

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2019 at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

Present	Cllr M Lucas	(Chair)
	Cllr J Yeowell	(Vice-chair)
	Cllr J Ballman	
	Cllr R Ballman	
	Cllr D Patey	
	Cllr S Thompson	
	Cllr D Moffatt	(Non-committee member)
Officers	A Reeves	(Parish Manager)
	H Morgan	(Deputy Clerk)
	A Briggs	(Estates Manager)
	H Armagan	(Allotments Officer)
	M Johnston	(Community Centre Manager)
	A Webb	(Youth Worker)

51 **Apologies**
Cllr P Baker
Cllr J Rodrigues

52 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
Cllrs J Ballman and S Thompson declared an interest in agenda item 14.

53 **Update from Youth Worker**
The Youth Worker informed the Committee that a cohort of young people had completed a first aid course where they were taught basic CPR, how to deal with choking, putting on a sling and putting people in the recovery position. The course was a success and the young people were engaged throughout.

The Youth Worker explained that one of the young people who attends the breakfast club and youth club had their bike stolen. The Parish Manager and Youth Worker had liaised with the Police and had obtained a replacement bike for the young person concerned.

The Knife Crime Rally had received good press in the Swindon Advertiser. The rally would be taking place on the 17th June 2019 and was fully booked with attendees from UTC, Fernbrook School, St Lukes and Swindon Academy.

The Youth Worker was continuing to run the weekly Youth Club at John Moulton Hall and outreach work was ongoing.

The Youth Worker stated that West Swindon Parish Council were looking at employing a Youth Worker, and that the work of Central Swindon North Parish Council was being mimicked elsewhere.

The facilitators of the StreetGames Apprenticeship Programme being completed by the Youth Worker in London were impressed with his work and were looking to fast track him through the programme so it could be completed in 9 months, rather than 12.

The Youth Worker informed members that he would be attending a meeting of the Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association the following week to discuss youth provision for the area.

Cllr R Ballman asked how many young people attended the Breakfast Club. The Youth Worker

confirmed that 4-5 attended every day, on some days, up to 12 people attend. He added that the Breakfast Club was running at no cost to the Parish Council as all food was donated.

Cllr R Ballman asked about activities for the school summer holidays. The Youth Worker explained that the Breakfast Club would not be held throughout the school holidays, but he would be planning activities to be held 2-3 times per week. The Parish Manager added that the Bridge the Gap project was likely to run over the summer holidays.

54 Update from Estates Manager

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

CCTV – Southbrook Football Pitches

An email had been received about the positioning of the cameras. The Estates Manager explained that he wasn't satisfied with the suggested positioning and as a result a bracket had to be ordered which would delay the installation.

St Marks

The condemned play equipment had been repaired and was open for the public to use. A quotation for the sand requested by Cllr R Ballman had been requested that day.

Saint Marks Pétanque (Boules) Piste

Cllr J Ballman asked when it was expected that the nesting birds would vacate the hedges. The Estates Manager confirmed it was expected to be the end of June.

Christmas lights – Cricklade Road & Rodbourne

Cllr J Ballman suggested the Parish Council gain an understanding of the tests to be completed in case no success is had with Swindon Borough Council.

The Parish Manager commented that the columns were not that old and that the motifs the Parish Council wishes to put in place would stay on the columns. He added that the tests to be completed took account of the weight of the motifs and the wind. The results of the tests would be passed to the light supplier who would advise which columns could hold the motifs.

Current pending Lease Transfers from SBC

Chapel Street toilets – the outlined had been confirmed and excluded the car parks.

32 The Circle – the lease didn't acknowledge the works the Parish Council were likely to complete

32 The Circle

The cost of the works to be completed are to be presented to Full Council at their meeting June 2019.

Pinecones Café

The proposed design had been agreed by the Finance & Staffing Committee the previous evening and approval given to the Projects Manager to obtain quotes for the works.

Football pitches

The Estates Manager explained that the quote received from Swindon Borough Council was an additional £220 for 15 pitches rather than 8.

Cllr M Lucas asked about the depth of the verti-drain. The Estates Manager confirmed this would be looked into.

55 Update from Allotments Officer

The Allotments Officer confirmed that the slow worm fence had been installed at the Churchward Avenue Leisure Garden site before he went on annual leave. The works to the car parking space had commenced.

The Allotments Officer explained that he had been catching up with tasks since returning from leave; cutting grass, meeting new tenants and cleaning water tanks.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the skips that had been placed at the Leisure Garden sites and commented that it was clear that they were well used by tenants. The Allotments Officer said there had been an issue with the skip placed at Pickards Field as it was overflowing and contained prohibited items.

Cllr M Lucas commented on the misuse of the skips by tenants. The Parish Manager responded that the skips would be better monitored by officers and site representatives in future.

Cllr S Thompson spoke of an issue with the gate at the Rayfield Grove entrance at Pickards Field never being shut. The Parish Manager commented that measures could be put in place as a deterrent, such as signage.

56 Update from Community Centre Manager

The Community Centre Manager informed the Committee that new DDA compliant automatic doors had been fitted and the front and to the rear of Pinetrees Community Centre.

Conversations were being had with the Olive Tree Café Manager and Chairman regarding revising the Pinecones Café opening hours. The Olive Tree would like the café to open later to take advantage of the afternoon trade and cover events and bookings held at Pinetrees Community Centre.

The lunch club would be holding a D Day Anniversary Celebration the following day and bunting and flags were being provided.

The Community Centre Manager stated that good feedback had been received from a Spring Day held with Home Truths and a further 2 sessions had been booked.

The Community Centre Manager explained that she had met with 'Big Lunch' who were keen on Penhill and the community. A positive article regarding the Penhill Street Reps had been published in the Swindon Advertiser.

The date set for the Big Lunch was 6th August 2019 where there will be a free disco and kids games on the lawn. The Parish had been asked if they would help fund a BBQ and/or picnic.

A free Health & Wellbeing course was being held at John Moulton Hall which was attracting several women from Penhill.

Parents & Toddler story telling was taking place in the library on a Friday and Swindon Borough Council were holding a party on Friday 7th June 2019.

57 Football Pitches

The Estates Manager referred to written report, a copy of which can be found as Annex B in the Minute Book. He confirmed that there had been an amendment to page 6 and that the Swindon Borough Council provision was included.

The Estates Manager confirmed that the pricing policy had been approved by Full Council at their meeting in May 2019. He added that he was working on getting the pitches transferred and would then be working with the Administrative Assistant to develop a booking system.

The Estates Manager referred to the supplementary report regarding Wilts FA Funding.

Cllr S Thompson commented that the specification of the tractors was not what Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) had requested.

It was suggested that an attachment could be bought to meet HBUFs needs.

Cllr D Moffatt stated that HBUFs requirements were to be taken into consideration.

The Estates Manager commented that the FA funding would be available for sports pitches equipment so any bid for funding would have to support this.

Cllr J Ballman asked if the HBUF contribution to equipment had been considered in the report. The Estates Manager confirmed that any contribution to be received from HBUF was not included in the report.

The Parish Manager suggested, although expensive, equipment available from John Deere be looked at. He added that a higher amount of funding was available.

The Estates Manager invited Cllrs to a meeting with a tractor supplier that Friday morning.

Cllr M Lucas commented that funding may be available to improve club houses, changing rooms etc. and that this should be considered. Cllr D Moffatt responded that information was not available to make these considerations or any decisions in the immediate future.

Cllr R Ballman asked if once the changing rooms had been transferred to the Parish Council a company be contracted to complete a deep clean at each site. The Estates Manager stated that the changing room he had visited were in a poor state of cleanliness and agreed a deep clean would be beneficial.

58 Litter Bins

Aaron Webb left the meeting at 7.56pm.

The Parish Manager confirmed that Swindon Borough Council had been asked to install the outstanding bins.

59 Grounds Maintenance & Street Cleaning

The Parish Manager confirmed a meeting had been held on that Monday with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Grounds Maintenance & Street Cleaning. It was confirmed that the restructure of staff hadn't taken place and as a result in month 2 of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) the management requirements were not being met. Currently Value for Money (VfM) could not be demonstrated.

It was suggested that an increase of £34,000 could be expected for management services which are currently being provided.

It was believed that the majority of the StreetSmart staff were periodic and/or temporary staff.

An incident at Penhill Haven was given as an example of bad management.

The Parish Manager stated that he needed authority to extend the work done in the VfM review, to look in more detail and explore options available. A report would then be presented to Full Council by August 2019.

Cllr R Ballman commented on the state of the grass in Wheeler Avenue and Headlands where there was a clear difference between the works carried out by this Parish Council and Stratton.

Cllr J Ballman proposed authority be given to the Parish Manager to look in detail at the services being provided and other options available. Seconded by Cllr S Thompson. All agreed.

RESOLVED that authority be given to the Parish Manager to investigate the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning services being provided and other options available.

60 Churchward Avenue Leisure Garden – Removal of composting pile & request for fencing

Cllr M Lucas explained that there was an old composting pile at the bottom of the Churchward Avenue Leisure Garden site which attracted rats and foxes. He added that a resident whose property backs on to the site had cut down a tree to make way for a new shed and that the tree had been left on the site.

Cllr M Lucas went on to explain that the aforementioned resident had installed a camera on their shed which was directed at the Leisure Garden and suggested a fence be put up at the Leisure Garden and residents boundary line to prevent access and obstruct the camera.

Cllr J Ballman commented on what may be being recorded by the resident and the legitimacy of it. The Parish Manager responded by referring to legislation and mentioned the right of individuals to a private life. He added that the Parish Council could implement a policy to prevent the recording of Leisure Garden sites, activities which take place on site, tenants etc.

Cllr M Lucas confirmed that he was asking the Committee to give authority to officers to produce a report on the cost of removing the composting pile and installation of a fence. All agreed.

RESOLVED that officers be given the authority of producing a report on the cost of removing the compost pile and installing a fence at the end of the Churchward Avenue Leisure Garden site to be presented at a future Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting.

Cllr S Thompson queried the height of the residents camera. Cllr M Lucas confirmed it was approx. 4-5ft off the ground and a 6ft fence would be sufficient.

The Allotments Officer shared photos of the trees and area at the bottom of the Leisure Garden site concerned.

61 Compost Tea Brewing

Cllr M Lucas explained that he was seeking instruction from the Committee for officers to purchase a Compost Tea Brewing Kit. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council purchase a Compost Tea Brewing Kit.

62 GWW Cleansing

The Parish Manager explained that there are a number of gateways in Swindon which are deemed as being strategically important and these are managed and maintained by Swindon Borough Council. The Great Western Way (GWW) is one of these gateways.

West Swindon Parish Council had recently requested and an addition cleanse of the section of the GWW which falls within their parish and they had asked Central Swindon North Parish Council if they wished to join forces with them and have the whole length of the highway completed. The Parish Manager confirmed that West Swindon Parish Council had already had their section of the highway cleansed at the point of the meeting.

The Parish Manager provided some indicative figures of the cost of have additional cleanses completed.

The Committee were warned to be careful about requesting additional services.

63 Silver Sunday

Cllr R Ballman read out an article concerning loneliness. She explained that Silver Sunday was a national day for older people on the first Sunday of October. It was a countrywide initiative and would fall on the 6th October 2019. Councils were being sought to create programmes of activities and for these to be mapped on the national event map.

Cllr R Ballman asked if an event could be organised to take place on the afternoon on the 6th October 2019 to promote Silver Sunday and what it represents.

Cllr D Moffatt proposed authority be given to Parish officers and staff to organise and advertise an event. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council organise and advertise an event to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 6th October 2019 to promote Silver Sunday.

Cllr J Yeowell mentioned the possibility of providing meals at Christmas time for lonely people.

64 **HBUF Tree Planting**

Cllr S Thompson informed the Committee that a walkaround had taken place around the Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) and Southbrook area on Friday 31st May-19. There was a verbal agreement over areas where trees should be planted but further information on ownership of land was needed for some areas.

Cllr M Lucas suggested officers determine who owns the areas identified and plans be created on how the trees are to be planted.

The Parish Manager suggested the Committee think about developing a Parish Council Tree Policy to allow people to be consulted via a proper process.

HBUFs history was mentioned.

It was suggested HBUF map the areas where trees are to be planted to enable a public consultation.

Cllr J Ballman commented on Swindon being at the bottom of the league table in terms of trees planted, along with seaside towns.

The Parish Manager suggested a tree policy be drafted and a Working Group created to develop it further.

It was confirmed that the Parish Manager would circulate a map of HBUF and the areas identified for planting and a report and draft policy be presented at a future Full Council meeting. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager circulates a map of HBUF and the areas identified for tree planting and a report and draft policy be presented at a future Full Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee