-option

The Parish Manager confirmed that there had been 2 applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy in the Gorse Hill ward. The Parish Manager asked for confirmation of the procedure to be followed as some Cllrs had asked to be present at the interview stage.

The Chair stated that the procedure already adopted was for the Staffing Panel to conduct the interviews and make a recommendation to Full Council. He proposed that this procedure continued to be followed by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that no changes be made to the procedure already adopted for the co-option of a new Councillor.

274 Chairs, Officers and Members Report

The Chair reported that he and the Parish Manager had hosted the Super Councils Meeting on 20 November 2018. The meeting had gone very well and he thanked the staff for their preparation of the event.

275 Parish Council Representatives' Report

There were no reports.

276 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.

277 Staffing

The Parish Manager confirmed that 2 staff had been appointed; the Community Premises Assistant and the Youth Worker.

Cllr S Exell asked that consideration by the Parish Council be given to utilising the skills of one of the unsuccessful candidates. It was agreed that the Finance & Staffing Committee would consider this request.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council