

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2019 at 7.00pm at John Moulton Hall

Present	Cllr D Moffatt	(Chair)	
	Cllr J Ballman	(Vice-Chair)	
	Cllr R Ballman		
	Cllr P Exell		
	Cllr S Exell		
	Cllr S Henderson		
	Cllr M Lucas		
	Cllr D Montaut		
	Cllr D Patey		
	Cllr J Rodrigues		
	Cllr K Small		
	Cllr S Thompson		
	Cllr J Yeowell		
	Officers	Andy Reeves	(Parish Manager)
		Hannah Morgan	(Deputy Clerk)
Andrew Briggs		(Estates Manager)	

Public One

Public Session The member of public present had no questions or comments.

206 **Apologies**

Cllr K Parker
Cllr T Smith

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

None

It was agreed that agenda item 7 would be heard before other agenda items.

208 **Moredon Sports Hub**

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Officers were welcomed to the meeting. Russell Weymouth RW) introduced himself as the Service Manager for Landscape & Leisure within the SBC Planning Team. David James (DJ) introduced himself as the Project Officer and Kathy Sherratt (KS) introduced herself as a member of the Property Assets Team; supporting asset delivery.

Cllr D Montaut arrived at 7.04pm

RW gave an overview of the current status of the project. He explained how British Cycling had approached SBC to ask whether space could be found within the Borough for a closed cycle track and that Moredon was the preferred location.

DJ continued to give a brief history of the project and explained how technical surveys had been completed, and full planning permission had been obtained for the development. Details of the Residential Development were given.

Details were given of the facilities approved to be provided at the proposed development.

It was explained that the new pavilion had been designed so that it was future proofed

and could be easily extended and there was a preference for an offsite build. The new pavilion was to provide community spaces and possibly spaces for early years provision and the current design was to be refined with input from end users.

DJ informed members that there was a wish to refurb the Princess Margaret Building which had not been included in the original plans. He explained how a refurbishment of the existing building would be cheaper than building new and that any works could be brought forward if needed whilst the rest of the site was progressed. He added that providing 2 changing areas would reduce the need for installing new areas in the pavilion in the future.

Cllr K Small commented that he would be happy to see the Cricket Pavilion refurbished but had concerns about the number of changing rooms being made available.

DJ confirmed that there would be 8 changing rooms in total.

Cllr K Small explained the reasons for his concerns over the number of changing rooms which he believed to be inadequate.

DJ ran through the timeline for the project.

KS explained how SBC did not directly deliver leisure facilities under their current operating model and it was preferred to transfer facilities to 3rd parties to deliver. The Parish Council have a well established model of delivering community assets and SBC were keen to work with the Parish Council to deliver the facility.

Cllrs were informed SBC were first authorised to agree a transfer of the asset in March 2018 and that a verbal agreement with the relevant Cabinet Member had been secured to transfer the asset to the Parish Council if they were willing and terms could be agreed.

It was confirmed that the asset would be transferred on a leasehold basis and the lease length would be similar to other assets currently transferring, 99 years.

Cllr K Small commented that there would become a time when it would no longer be viable to invest in the facility and something would need to be written into the agreement to trigger re-leasing.

KS confirmed that SBC would be happy to discuss trigger points.

Repair, maintenance and management of the facility would lie with the chosen operator.

SBC Officers confirmed they would work collectively to obtain other 3rd parties to share management and income streams. It was added that funding still needed to be obtained and there would be a procurement process for the build to be followed.

SBC had been working hard to ensure funding bodies were willing to provide funding up to the maximum amounts available.

It was explained that there was a possibility for SBC and the Parish Council to jointly submit a bid for funding and SBC were happy to put forward a proposed agreement and options available.

Cabinet approval to apply for and accept grant funding would be required.

RW gave details of the projected build costs and funded income.

It was confirmed that at this stage the Parish Council were being asked to confirm whether they would be interested in partnering with SBC to progress the project further.

KS spoke of the enabling residential development which would provide a capital contribution to the Sports Hub. It was added that planning permission for the residential

development had not yet been obtained and it would not go ahead until grant funding for the Sports Hub had been secured and the final build cost was known.

Discussions were had around Abbey Meads FC moving into Moredon. KS stated that she had been assured that the agreement with Abbey Meads FC to use Moredon currently had been future proofed and the Project Team would have sight of the agreement before it is signed.

It was suggested that the Parish Clerk, and SBC service provider for the pitches at Moredon meet with Abbey Meads FC to ensure all parties are aware of future intentions for the pitches at the Hub.

Cllr D Montaut voiced his concerns around the size of the responsibility the Parish Council would take on to ensure the service could be provided in the long term. He added that close examination of the financials with needed and a decision could not be made until the costs and impact of affordability had been looked at.

Cllr J Rodrigues mentioned the North Star Snow Dome development and associated dwellings. It was asked whether the prime objective of these developments was to provide recreational facilities for the town or a caveat to put dwellings in place. KS explained that dwellings were a way of funding projects. She confirmed that money from the Moredon Recreational Development could not be spent elsewhere.

It was confirmed that when the project started in 2014 it was not SBCs policy to not directly manage leisure facilities and that at that point in time the Parish Council were not the preferred partner but there had been no other interest or bids from other 3rd parties.

It was confirmed that no subsidies would be made available to the Parish Council for the running of the facility.

Cllr J Rodrigues commented on the Parish Council budget and SBCs awareness of it. Cllr K Small agreed with comments made by Cllr J Rodrigues and stated a reserve and possibly a get out clause would be needed.

SBC confirmed that they believed all available Section 106 monies had been obtained.

Cllr S Henderson stated his interest in the finances and agreed with the valid points made by Cllrs J Rodrigues and K Small. Figures would need to be looked at in detail to make an effective decision.

The Parish Clerk informed members that SBC were sharing high level implementation figures and that the Parish Council have detailed staffing and revenue figures which needed to be looked at in more detail.

Cllr D Patey queried what would happen if funding was only agreed from 1 funder. KS confirmed SBC would have to decide whether to and/or how to proceed.

Comments were made about space being made available for a Bowls Club. KS confirmed that no decision re: the bowls club had been made but there was space available next to a pavilion should a club want to move to the Hub in the future. Cllr D Moffatt agreed with the comments made re: the bowls space.

SBC Officers were thanked for their time and left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Cllr J Ballman commented that he believed the Parish Council should make the facility work to prevent the whole site being earmarked for housing.

Cllr K Small confirmed that the detailed figures the Parish Council had would be looked

at in more detail at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting taking place in October 2019.

It was agreed that all Cllrs would be invited to the October 2019 meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee.

RESOLVED that all Cllrs be invited to the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting taking place in October 2019 where the figures for the Moredon Sports Hub would be looked at in more detail.

The Parish Clerk explained the detail included in the figures to be reviewed in October 2019.

Cllr D Montaut voiced concerned about affordability and the revenue that could be generated. He added that any grant funding available needed to be assessed and a business plan that shows how the Parish Council could afford to run the facility beyond the first year would be needed.

Cllr K Small commented that the Parish Council and SBC would need to provide viability figures and a viable business plan in order for funding to be obtained.

209 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 August 2019 be approved as a correct record.

The member of public present left the meeting at 8.27pm.

210 Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 3 September 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

Cllr R Ballman referred to Min. 184 and asked if a new pergola had been purchased and installed. The Estates Manager confirmed that a new pergola had been delivered and was to be installed the following week.

211 Leisure & Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 4 September 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

212 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 September 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

The Parish Clerk commented on Min. 200 and explained that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had appointed a Highways Officer to work exclusively with Parish Council for 1 year and they were currently working up costs for the Whitworth Road Verge Parking.

213 Parish Council Representatives' Report

Cllr D Moffatt informed members that the Swindon Area Committee (SAC) AGM and meeting was taking place the following evening, at the same time as Swindon Borough Council Full Council meeting so he nor Cllr J Ballman would be able to attend. Volunteers were requested to attend the SAC meeting in the absence of Cllrs D Moffatt and J Ballman.

The Parish Clerk confirmed Clerks could attend with delegated authority.

Cllr K Smalls suggested the Parish Clerk be asked to attend the meeting. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk attend the SAC Meeting taking place 19th September 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council