

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019 at 32 The Circle

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

Public One

Public Session The member of public present introduced themselves as Josie Lewis (JL). JL stated that she was attending the meeting to represent local residents and put forward their views and concerns re: the plan to plant trees on the Cricklade Road Field. JL spoke of the lease of land at Southbrook to the Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF). JL explained that residents had heard of a plan to plant thousands of trees on land at Cricklade Road and it was felt that this land should be kept as open space. JL commented that a public consultation was required re: the planting of trees in the area concerned.

Cllr J Ballman queried whether JL spoke on behalf of residents or was voicing opinions of her own. He added that residents were able to put their views across to their Parish Ward Cllrs so they could be feedback to Council.

JL responded and confirmed she was representing a group of concerned residents.

The Parish Clerk explained that JL had put in a FOI request re: the lease of land to HBUF.

There were some conversations had re: sections of a lease which restricted the planting of trees. It was confirmed that the lease being spoken of was the original lease between Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and HBUF and the Parish Clerk explained that the land in question had now transferred to the Parish Council who were now acting as the landlord of the land and a new lease had been in place between the Parish Council and HBUF which implied no restrictions on the planting of trees. The Parish Clerk added that, under the new lease, HBUF could ask to plant trees and the Parish Council could oblige as the landlord.

JL stated that she disagreed with the view of the lease and believed that the land at Cricklade Road, which was meant as a recreation ground, should remain an open space.

Cllr S Thompson referred to comments made re: the requirement for a consultation. He explained that over 1000 consultation documents had been delivered locally and an online consultation questionnaire was available and advertised.

JL queried the type and form of consultation. The Parish Clerk confirmed that a public consultation could take many different forms. He added that following the completion of the current consultation; Trustees of HBUF would decide whether further consultation was required but given the number of responses already received it was felt that fair representation

was expected from the consultation currently taking place.

Cllr M Lucas suggested an item be included on the agenda of the next Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting so that the results of the current consultation could be shared and discussed.

JL concluded that she objected to earlier comments made by Cllr J Ballman regarding who she was representing, and she wished to make a formal complaint. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would act accordingly to any objection received.

JL left the meeting at 7.10pm.

286 Apologies

Cllr J Rodrigues

287 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

288 Update from Youth Worker

The Youth Worker provided a written report, a copy of which can be found as Annex A in the Minute Book.

The Youth Worker informed the Committee that he and a group of young people had taken on an allotment plot at the Pickards Field Leisure Garden site and they had been working on bringing the plot back into use over the School Half Term in Oct-19. He stated that the young people chosen to work on the plot were those with low self esteem and little confidence. During the half term two thirds of the plot had been cleared and it would soon be ready for planting. The Youth Worker added that the young people were benefitting from the activity and were learning about growing fresh produce.

The Youth Worker informed Cllrs of the programme of activities which ran through the School Half Term;

Free boxing sessions were provided by and held at Scrappers Gym. The Youth Worker explained that the Swindon Childrens Scrapstore, the charity that runs Scrappers Community Gym, had recently be awarded £100,000 and were looking to work more closely with the Parish Council to offer further free boxing sessions for the young people.

The Youth Worker spoke of a Youth Council which had been running for 3-4 months alongside the Pinehurst Youth Group sessions and a small group of females had been working on a presentation on how Young People feel about living in the area.

The Youth Worker circulated copies of the presentation slides and explained that the group of girls had given the presentation as a meeting of many local groups and stakeholders including the Police, Swindon Borough Council (SBC), Parish Cllrs and others. Whilst it was intimidating for the young girls, they presented very well, and it helped to build their confidence. Good feedback had been received.

The young people wanted the Youth Council to continue and had expressed a wish to attend future Parish Council meetings and to work more closely with the Parish Council and Officers.

The Youth Worker referred to the slides and highlighted some of the points for consideration.

The Youth Worker suggested inviting representatives of the Youth Council to Leisure & Amenities Committee meetings bimonthly.

Cllr J Yeowell thanked the Youth Worker, and others for the work completed with the Youth Council. Cllr M Lucas agreed with the comments made.

Cllr R Ballman referred to the Youth Council slides and suggested if one of the worries of the Young People could be resolved then it could resolve others. It was said that if the Parish Council could do anything then focus should be given to the Young Peoples wish for a stable and supportive homelife.

The Youth Worker responded that he had ideas to work on to benefit the young people and possibly provide a slight resolution to some of the issues and worries demonstrated in the Youth Councils presentation.

Cllrs were invited to look through the presentation slides and feedback any comments they had.

The Youth Worker referred to the suggestion that young people be invited to Parish Council meetings and said it would be good to their views and feedback on issues within the Parish. Cllr R Ballman suggested young people could be invited along to meetings under public questions so their views etc. could be heard at the beginning of meetings.

It was agreed that young people be invited to attend Leisure & Amenities Committee meetings bimonthly.

The Youth Worker confirmed that he would be presenting on work completed and achievements during his first year with the Parish Council at the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting in December 2019.

The Youth Worker left the meeting at 7.23pm.

289 Update from Estates Manager

The Estates Manager provided a written update, a copy of which can be found as Annex B in the Minute Book.

1. Football update

The Estates Manager confirmed that the leases for Penhill and Mannington rec were still to be signed.

2. 32 The Circle

The Estates Manager confirmed that the installation of the AV equipment had been completed and he informed Cllrs of the hearing loop installed.

It was queried whether the new door would be automated. The Estates Manager confirmed he would request a quote for an automated door.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the new table. The Estates Manager confirmed that new chairs were to be delivered the following day and a new table would be delivered shortly after.

3. Festive lights – Cricklade Road & Rodbourne

The Estates Manager informed the Committee that he had spoken with Mervyn Webb Place and was waiting to hear from a supplier of Christmas Trees.

Cllr R Ballman asked how the tree would be stood at Mervyn Webb Place. The Estates Manager responded that professional advice and guidance would be sought to ensure any tree placed would be stood and secured correctly.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the size of the tree and queried whether permission to place the tree had been sought. The Estates Manager responded that the Parish Council were looking to purchase a 25ft tree and confirmed permission to place the tree had been received from housing.

5. Pinecones Café

The Estates Manager informed Cllrs that there was a leak in the roof of the main kitchen at Pinetrees Community Centre. Swindon Borough Council had been out to look at the issue and had confirmed that there was works to be done via the Meeting Room patio roof.

6. Moredon & Rodbourne Cheney Library

Cllr J Yeowell asked if any amendments were to be made to the existing ramp to make the garden more accessible. The Estates Manager confirmed that the Trust had not asked for any works to be completed to the ramp.

290 Update from Allotments Officer

The Allotments Officer informed the Committee that skips had been placed at all Leisure Garden sites and those placed at Cheney Manor and Gorse Hill sites had already been filled and collected.

The Allotments Officer had been helping the Youth Worker and Estates Manager with various tasks including cleaning graffiti at a Parish Shelter bus shelter and at Chapel Street Toilets and driving a minibus for the Dementia café and Youth Workers Half Term programme.

The Allotments Office informed Cllrs that he was assisting Cllrs S Thompson and J Ballman in organising a tree planting day, details of which would be sent to all Cllrs in due course.

The Allotments Officer was thanked for the help given to the Youth Worker with the allotment at Pickards Field Leisure Garden.

291 Update from Community Centre Manager

The Community Centre Manager informed the Committee that she was in receipt of food bank vouchers to distribute and Cllrs were urged to direct those in need to the Parish Office.

The Community Centre Manager confirmed that she would be managing the 2019 Christmas Giving Box scheme and had been in touch with several companies to ask for donations. A meeting had been arranged with Asda, who donated goods for Silver Sunday, and they would be visiting Pinetrees Community Centre and meeting with the Youth Worker. The Community Centre Manager informed Cllrs that Nomination Forms for the scheme were available from the Parish Office and would be distributed to Parish Libraries and Community Centres.

The internal and external windows had been cleaned at Pinetrees Community Centre and John Moulton Hall (JMH) and praise was given to the work of the window cleaner.

Nationwide were looking to fund a Christmas Party for over 60's to be held at Pinetrees Community Centre. The date was to be confirmed.

The Community Centre Manager stated that lots of activities for families and children were taking place regularly at Pinetrees Library which was encouraging people in on Saturdays.

The Community Centre Manager was looking into apprenticeship options for one of the Grounds Assistants at Pinetrees Community Centre.

JMH

The Penhill Community Church was doing well and had lots of dates booked and was organising various activities.

A Christmas Party was being organised by the Penhill Community Church and staff from the Nightshelter for children on the 15th December 2019. This would be for nominated children who would be provided with lunch, get to meet Santa and be given a toy. The Community

Centre Manager asked for referrals.

The Community Centre mentioned a Christmas Dinner for 80 referred people taking place on Christmas Eve, also being arranged by the Penhill Community Church. A meeting was to take place on the 20th November 2019 to look at the resources needed for the 2 Penhill Community Church events.

Cllr R Ballman asked if any help was needed from Cllrs and commented that some still had money left from their Ward Development Allowances. The Community Centre Manager said she would report back following the meeting on the 20th November 2019.

The Estates Manager commented on the great job the Community Centre Manager did, often going above and beyond what was required of her in her role. Cllrs supported the comments made.

292 Trees at Harvey Grove

A map of Harvey Grove was displayed.

The Deputy Clerk referred to the trees at Harvey Grove which were discussed at the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting in September 2019. She explained that, following the adoption of the Parish Council Tree Policy which encouraged the planting of trees, it was felt that the Parish Council should replace the trees removed from Harvey Grove by Swindon Borough Council.

The Deputy Clerk had been in touch with a member of the SBC tree team and they had confirmed that the trees had been removed as they were either dying or were dead and had said that the cost of replacing the trees would depend on the size and type of tree required. Further guidance and advice on the types of tree to be planted and the associated cost of planting and maintaining were being sought and a report would be brought back to the Committee at a future date.

Comments were made about fruit bearing trees and danger posed by leaves shed from trees on pathways and highways.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the status of a tree which was to be planted at Fairford Crescent. The Estates Manager confirmed that the tree had been ordered and should be planted within a few weeks.

293 Dropped Kerb at Pinetrees Community Centre

The Parish Clerk explained that the increase in health & wellbeing activities and events being held at Pinetrees Community Centre had led to an increase in mobility impaired visitors attending the Centre at which there was no dropped kerb outside the front entrance where visitors are often dropped off.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that he was seeking the Committees approval to install a dropped kerb for a cost of £750. All agreed.

RESOLVED that a dropped kerb be installed outside the front entrance of Pinetrees Community Centre for £750.

It was confirmed if and where Double Yellow Lines would be placed.

294 American Football

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

Cllr J Yeowell asked if there would be room for the club to potentially move to the Moredon Sports Hub in the future. The Estates Manager confirmed that there would be room should the

club wish to move there.

Cllr D Patey asked about the installation of training equipment. The Estates Manager confirmed that nothing would remain out at the site and everything would be stored away after each session.

It was confirmed that the club would be providing their own goalposts.

Cllr J Ballman informed the Committee that he had met the club who were very keen. He commented that he felt the proposed price was right and allowing club to use the site would make use of empty piece of ground and increase footfall in the area which in turn would increase security. He summarised that he was in favour of the recommendation of the report.

The Estates Manager confirmed that Terms & Conditions of use etc. had not yet been drafted.

Cllr J Ballman suggested a 1 + 2 year contract be put in place.

Cllr R Ballman agreed that, if the recommendation was approved, an initial contract should be put in place and reviewed after 1 year when the clubs' number may have increased.

Cllr J Ballman asked if the club already had a container to place at the site. The Estates Manager confirmed that they would be seeking funding to purchase a container.

Cllr M Lucas stated that he had concerns over the difference between the original price proposed by the Parish Council and the counteroffer. He asked what income could be made from football matches. The Estates Manager responded and confirmed that the potential income from football would be significantly lower than that from the American Football Club due to the comparatively low usage.

The Parish Clerk stated that the Parish Council would be pump priming the club and had no worries about impact on future assumptions. He commented that appropriate signage could increase club members and the Parish Council could then increase the pricing in the future. He agreed that a contract be put for 1 year and then reviewed.

Cllr J Ballman queried any insurances needed. The Estates Manager confirmed that the club were fully accredited and insured and copies of their insurance documents could be obtained. The Parish Clerk added that the Parish Council held their own liability insurance.

Cllr J Ballman proposed that the recommendation of the report be approved and an initial 1 year contract be put in place, seconded by Cllr D Patey.
All agreed.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the counteroffer from Swindon Storm of £4,920 be accepted, to be invoiced as a monthly charge of £410, and an initial 1 year contract be put in place.
- b) Swindon Storm be offered sole use of the top pitch at Southbrook Recreation Ground, based on a comprehensive hire agreement being put in place outlining terms & conditions.
- c) The Estates Manager be tasked with drafting 'Conditions of Hire'.
- d) The Estates Manager seeks quotations for essential repairs and renewals, including redecoration, of the internal rooms and surrounding areas.

295 Bus Shelters

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

Cllr T Smith queried why a shelter was only be proposed for installation on the inbound journey. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that a request received for a shelter was for the inbound

journey only.

All agreed with the recommendation of the report.

RESOLVED that a bus shelter be purchased and installed at the inbound Beatrice Streets stop on Whitehouse Road at the cost of £4,102 + VAT.

296 Willows at St. Marks Recreation Ground

Cllr S Thompson explained that there was an area of Willows in St Marks Rec which were an issue as they were causing problems with trees and encouraging anti-social behaviour. He informed the Committee that he was asking if the Parish Council could remove the Willows and plant an alternative.

Comments were made re: the expected high cost for the removal of the Willows.

The Parish Clerk suggested a quote for ploughing and replanting could be obtained and reported back to the Committee.

Cllr S Thompson asked if he could meet with the Estates Manager on site to discuss further.

Cllr R Ballman suggested Swindon Borough Council (SBC) be consulted and asked if they could remove the Willows in the first instance. The Parish Clerk agreed.

Cllr M Lucas asked for a quote to be obtained for the removal and for a report to be presented at a future meeting.

Cllr S Thompson and the Estates Manager are to agree a date to meet.

297 Update on Litter Bins

The Estates Manager confirmed the following:

A post mounted plastic bin was to be installed at Ridgeway Close in 10-14 days

New bins should be placed at St Marks Recreation Ground within 10-14 days

Freestanding bins had been ordered to be placed in Rodbourne and at the bus stop at North Star Avenue.

Bins had been ordered for Harbour Close and The Broadway.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the repositioning of a bin at Summers Street so it was nearer to the Parish Council bus shelter. The Deputy Clerk responded that this had been queried with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and she would chase for a response.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee