

## **CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

<b>Present</b>	Cllr T Smith	(Chair)
	Cllr M Lucas	(Vice-Chair)
	Cllr J Ballman	
	Cllr R Ballman	
	Cllr D Patey	
	Cllr J Rodrigues	
	Cllr S Thompson	
	Cllr J Yeowell	
	Cllr D Moffatt	(Non-committee member)
<b>Officers</b>	A Reeves	(Parish Manager)
	H Morgan	(Deputy Clerk)

**Public** None

**381** **Apologies**  
None

**382** **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**  
Cllr M Lucas declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3.

**383** **Archery within residential areas**  
Cllr M Lucas explained that he had raised this issue with the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) following an incident in Rodbourne Cheney. The answer received from the was not very forthcoming.  
The Parish Manager had looked up the legislation around using archery equipment in residential areas. EU law states that instruments can be used within own homes and properties etc. but individuals are responsible for any injury caused. It was added that there were limits of the distance an instrument could fire.  
The Parish Manager confirmed that the issue raised was a legal issue and not something the Parish Council could deal with.

**384** **Update from Deputy Clerk**  
**Allotments**  
The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that invoices had been issued for the 18/19 billing year and payments had been coming in frequently.

The Allotments Officer circulated a report on the Allotment Shop. He explained that there may be issues with environmental health.

Cllr R Ballman queried the suggestion that volunteers would need to collect produce themselves. The Deputy Clerk reiterated the original Allotment Shop idea.

Cllr S Thompson expressed a keenness for the 3<sup>rd</sup> option presented.

Cllr J Rodrigues that in given scenarios the Parish Council would be acting as a middle man and it would be best to avoid this and keep the Parish Council at arm's length.

The Allotments Officer confirmed he was meeting with the Nightshelter the following day and would continue to explore the idea and share any ideas.

**Bus Shelters**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the new shelter purchased for Pinehurst Road should be installed imminently.

A response was still to be received from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) re: the positioning of the bus stop on Summers Street.

Noticeboards

Responses to the queries (SBC) had on the planning applications submitted for the 4 noticeboards were still being sought.

385

**Play Area Inspections**

The Parish Manager confirmed that there were 10 play areas to transfer to the Parish Council. The Service Level Agreement between the Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) stated that the Parish Council were responsible for completing the annual inspections via independent assessments. Visual inspections are to be completed monthly. The Parish Manager was trying to obtain dilapidation reports from 2015 from SBC.

The Parish Manager stated that there had been years of under investments in play areas by SBC. Currently any items deemed to be condemned would or requiring severe repair would be taken out of use by SBC.

There is a public perception that play areas are run by the Parish Council.

Following the recent annual inspections 2 items of equipment had already been taken out of use.

The Parish Manager said that himself and the Allotments Officer had been through the reports in detail and were going to meet with SBC to discuss the reports in detail and create a list of required works. He added that play areas would form an integral part of the Estates Manager role.

Cllr R Ballman queried why the piece of equipment condemned at St Marks Rec had been cordoned off rather than being taken away. The Parish Manager responded that the Parish Manager were to make SBC aware of the findings of the annual inspections and SBC were responsible for taking the appropriate action. He added that SBC wouldn't do anything until instructed to by the Parish Council. He had asked SBC to delay removing any items to give the Parish Council the chance to repair them.

Cllr D Moffatt stated that the Parish Council could be held accountable for accident or injury incurred on damaged equipment. He moved that officers be instructed to deal with condemned items asap and the costs be reported to the Finance & Staffing Committee. Cllr J Ballman seconded. All agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Officers be given authority to deal with condemned items as soon as possible.

386

**Exclusion 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.

387

**Grounds Assistant**

The Parish Manager explained that the previous year a groundsman had bene employed at Pinetrees for 5 hours per week for 6 months. He went on to ask for permission to commit to employ a groundsman each year going forward. All agreed.

**RESOLVED** that a groundsman be employed by the Parish Council for 5 hours per week for 6 months of each year.

The meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee