

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2019 at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

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

Cllr D Moffatt (Non-committee member)
Cllr S Henderson (Non-committee member)

Officers H Morgan (Deputy Clerk)

Public None

416 **Apologies**
Cllr R Ballman

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

418 **StreetSmart Contract**

Cllr M Lucas summarised the current position of the Parish Council in terms of the StreetSmart Contract for 2019/20.

Cllr M Lucas introduced Martin Hambidge and Luke Jones from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) StreetSmart Teams.

M Hambidge explained that from 1st April 2019 there would be a unified StreetSmart Team, combining the current Grounds and Street Cleaning works, and the team will be headed by L Jones.

Previously job requests received by SBC would be directed to the separate teams and individual team members. Going forward all jobs will be directed to M Hambidge and L Jones who will then direct the work to individuals within their team.

The plan is to create a unified workforce where staff can complete multiple tasks, i.e. grass cutting & street cleaning.

It was confirmed that ground works would begin imminently, weather depending, and temporary staff were being recruited to fill any gaps in the workforce.

Shrub & Hedges works had been completed and works had begun on areas that were completed at the beginning of the last season.

A change control note was to be issued to the Parish Manager detailing the changes to the financial costs of the contract.

Income from pitches currently received by SBC, pending the transfer of facilities to the Parish Council. SBC will continue to receive any income until the beginning of the next football season, August 2019.

It was confirmed that any income from cricket pitches will continue to be received by SBC. This income is from the cricket pitches at Moredon. No income is received for the pitch at Mannington.

Cllr J Ballman stated that he had thought that the transfers had already taken place, based on cabinet members decision notes. M Hambidge responded that Cabinet members had signed

off and given the political go ahead. Now hard copy leases etc. needed to be delivered and signed etc.

Cllr J Ballman queried who was paying for maintenance of pitches if the transfers hadn't completed. M Hambidge confirmed the Parish Council were paying for pitch maintenance and SBC continue to complete cutting, marking etc. and collecting income.

It was confirmed that if the Parish Council has problems with street cleaning they should contact L Jones.

M Hambidge stated that the level of Street Cleaning service the Parish Council took on originally was based on an old SBC standard and there had been no enhancement to Street Cleaning services, as there was with grass cutting, since the Parish Council took over. Street Cleaning priorities could be changed but the same model and resources would be available.

Cllr J Ballman asked how changes could be made. M Hambidge suggested man power could be increased or working in a smarter way by identifying areas and hot spots for street cleaning could result in improvements.

Cllr J Ballman asked about some specific alleyways in Gorse Hill. M Hambidge responded that issues should be reported and added that not all alleyways belong to SBC and do not sit within their remit.

Cllr J Ballman queried the reporting of issues via the members hotline. M Hambidge responses that members hotline will ensure issues get reported to the correct person, i.e. holidays are covered, and there would be operatives constantly working within the parish area so issues could be reported to the correct people in the correct areas.

Cllr J Rodrigues queried the number of team members to be employed from 1st April 2019. M Hambidge did not have these figures to hand and confirmed he would provide them in the following days.

The length of contracts taken on by other Parish Councils were discussed.

Cllr J Rodrigues asked if other Parish Councils ceased contracting SBC Street Smart services whether this would impact on this Parish Council.

M Hambidge stated that it would only have an effect if large pieces of machinery were required. He added that machinery for sports facilities is mostly based in North Swindon so other Parish Council not funding these types of machines doesn't have an impact.

Cllr D Moffatt asked about the Tadpole Lane development transferring to SBC. M Hambidge confirmed that Tadpole Lane would remain with a management company and stated that SBC would not be taking on any new developments. He added that planning applications now have to show how new developments would be managed going forward.

L Jones mentioned the location of 'Barrowmen' and said that he would like to base on at Even Swindon Community Centre. Cllr D Moffatt confirmed he would take the suggestion to the Community Centre Management Committee.

The ways in which the team responsible for the town centre works and the areas they cover were explained.

It was confirmed that if teams are unable to complete scheduled tasks, i.e. due to adverse weather, they are directed to complete other ad-hoc jobs.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the frequency that bins are emptied. M Hambidge confirmed that this varied and that he will be looking into how often bins get filled and emptied to readjust the frequency of collections.

Cllr D Moffatt asked about the spraying of grass around furniture. L Jones confirmed this had already been completed.

M Hambidge explained the 2 stages of mowing, spraying; 1 by Parish Councils and 2 by Highways.

The available methods and options for reporting issues were discussed.

419 **Bees on Leisure Gardens**

The Deputy Clerk explained that she had been asked by at least 2 tenants of different Leisure Garden sites whether bees could be kept on an allotment and Cllr S Thompson had asked for the item to be discussed by the Committee.

Some articles taken from online were circulated.

Before looking into the topic in depth and providing a full report to the Committee the Deputy Clerk wished to gain the views of Cllrs of whether the Parish Council should allow bees to be kept on allotments. It was suggested that if this was something the Parish Council were to allow an area could be created at the largest site the Parish has, Pickards Field, and tenants from any of the 10 sites could be allowed to keep bees at the site within the specified area.

Cllr D Moffatt recommended that the Deputy Clerk produce a report recommending that beekeeping is allowed at Pickards Field with necessary policies in place and relevant organisations and tenants should be consulted.
All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk consults with relevant organisations and Leisure Garden tenants and produces a report recommending that beekeeping is allowed at Pickards Field with necessary policies in place.

Cllr J Ballman suggested a bond could be requested and held by the Parish Council from those wishing to keep bees which would pay for any clean up required should a tenant want to walk away from bee keeping.

420 **Tea Brewing**

Cllr M Lucas explained that a meeting he had recently attended he was asked if the Parish Council wanted any large containers remaining from 'Tea Brewing' for any of their Leisure Garden sites and/or their tenants.

Cllr M Lucas had been asked if the Parish Council would be interested in Compost Tea Brewing and he went on to explain to the Committee what this was, what was involved and what it could achieve. He added that if the Parish Council were interested it could be arranged for someone to attend a future meeting to present to the Committee and provide them with further information.

Cllr M Lucas proposed that someone be invited to the April 2019 Committee meeting to present to and provide further information to the Committee on the subject. All agreed.

RESOLVED that someone be invited to the April 2019 Committee meeting to present to and provide further information to the Committee on Compost Tea Brewing.

421 **Bins**

A document details bin requests received was circulated. A copy of which can be found as Annex A in the Minute Book.

Each request was discussed, and it was agreed that replacement bins be purchased for those removed at Mannington Rec, and new bins be purchased for installation at Daniel Gooch House, by a bus stop on North Star Avenue, beside the bus shelter to be installed at Summers Street at Harbour Close and on the Broadway.

The type of bin to be purchase and appearance of the bin was discussed, and it was agreed that Broxap Derby Standard Litter bins be purchased in Green.

RESOLVED that

- a) replacement bins be purchased for those removed at Mannington Rec as requested by StreetSmart
- b) new bins be purchased for installation at Daniel Gooch House, by a bus stop on North Star Avenue, beside the bus shelter to be installed at Summers Street at Harbour Close and on the Broadway as requested by Cllrs

422 **Update from Deputy Clerk**

Allotments

The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that the billing cycle was almost completed and tenants who have not paid to date will be contacted to prompt payment or termination of tenancies.

Bus Shelters

Only the shelter to be installed at Summers Street was outstanding. Swindon Borough Council had confirmed that the bus stop would not be moved and a site visit would be arranged with the shelter supplier.

Noticeboards

The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that 2 of the 4 planning applications submitted for advertisement consent for the noticeboards had been validated and the additional information requested for the other 2 applications had been submitted to Swindon Borough Council.

Cllr J Ballman asked for support from the Committee to invite Public Power Solutions (PPS) to survey all Community Building and make recommendations to the Parish Council of those suitable for solar panels. Cllr D Moffatt confirmed this would be project managed by PPS.

Cllr J Ballman proposed, seconded by Cllr S Henderson.
All agreed.

RESOLVED that Public Power Solutions (PPS) be invited to project manage a survey of all Community Building and make recommendations to the Parish Council of those suitable for solar panels.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Vice-chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee

