

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2019 at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

Present Cllr J Ballman
Cllr D Patey
Cllr S Thompson
Cllr J Yeowell

Cllr S Henderson (Non-committee member)

Officers H Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
A Briggs (Estates Manager)
H Armagan (Allotments Officer)
M Johnston (Community Centre Manager)
A Webb (Youth Worker)

Public None

The Deputy Clerk explained that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee had given their apologies and asked for another member to take the Chair.

Cllr S Thompson suggested Cllr J Ballman took the Chair. Cllr J Ballman accepted.

Cllr J Ballman took the Chair.

502 Apologies

Cllr T Smith (Chair)
Cllr M Lucas (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Rodrigues

503 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

504 Update from Youth Worker

A written report was circulated, a copy of which can be found as Annex A in the Minute Book.

The Youth Worker informed the Committee that the young male you worked in the Pinecones Café over the Easter school holidays has secured further work experience at the café over the May school holiday.

The Youth Worker invited members to view the mural painted at the Penhill Haven.

The Youth Worker is to meet with the Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association to discuss the possibility of providing youth work in the Rodbourne Cheney area as there is a problem with groups of youths gathering and loitering in the area.

Cllr J Ballman asked the Youth Worker to keep a log of all tasks and projects undertaken to which the Youth Worker agreed.

Cllr S Thompson congratulated the Youth Worker on the good work completed to date, especially getting work experience for the young male.

The Estates Manager added that other Parish Councils and organisations had contacted the Youth Worker to ask for assistance in establishing youth work in other areas. The Youth Worker confirmed he was overseeing youth work at South Swindon Parish Council

who were employing their own Youth Worker.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the Youth Club which used to run in Ferndale. The Youth Worker confirmed that the club no longer existed, but any work completed in the Rodbourne Cheney area would cross over to Ferndale to address issues in many areas.

Cllr S Henderson queried the Youth Workers workload. It was confirmed that the Youth Worker employed a team which he managed.

The Youth Worker stated that he was keen on intervention, not policing.

Cllr J Yeowell echoed Cllr S Thompsons earlier comments on the good work being undertaken by the Youth Worker.

Cllr J Ballman asked about activities to take place during the Summer school holidays. The Youth Worker stated that he was looking to organising 1 trip per week for young people alongside other activities.

The Youth Worker informed members he was attending court the following day with a group of young people to watch a dramatization of a court case re: knife crime but the young people were unaware that it would be a dramatization.

505 Update from Estates Manager

A written report was circulated, a copy of which can be found as Annex B in the Minute Book.

32 The Circle

The Estates Manager confirmed he had met with staff from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and their locum solicitor to discuss leases. Direction was given was at the previous evenings Finance & Staffing Committee meeting to obtain a lease for 5-10 years.

Working Group – Reaching Communities

The Estates Manager explained that the bid was in conjunction with the Lottery funding and 1 idea was to fund additional youth provision.

Working Group – Grounds Maintenance Value for Money Review

The Estates Manager confirmed he had met with SBC the previous week and a further meeting was to be held to discuss options with the Working Group members.

Open Space Audit & Assessment review for SBC

It was confirmed that the Deputy Clerk would be sending out copies of the questionnaires completed.

Cllr S Thompson commented on the poor states of the Southbrook Football Pitch. The Estates Manager responded that it was suspected the grass hadn't been cut in a while and that this should be completed more frequently.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the Grounds Maintenance Value for Money Working Group and how the necessary information could be obtained in order to assess the works being completed.

The Estates Manager stated that the SLA stipulated that data should be sent to the Parish Council periodically, but nothing had been received to date.

Cllr S Henderson asked about the Reaching Communities bid and what the output or resulting project would be. The Estates Manager said that initially the Working Group were trying to establish what the need of the community is. He added that the Grants Manager was

interested in providing apprenticeships at the Moredon Sports Hub.

Cllr S Henderson asked about the presence of asbestos at 32 The Circle. The Estates Manager confirmed that this was to be looked in to.

It was confirmed that CCTV installed was the deployable camera, the more expensive option selected by Cllrs.

506 Update from Allotments Officer

The Allotments Officer explained that the grass cutting at the Pickards Field Leisure Garden site had been completed and weed spraying was to take place. Some complaints had been received from tenants about the spraying of weeds.

A new sign had been installed at the Allington Road Leisure Garden site and grass cutting was to be completed.

The Allotments Officer informed Cllrs that he had moved a bees nest at the Cheney Manor Leisure Garden site and skips had been put in place at 9 of the 10 Leisure Garden sites to enable tenants to clear rubbish from their plots and tidy up the sites.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the possibility of working with the Youth Worker to engage some young people in volunteering alongside the Allotments Officer.

It was confirmed that this was a possibility but there would be issues around safeguarding and policies and processes would need to be put in place.

Cllr S Henderson commented he would be keen to see the status of the list of wants and needs established by the Allotments Working Group previously.

The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that an Allotments Newsletter had been sent to all tenants asking for comments and suggestions re: the Leisure Garden sites and asking for people to come forward if they wished to join the Working Group in the future.

Cllr S Henderson asked about a specific issue with water at the Cheney Manor Leisure Garden site. The Allotments Officer asked for additional information to enable him to explore the issue.

507 Update from Community Centre Manager

The Community Centre Manager explained that the Pinehurst Information Day had taken place and was very successful. People were very impressed with the facilities at Pinetrees Community Centre and it was a great event for networking.

The Community Centre Manager is currently in discussions with Arval trying to get a choir to visit the Community Centres at Christmas time.

The Community Centre Manager explained that she was in touch with preschool which is to open in the old library building in September and they are exploring what activities the children can do to become involved with the old people of Pinehurst, i.e. get involved with the weekly lunch club, help in the garden, use Pinetrees Library for story time.

2 Litter Picks are to take place in Pinehurst and Gorse Hill.

A litter pick, arranged by the Estates Manager, had taken place in Penhill which was very well attended.

The Community Centre manager explained that a naturehood event had taken place at John Moulton Hall (JMH) which was covered by the Swindon Advertiser and attended by over 90 people. The event had been organised by Eden and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Feedback on

the facilities at JMH was positive.

The Big Lunch Club were to hold a Q&A session at JMH, encouraging charities and other organisations to get together to hold a big lunch event.

The Community Centre Manager confirmed she had spoken with the Projects Manager about scratches appearing on the main hall floor at JMH and maintenance advice had been received from Swindon Flooring.

It was confirmed that Pinetrees Community Centre and JMH were used as Polling Stations.

508 Brunel Crescent Bus Stop

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that this item had been presented at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting the previous evening.

509 Playing Pitch Pricing Strategy

A written report was circulated, a copy of which can be found as Annex C in the Minute Book.

The Estates Manager explained it had come to light that the Playing Pitches at Moredon weren't to be transferred to the Parish Council and that the report circulated was to be revised. It was confirmed that this item would be deferred and presented at a future Full Council meeting.

Cllr J Ballman commented that it would better to average out the prices rather than have different prices for parishioners.

Cllr D Patey asked about the Abbey Meads teams' interest in the Southbrook Pitch. The Estates Manager confirmed that there was no interest due to the size.

Cllr J Ballman asked if the pricing was in line with competitors and whether the proposed prices had been communicated to the league contacts. It was confirmed that a benchmarking exercise had taken place.

The Estates Manager explained that the leagues contacted to date were keen on the employment of a grounds person and that this could lead to other clubs returning to the area.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Cllr J Ballman, Leisure & Amenities Committee Member