

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 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 D Montaut
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr D Patey
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)
Andy Briggs (Estates Manager)

Public One

Public Session The member of the public present asked about the future of the green space which runs from Gorse Hill to Mouldon Hill and queried whether the Parish Council would consider helping to provide machinery and labour to aid with the installation of a pathway on Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) land.

Cllr D Moffatt stated that it was the policy of the Parish Council to defend all green open spaces. He added that ideally the Parish Council would like to see open spaces transferred from Swindon Borough Council.

The Parish Manager advised the member of public that they could put in a formal request to the Parish Council for funding to cover the cost of the machinery and labour needed to install the pathway.

467 **Apologies**

Cllr S Henderson
Cllr K Small
Cllr K Parker

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

Cllr J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest during the public session as he is a trustee of HBUF.

469 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Cllr R Ballman asked whether any events had taken place at John Moulton Hall over the Easter school holidays. It was confirmed that an event was still to be arranged.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

470 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held on 2 April 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

471 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 3 April 2019 be confirmed and adopted with the suggested amendments.

472 Leisure & Amenities Committee

Cllr J Ballman suggested members think about holding Leisure & Amenities Committee meetings on a separate day to Planning & Environment Committee meetings given the increase in number of items included on the agenda. Cllr D Moffatt stated this could be discussed at the AGM.

Cllr D Montaut commented on the suspension of Standing Orders.

Cllr P Exell pointed out an incorrect date in the minutes which should be corrected.

Cllr R Ballman asked about bees at the allotments and stated there were already bees being kept at the Pickards Field Leisure Garden site.
It was confirmed that the Parish Council did not give permission for the bees to be kept.

Cllr J Ballman stated that the Parish Council were considering creating a dedicated area at a leisure garden site for bees to be kept and would develop a policy on bee keeping rather than allowing allotment holders to keep bees ad hoc.

Cllr D Moffatt commented that health and safety of individuals, especially children, needed to be considered.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 3 April 2019 be confirmed and adopted with the correction to the incorrect date.

473 Barnfield Road Allotment Hard Standing

The Parish Manager stated that he had been actioned to arrange for the installation of hardstanding at the Rodbourne Farm Leisure Garden site.

Whilst contractors were still on site at the Travelodge development site, they were asked to assist with the installation making it slightly cheaper.

The Parish Manager had approved the works, with the consent of Cllrs, and was seeking retrospective approval of the works which cost approx. £1,700. All agreed.

RESOLVED that retrospective approval be given for the cost of the installation of hardstanding at Rodbourne Farm Leisure Garden.

Cllr S Exell explained that residents of Barnfield Close were in a difficult position and the Travelodge development had a massive impact on the reduction of privacy of the residents. She added that the residents had originally been promised that a fence would be installed along the boundary by the developers.

The residents on Barnfield Close would be requesting the developers to install the promised fence but it was suspected that if this isn't actioned the issue will be brought to the Parish Councils attention.

It was suggested that if the Parish Council were to assist the residents and complete any works these be paid for from the CIL monies received for the Travelodge development.

The Parish Manager commented that there were major issues for the Parish Council to consider, such as the quality of life of the residents. He added that the mitigation works completed by the contractors were inadequate.

The Parish Manager explained that fencing had been installed around Mannington Park, but it stopped at the busiest area of the Great Western Way meaning that residents of Barnfield Close have a clear view of the road. He added that no sound proofing had been installed and essential signs had been removed and not replaced.

The Parish Manager proposed he be given direction to write to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) highlighting the issues discussed. Cllr D Moffatt supported the suggestion. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager write to SBC highlighting the issues being experienced by the residents of Barnfield Close.

474 **Ward Allowances**

The Parish Manager referred to a report circulated, a copy of which can be found as annex A in the Minute Book.

The Parish Manager explained that the area of land in question had been left by Carillion and that the land had become covered in rubbish, shrubs had been left to overgrow were not maintained and the grass required cutting. He added that the land needed to be looked after as other areas nearby had been formalised.

The Parish Manager stated enquiries had been made re: the ownership of the land and that he wouldn't recommend taking on the land formally. Legal advice had been sought to confirm the Parish Council could legitimately look after the land without ending up with assumed ownership.

It was confirmed that a one off capital investment of £2,065 would be required which was more than originally envisaged but this was due to the need for 2-3 grounds people, a road closure and waste disposal.

There would be no ongoing revenue costs as Swindon Borough Council had agreed to maintain the piece of land under the existing StreetSmart SLA.

The Parish Manager confirmed that part of the cost of the works would be covered by Cllr S Exells remaining Ward Allowance. All agreed.

RESOLVED that works at Lynmouth go ahead and Cllr S Exells remaining Ward Allowance contribute to the cost.

475 **Football Pitch Draft Pricing Policy & Update**

The Estates Manager stated that he had been tasked with devising a strategy for the transfer of football pitches.

It was said that the pitches to be transferred were in varying states and usage varied.

The Estates Manager referred to the 2 reports that had been circulated, copies of which can be found as Annex B in the Minute Book. He added that further meetings were to be had to finalise usage figures and requirements.

The Parish Council had already commissioned reviews of the pitches and were aware of the works required to improve their conditions.

The Estates Manager stated that the overall objective of the Parish Council at this stage was to attract people back to using the pitches.

FC Abbey Meads had asked for sole use of the pitches at Moredon.

The Estates Manager explained that he was seeking the views and opinions of Full Council before finalising the report which would be presented at a future Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting. He added that he needed to gather further information from the various leagues and needed to clarify the revenue costs of employing a grounds person and the pitch maintenance costs.

Cllr D Moffatt referred to the Calne centre and informed members that the club was subsidised by Calne Town Council.

Cllr J Ballman commented on the suggested different prices for parishioners and non-parishioners and expressed a keenness for having one average price for all.

It was clarified that when referring to pitches at Moredon these were the pitches situated at the Moredon Sports Hub site.

Cllr S Exell felt that the suggested prices would prohibit people wishing to book the pitches ad-hoc from doing so. Cllr D Moffatt agreed.

The Estates Manager responded that he was trying to improve the number of pitches to fulfil the requirements of the various leagues but there was a possibility that some pitches could be kept for ad-hoc users.

Cllr D Patey queried the comparison of prices with other specific clubs.

Cllr S Exell asked if the leagues the Estates Manager had been in contact with handled games of mixed genders and ages. It was confirmed that the league contacted to date were adult male specific.

The reports presented were noted.

The Estates Manager went on to speak about the request received from the FC Abbey Meads to move from Lydiard to Moredon. He explained that currently the club provides their own equipment and maintains the pitches they use for £500 per month but were disappointed with the service received as often the pitches would be out of use due to events taking place within Lydiard Park.

FC Abbey Meads is a large club with over 500 members and if given the use of the pitches at Moredon they would be encouraged to offer a reduced fee for parishioners.

Cllr J Ballmans queried why the club were keen to use Moredon and none of the other sites being transferred to the Parish Council.

Cllr D Moffatt spoke about the Moredon Sports Hub.

Cllr D Moffatt confirmed the item would be deferred to a future meeting once further investigation had taken place.

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Moredon Sports Hub

The Parish Manager explained that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had informed him that they expect to have all grant submissions in place and provisionally approved by July 2019. He advised that it was the project teams' preference for the Parish Council to take on direct management of the Hub and that SBC were looking for an indication from the Parish Council that they were interested in managing the site. He added that there were significant risks in terms of covering costs.

The Parish Manager went on to inform members that no action would be taken until the Parish Council had site of the Business Plan and that a Working Group would be set-up

to analyse the Business Plan in detail.

The Parish Manager suggested that the Parish Council were not best placed to manage the Hub in the long term and advised moving it into the Libraries & Leisure Trust but there were legal complexities in doing this.

Cllr J Rodrigues queried the figures provided and commented on the proposal of the Trust taking on the Hub.

Cllr D Montaut expressed concerns about the liability of the Hub.

Cllr J Ballman suggested outside consultancy would be required.

Cllr D Moffatt confirmed that that members would be invited to sit on the Working Group to review the Business Plan when available.

477 Social Cohesion Update

The Parish Manager presented a set of slides on Health & Wellbeing and explained that whilst it was a Swindon Borough Council (SBC) statutory responsibility the Parish Council have a responsibility for the Health & Wellbeing of parishioners because of the kind of activities they get involved with.

The Parish Manager stated that he was setting up a meeting to discuss with others what the Parish Council could offer. He explained that the Social Cohesion Working Group had been trying to understand the wider structure of the NHS in Swindon, build relationships with other organisations and demonstrate how the Parish Council can assist and get involved with the promotion and provision of Health & Wellbeing activities for a wide audience.

The Parish Manager stated that the Parish Council could do more and needed to collaborate with SBC more.

The report was noted.

478 RAG Update

The Parish Manager presented the RAG System and summarised any changes.

479 Annual Parish Council Meeting & Parish AGM

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Thursday 17th May 2019 and the AGM would be held on the 22nd.

RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Thursday 17th May 2019 and the AGM would be held on the 22nd.

480 Chairs, Officers and Members Report

Cllr J Ballman congratulated officers and staff on the success of the Pinehurst Information Day.

Cllr D Moffatt referred to a meeting attended by the Parish Manager in Trowbridge re: the devolution of assets transfer across councils.

The Parish Manager suggested a report be presented at a future meeting.

481 Parish Council Representatives' Report

None

The meeting closed at 9.04pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council