

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2019 at 7.00pm at 32 The Circle

Cllr D Moffatt (Chair)
Cllr J Ballman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr P Exell
Cllr S Exell
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr S Henderson
Cllr D Montaut
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)

Public None

Cllr D Moffatt thanked Cllr D Montaut for attending considering he had experienced the death of a family member earlier that day.

388 **Apologies**

Cllr P Baker
Cllr K Parker

389 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

390 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Cllr R Ballman asked about the RAG system. The Parish Manager confirmed that the document was being updated and additional information added in response to the comments received when the system was presented at a previous meeting.

Cllr D Moffatt asked about the status of Noticeboards. The Parish Manager confirmed that 1 planning application had been validated by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and further information was being provided for the other applications.

391 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 5 February 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

Cllr D Moffatt referred to Minute 364 and asked for confirmation that support was to be offered for the Fun Day only and not for Pinehurst Initiative Forum (PIF). Cllr J Ballman confirmed funds would need to be transferred to PIFs bank account as the primary organisers of the day. The Parish Manager added that it would be a condition of the funds being transferred that they be spent wholly on the Fun Day.

392 **Planning & Environment Committee**

Cllr P Exell referred to Minute 372.10 re: planning application S/18/2038 which the Committee had asked to call in; since doing so Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had

392 confirmed that they were minded to refuse the application under delegated authority and the Parish Council had been asked if they still wished to call in the application. Cllr S Exell added that SBC were mindful to refuse planning application S/18/2038 because of design issues and should these be resolved the application could be approved under delegated approval. She urged the Parish Council to be careful that this doesn't happen given their original intention to call the application in.

Cllr J Ballman referred to Minute 327.17 and said that he had been in touch with SBC Planning Officers regarding planning application S/HOU/18/2075. He said that there was a potential with the intent to link the proposed building to the existing garage and added that there seemed to be a growing trend with annexes and/or properties being built in back gardens. SBC Planning Officers had suggested if the application was approved conditions would be applied to prevent the garage from being used for anything other than its purpose.

JB suggested the Parish Council write to SBC to ask if they had a policy on back land development.

Cllr P Exell informed Council that the Deputy Clerk had recently attended an SBC briefing session on their Local Plan and explained that SBC were asking Parish Councils to assist them with 2 exercises:

1. A boundary review and
2. Audits of open spaces

It was suggested that the 2nd exercise could be completed by the Estates Manager and Allotments Officer.

Cllr S Exell suggested the Parish Council could come under pressure to alter some of its urban boundaries and the audit of open spaces could draw attention to spaces which are not in good condition. She suggested that all Cllrs should be involved with both exercises as the results may affect areas within their wards. Cllr D Moffatt Agreed and confirmed that officers were encouraged to engage with SBC on both processes.

Cllr P Exell raised 2 spelling mistakes within the minutes which should be corrected.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 6 February 2019 be confirmed and adopted with the suggested spelling corrections.

393 **Leisure & Amenities Committee**

Cllr M Lucas confirmed the 2nd bus shelter was now in place on Pinehurst Road.

Cllr R Ballman queried the allotment shop. Cllr M Lucas responded that the Allotments Officer had been looking into the options available to minimise the risk to the Parish Council. He added that the item would be discussed with tenants and site reps at a meeting to be arranged.

The Parish Manager confirmed that there should be no risk to the Parish Council or their reputation if tenants wished to provide surplus produce to other tenants and/or members of the public providing nothing was being asked for or received in return.

Cllr J Ballman referred to Minute 385 and the removal of equipment at St Marks Rec. The Parish Manager stated that he had received a quote for the replacement of the item of equipment concerned and this would be presented at the next Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting. He went on to read out the stance of Swindon Borough Council (SBC) re: the play area refurbishment programme which had been removed in 2012.

Cllr J Ballman queried the timescales for replacing the equipment. The Parish Manager confirmed installation should be approx. 6 weeks from the order date. Cllr J Ballman added that he would be keen to see the equipment ordered and installed as soon as

possible.

Cllr D Moffatt stated that, without prejudice to the decisions of the Leisure & Amenities or Finance & Staffing Committees, members of the council were keen for the repair at St. Marks to be exercised as soon as possible. All agreed.

Cllr J Rodrigues queried if all play equipment repairs would take over 6 weeks to complete from their instigation. The Parish Manager confirmed that repairs usually took place every 10-15 years and ideally all equipment would be repaired at the same but unfortunately at St Marks an item of equipment had dilapidated earlier than other pieces of equipment so was being dealt with on an ad-hoc basis.

Cllr S Exell referred to Minute 387 and the lack of gender neutral terminology.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 6 February 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

394 Parish Community Warden

Cllr M Lucas explained that another parish employed their own warden and he was keen to see Central Swindon North Parish Council do the same and employ 2 wardens to pick up litter and dog fouling and possibly be given the authority to fine people for littering offences. He added that an employed warden could also monitor the work completed by the StreetSmart teams across the parish.

Cllr D Moffatt said that he had raised the issue of parishes having enforcement powers for environmental purposes at another forum. He went on to explain that Salisbury Council employed people with enforcement powers given to them by a neighbouring council under a section of local government laws. He added that proposals had been received from South Swindon Parish Council to operate StreetSmart functions jointly directly in future years and based on this Cllr M Lucas' suggestions to employ wardens should be noted as an advisory.

Cllr S Exell expressed concerns about parish staff issuing fines rather than encouraging improving and changing behaviours through education and other means. She added that she wouldn't be keen for staff to issue fines due to the risk of people taking exception to such fines.

Cllr J Ballman commented that fly-tipping was moving up the agenda nationally with large fines being issued. He added that he would be keen to know how wardens work 'on the ground' in other parishes.

Cllr D Moffatt asked about the costs involved in employing wardens. The Parish Manager explained that the Parish Council would contract a company with the experience of issuing fines rather than employ anyone directly. It was said that having targets to be met should be discouraged and that other authorities enforcing fines successfully hadn't necessarily seen a reduction in the amount of litter dropped etc. The Parish Manager confirmed that Salisbury Council had offered to have a telephone conference with the Parish Council to go through how they operate their warden services in more detail.

Cllr J Rodrigues felt that the Parish Council were not in a position currently to explore the idea and suggested it be revisited in the future.

Cllr M Lucas concluded that there were various degrees and levels that a warden could work to.

Cllr D Moffatt asked for agreement to adjourn the item and allow the mover to bring the item back in the future. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the item be adjourned and the mover of the item, Cllr M Lucas, be allowed to bring the item back in the future.

395 Ward Allowances

Cllr J Ballman – Pinehurst Initiative Forum

Cllr J Ballman explained that when it had been agreed at the previous Finance & Staffing Committee meeting that his Ward Development Allowance (WDA) could be used to fund the Pinehurst Fun Day an amount had not been mentioned or agreed. He asked that £4,000 of his WDA be paid to Pinehurst Initiative Forum (PIF) for the Pinehurst Fun Day. Cllr S Exell expressed her support.

Cllr R Ballman reiterated the need for a proviso to be attached to the funding that the funds be wholly used for the Pinehurst Fun Day.
All agreed.

RESOLVED that £4,000 be provided to Pinehurst Initiative Forum from Cllr J Ballmans Ward Allowance to be wholly used for the Pinehurst Fun Day.

396 Chairs, Officers and Members Report

Cllr S Henderson referred to the Social Cohesion Working Group Notes and highlighted the key points.

397 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.

398 Staffing

The Parish Manager explained that an informal email had been received from a member of staff highlighting as issue they had. This was not raised as a formal and was dealt with by the Parish Manager and Deputy Clerk and a way forward had been agreed.

The meeting closed at pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council