

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2019 at 7.00pm at 32 The Circle, Pinehurst

Present Cllr J Ballman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr S Henderson
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr S Thompson
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
Andrew Briggs (Estates Manager)
Gladys Barr (Grants Manager)

Public Two

Public Session A member of the public informed Council that they had heard a rumour that 8,000 trees were to be planted on the green open space behind the chip shop on Cricklade Road, Cricklade Road Field.
The member of the public had concerns that no public consultation re: the planting had taken place, that the planting was not permissible under the Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) lease terms, permission had not been sought from Swindon Borough Council (SBC).
The member of the public went on to comment that there was a cycle path running through the area of land concerned and that people would like to keep the open space as it is for many reasons.
The member of the public was seeking to determine if the rumour was true and whether this was covered and/or detailed in the draft Tree Policy being covered under agenda item 10.

Cllr J Ballman responded that the Tree Policy gave details and guidance on the planting of trees throughout the Parish, and not the specific area of land queried.
He went on to confirm that the piece of land concerned had been transferred from SBC to the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Tree Policy gave details on how and where trees could be planted and under what circumstances.

The Parish Clerk stated that an online consultation had been published earlier the same day and this would be advertised on the Parish website, Social Media and within Parish Community Buildings and Libraries.

The Parish Clerk added that for those that are not online; requests can be made for hardcopies of the consultation via the Parish Office.

Cllr J Ballman confirmed that no decision re: the planting of trees would be made until the consultation end date had passed and the results reviewed.
He added that solicitors would be consulted on legal matters.

The member of public asked whether it was the intention to plant trees across the whole area being spoken of. The Parish Clerk confirmed that this was not the case.

Cllrs S Thompson and J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the discussion as Trustees of HBUF.

Cllr S Thompson stated that the intention was to plant up to 3,000 trees on the piece of land being queried.

He went on to confirm that the space concerned was considered to be an open space. Another member of the public gave details of what could be considered to be an open space i.e. includes spaces with trees, ponds.

245 Apologies

Cllr D Moffatt (Chair)

Cllr P Baker

Cllr P Exell

Cllr S Exell

Cllr D Montaut

Cllr K Parker

Cllr D Patey

Cllr K Small

246 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

It was agreed that agenda item 8 would be heard after item 14 as a private and confidential matter due to the commercially sensitive nature of the discussions to be had.

247 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

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

248 Finance & Staffing Committee

The Parish Clerk referred to Minute 219 and confirmed that the recommendation re: cricket strips to be installed at Mannington Recreation Ground would be covered under agenda item 11.

Cllr J Yeowell referred to Minute 217 and queried the status of the doors at Even Swindon Community Centre. It was confirmed that the Projects Manager was dealing with this matter, but it was believed that the doors had been manufactured.

Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute 220 and informed Council that she had spoken with the Warden at Mervyn Webb Place and they had no problem with the Parish Council placing a tree in their grounds.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that cost of trees and lights were being obtained.

Cllr R Ballman added that powering lights may be an issue in the church grounds.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 1 October 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

249 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting held on 2 October 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

Cllr J Ballman commented on the success rate of the Parish Council having similar opinions on planning applications to Swindon Borough Council.

250 Leisure & Amenities Committee

Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute 238 and queried the status of the noticeboards. The Estates Manager confirmed that a quote for the installations had been received from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and he was awaiting a date for the works to be completed. He confirmed that a new board had been ordered and a deposit paid for the board to be installed outside Farmfoods.

The Parish Clerk referred to Minute 244 and informed Council that trees had been ordered and would be planted at the beginning of December 2019.

Cllr J Ballman referred to Minute 242 and asked if the 12 sites had been identified. The Deputy Clerk responded and informed Cllrs of the 12 sites. The Parish Clerk provided some further details about the scheme and stated that a no. of the sites were with the Parish but no information had been received.

Cllr R Ballman commented on Minute 240 and the success of Silver Sunday. Praise was given to the Community Centre Manager for the work and efforts in organising the event.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 2 October 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

251 Ward Allowance Spend Request

None received

252 32 The Circle - Audio & Visual Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings

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

Samples of fabrics and woods were circulated.

The Estates Manager informed Cllrs that should new chairs be purchased for 32 The Circle, the existing chairs would be moved to Pinetrees Community Centre. He added that the tables currently at 32 The Circle would be returned to Pinetrees Community Centre.

He went on to say that he was open to suggestions of the style of chairs to be purchased.

Cllr S Henderson queried whether a hearing loop was the best solution or whether technology had moved on. The Estates Manager responded that no other alternative had been offered.

It was confirmed that 32 The Circle could continue to be hired out for appropriate meetings where a boardroom setting would be sufficient.

It was confirmed that anyone hiring 32 The Circle would be offered parking at Pinetrees Community Centre.

The difficulties experienced by the Parish Council when trying to book alternative meeting locations and the need for a dedicated space was spoken of.

Comments were made about the possibility and advantages of purchasing a modular table.

Details of where the socket for a projector was located and how the system would be set-up were given.

It was agreed that due to the location of the table(s), it would be best to project on to the

far end wall of the building.

Cllr S Henderson proposed that the recommendation of the report to proceed with the purchase of AV equipment as per the quote received from ESS be agreed, seconded by Cllr R Ballman. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council proceeds with the capital purchase of AV equipment as per the quote provided by 'ESS Swindon' for a total cost of approx. £13,200.

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254 **Tree Policy**

The Parish Clerk ran through the headlines and Executive Summary of the draft Policy which had been circulated previously.

Cllr S Thompson referred the policy where it suggested a survey of existing trees should be completed; it was suspected that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had a survey completed previously and the Parish Council should try and obtain the results.

The Parish Clerk stated that the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had suggested that there may be funding available for the Parish Council to complete their own survey so that details of trees, including photos, can be added to the mapping system.

It was confirmed that SBC Highways were rejecting the planting of trees on all highways.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that SBC were not proactively replacing trees and would control where new trees could be planted.

It was confirmed that TPOs remained the responsibility of SBC.

Cllr S Thompson proposed that the draft Tree Policy be approved and adopted, seconded by Cllr R Ballman. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the draft Tree Policy be approved and adopted by the Parish Council.

255 **Mannington Rec – Cricket Strips**

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

Cllr S Thompson asked whether the pitches would be insured for damages. The Estates Manager responded that this would need to be looked into; the Parish Council would be insured for accidents but unsure about damages.

Cllr R Ballman voiced concerns about the cost of repairing a pitch if damaged. Cllr J Ballman added that the Parish Council would be unable to guarantee or legislate against damage.

The Estates Manager informed Council that he would work alongside users and clubs to try and maintain and monitor the pitches as best as possible.

Cllr J Rodrigues commented on the current situation and how anyone that wanted to play could do so. He asked how the Parish Council would monitor usage and prevent a new strip from being used for free by clubs.

Cllr J Ballman confirmed that that it had been agreed that the pitch would not be available for the sole use for club cricket.

Cllr J Rodrigues added that clubs would use the area, but many more ad hoc leisurely users would utilise the pitches.

Cllr J Ballman spoke of his knowledge of cricket, club cricket etc. He was unsure of how free ad hoc usage could be mitigated unless the pitch was managed and provided for club cricket only.

The Grants Manager asked how the request for cricket pitches fitted in with the Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Playing Pitch Strategy and that this could be looked into and the possibility of obtaining grant funding for a pitch.

Cllr J Rodrigues queried why the recommendation was for 2 pitches to be provided. He voiced preference for 1 pitch as it would be more manageable in terms of maintenance and costs.

Cllr J Ballman spoke of providing 1 synthetic and 1 grass pitch and suggested the SBC Playing Pitch Strategy be referred to.

It was confirmed that the suggested location of the cricket strip(s) should not interfere with the football pitches.

Cllr J Ballman proposed funding for 1 cricket strip be approved and further investigation be completed into the need and funding available for an additional strip and how use could be monitored and managed, seconded by Cllr S Thompson.
All agreed.

RESOLVED that funding for the purchase of 1 cricket strip at Mannington Recreation Ground be approved and further investigation be completed into the need and funding available for an additional strip and how use could be monitored and managed.

256 **Social Cohesion Working Group**

Cllr S Henderson spoke of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and stated that he would like to see if the Parish Council could ask Officers to complete a scoping report on the effects and benefits of MMA on young people.

He added that he would like to the Parish Council to invite an MMA instructor to speak at a future Full Council meeting and explain the possible benefits for young people.

It was suggested that a speaker be invited to, and report be presented at the Full Council meeting to be held in December 2019. All agreed.

RESOLVED that an MMA instructor be invited to speak at the Full Council meeting being held in Dec-19 and a report be presented to Cllrs.

Cllr S Henderson spoke of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which referred to the pharma needs of the Borough and the rationalising of pharmacy provisions.
The need for pharmacy provisions is high in North Swindon and where provisions are cut the risk to Health & Safety increases.

A map of the current pharmacy provisions within the Parish was displayed, It was said that more detail was to be obtained.

The Grants Manager spoke of a Reaching Communities Bid she was working on and work being completed, and advice obtained on the best way to obtain funding over a 5 year period.

It was said that there was a desire from Parish Councils to work together and to work with Swindon Borough Council (SBC), but there was no obvious pathway.

A Working Group was being set up which the Parish Clerk sat on which would explore how SBC and Parish Councils could best collaborate on issues.

Cllr R Ballman spoke of Adult Social Services looking at similar items from their perspective and setting up pilot schemes around certain activities and were looking to involve Parish Councils.

Cllr S Henderson suggested the Parish Council engage in conversations with SBC re: identifying needs and careful thought be given to the best ways to engage and respond.

The Grants Manager spoke of a Reaching Communities Bid Partnership meeting where it was evident that there was no forum for youth organisations to meet and come together.

Cllr J Ballman suggested that a full report from the Social Cohesion Working Group could be presented at a future meeting. All agreed.

RESOLVED that a full report from the Social Cohesion Working Group be presented at a future Full Council meeting.

257 **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the public and press be excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

258 **Moredon Sports Hub**

Cllr J Ballman read the resolution from the October 2019 Finance & Staffing Committee. He stated that he would like to see the Parish Council adopt the role of preferred bidder which would allow opportunities for further discussions from a stronger position.

The Grants Manager confirmed that the Football Foundation Bid had been submitted and the Cycling Bid had been drafted.

Cllr M Lucas stated that providing there was no commitment from the Parish Council involved, he would be happy for the Parish Council to assume the role and title of preferred bidder to open up conversations and avenues to obtain further information. Cllr J Yeowell agreed with the comments made.

Cllr J Rodrigues commented that SBC needed to be fully aware of the financial status of the Parish Council; taking on the Project is not a problem and the Council has the skills to do so but do not have sufficient money available. He concluded that he would be happy for the Parish Council to accept the term preferred bidder so long as SBC consider the working capital available.

Discussions ensued over where capital investment and other funding was coming from.

Cllr S Henderson proposed that the Parish Council communicate to SBC that they are happy to take on the role of preferred bidder for the Moredon Sports Hub project, seconded by Cllr R Ballman. All agreed.

RESOLVED that Parish Council communicate to SBC that they are happy to take on the role of preferred bidder for the Moredon Sports Hub project.

259 **StreetSmart Pricing Review**

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council was currently going through the StreetSmart procurement review to test the private sector and understand costs etc. for the preferred options.

An email had been sent to approve additional spend of £8-10,000 for the consultation process to which no objections had been received.

Cllr Steve Henderson proposed the additional spend be approved, seconded by Cllr M Lucas. All agreed.

RESOLVED that an additional spend of £8,000 to £10,000 be approved for the StreetSmart Consultation process.

The Remuneration of the Parish Clerk was mentioned and Cllr J Ballman explained that it had been agreed previously that the salary of the Parish Clerk would increase once he had qualified. As the Clerk had now obtained his CiLCA qualification confirmation that the Cllrs were happy for the Clerks salary to increase as previously agreed was being sought. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the salary of the Parish Clerk be increased as previously agreed as a result of becoming CiLCA qualified.

260 **Parish Council Representatives' Report**
None

A report re: Christmas opening hours was circulated and noted.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Vice-chair of the Council