

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2019 at 7.00pm at 32 The Circle

Present Cllr J Ballman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr P Baker
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 Clerk)
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
Andrew Briggs (Estates Manager)

Prior to the meeting commencing a one minute silence was held for Cllr Des Moffatt, the founding Chair of the Parish Council who sadly passed away after a brief illness.

Public Two

Public Session 1 member of the public, Josie Lewis (JL), asked what the Parish Councils stance was on the planting of 2000 trees on Cricklade Road Green which had been completed without permission.
The Parish Clerk responded that the stance of Parish Council would be made clear under agenda item 7, HBUF.
JL asked to speak at item 7. The request denied and Cllr D Montaut explained Standing Orders and how they work.

341 **Apologies**
None

342 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
Cllrs J Ballmans and S Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7, HBUF, as Trustees of Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF)

Cllrs were granted 5 minutes to review the minutes of previous meetings.

343 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
Cllr J Yeowell referred to Minute 304 and thanked Cllr S Henderson for the work done to date.

Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute 303 and fed back that positive comments had been received re: the team that placed the Christmas Tree at Mervyn Webb Place.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

343 **Finance & Staffing Committee**

Cllr S Exell commented that an item discussed at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting held 3 December 2019 had been omitted from the Minutes. The Parish Clerk suggested the Minutes presented be approved and an addendum of the minute of the omitted item be presented at the Full Council meeting to be held in January 2020 for retrospective approval. All agreed.

The Parish Clerk asked for clarification of Minute 320. It was confirmed that a report on the Parish Councils interviewing panel was to be produced and presented at the meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee in January 2020.

Observations and comments were made re: the Parish Clerk sitting on the Parish Council interview panel.

Cllr S Exell confirmed that the Finance & Staffing Committee had agreed that an amended report on the interview panel was to be presented at a future meeting and would be shared with all members. Cllr S Exell went on to refer the substantial evolution of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2019 be confirmed and adopted and an addendum to the Minutes be presented at the Full Council meeting to be held in January 2020.

344 **Planning & Environment Committee**

The Parish Clerk informed members that a date had been agreed for Neighbourhood Planning training which was to be provided by NALC on 4th February 2020. He commented that the training would be very useful. Cllr J Ballman urged members to attend the training being provided.

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

345 **Leisure & Amenities Committee**

Cllr S Thompson referred to Minute 334 and congratulated the work completed by the Youth Worker to date.

It was confirmed that the Nationwide event referred to in Minute 337 had taken place.

Cllr J Rodrigues referred to John Moulton Hall (JMH) and conversations to be had re: the centre sustainability and ability to generate revenue.

Cllr J Ballman commented that JMH used to be in use 34% of the time and the usage and footfall was growing steadily.

Cllr J Yeowell referred to Minute 340. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had placed a tree at St Augustines Church for their Community Christmas Tree Festival.

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

346 **HBUF**

Cllr M Lucas spoke of the consultation Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) had completed on the planting of trees. The results of the consultation were displayed.

The Parish Clerk gave some background information and informed members that the Parish Council had been contacted by HBUF re: a want to plant a number of trees. The Parish Council have a Tree Policy in place which supports the planting of trees.

The Parish Council had asked HBUF where they wished to plant trees and aided HBUF with consulting with residents.

The Parish Clerk commented that the consultation had achieved a fair representation.

The Parish Clerk explained that HBUF were to bring details of where they wanted to plant trees following the consultation.

The current situation was that 1,500 trees had been planted without the permission of the Parish Council and HBUF had been asked to suspend the planting of any further trees.

Cllr S Thompson read out a personal statement.

Cllr M Lucas summarised that 1,500 trees had been planted and the Parish Council were to agree whether the trees could remain in place or whether they were to be moved. 1,500 unplanted trees remained for which positions were to be agreed.

Cllr D Montaut asked about work with the Community Forest and whether the Parish Council or HBUF were working in conjunction with them.

Cllr S Thompson commented that HBUF had been assisted by the Community Woodland previously but were currently being assisted by the Woodland Trust and Community Lottery Fund.

Cllr S Exell asked if the Tree Planting Policy could be followed and plans viewed as if the trees planted without permission weren't in place.

The Parish Clerk referred to the longevity of the trees still to be planted and the need for a decision on their positioning to be made.

Cllr S Thompson produced a diagram which was shared with members.

Cllr R Ballman informed the Committee that as a Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Ward Cllr she had received several emails supporting the planting of trees, but some issues had been raised about their positions.

Cllr M Lucas reiterated that a decision needed to be made re: the trees already planted and whether they could stay in place, then plans for the remaining trees could be reviewed.

Cllr D Montaut left the meeting during this item.

Cllr J Ballman suggested the trees already planted be left in place unless it became necessary to move them for legal reasons.

Cllr S Thompson explained where and how the trees had been planted and confirmed an avenue had been created.

It was confirmed that Cllrs had previously completed a walkaround of the area to view where the trees could be planted.

Cllr M Lucas suggested another site visit takes place to decide where the remaining trees could be planted.

The location of the trees planted was confirmed and a map of the area was displayed.

Cllr S Exell stated that she was supportive of tree planting but asked that Cllrs think about the process that should've been followed by HBUF.

It was suggested that written approval should've been issued by the Parish Council so the positions of all parties involved could be considered.

Cllr J Ballman confirmed that the land where trees had been planted was held by HBUF and commented on the natural progression leading to planting trees where the planted trees had been placed. He added that only one objection had been received to the trees planted.

Cllr S Henderson commented that the issue was not the trees that had been planted but the fact that the correct process hadn't been followed.

Cllr S Thompson explained that a genuine mistake had been made due to misunderstanding. It was asked what permissions should be sought in future. The Parish Clerk explained that permission should be sought from the Parish Council for the installing of structures, changing the use of land, large projects and activities such as the tree planting HBUF wished to take place.

Cllr S Thompson commented that permission for the planting of trees hadn't been sought previously. The Parish Clerk responded that the Parish Councils position was different to SBCs, who had less of an interest.

Cllr J Ballman spoke of the position of SBC previously as landlords. He commented that HBUF had taken out their own insurances which allowed them to complete works without specific permissions from SBC.

Cllr M Lucas stated the position of the Parish Council as landholders and confirmed that they expected to be consulted on the positioning of trees. He added that the current situation had been created by a misunderstanding of the positions of both the Parish Council and HBUF.

Cllr S Thompson referred to the lease HBUF holds which gave the impression that permission was not required for activities such as those being discussed.

Cllr J Rodrigues referred to the HBUF lease and the misunderstanding.

The Parish Clerk confirmed the position of SBC and referred to sections of the HBUF lease. He added that an SBC officer had been contacted and informed of the trees that had been planted and it was confirmed that they had no issues.

Cllr S Henderson referred to the trees which were still to be planted. It was confirmed that these could be planted in the new year.

Cllr S Exell proposed that the trees planted remained in place a plan for the unplanted trees be produced for consideration by the Parish Council.

The proposal was seconded by Steve Henderson.

A vote was held from which Cllrs J Ballman and S Thompson abstained. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the trees planted by HBUF without permission remain in place and HBUF submit a plan for the unplanted trees for the Parish Council to consider.

347 **American Football – Conditions of Hire**

A written report was circulated, a copy of which can be found at Annex A.

It was confirmed that the only changes made to the draft conditions since they were presented previously was duplicated items.

Cllr P Exell asked if the suggested rental covered anticipated costs. The Estates Manager explained that the rental should cover all expected costs except for the cost of line marking, which was dependant on a separate decision to be made by Cllrs. It was added that a surcharge had been introduced to the pricing.

It was confirmed that the cutting of the pitch grass was carried out by the Parish Council regardless of use.

It was confirmed that the minimum line marking requirements had been agreed and the cost of this would be covered by the hire charge.
The line markings required were displayed.

Cllr J Ballman spoke of a line marking robot.

The Parish Clerk spoke of the issues with security at the Southbrook site and the effect the increased footfall, as a result of the American Football, would have.

Cllr D Patey proposed that the recommendation of the report presented by approved, seconded by Cllr P Baker. All agreed

RESOLVED that the draft Conditions of Hire and Hire Agreement for American Football be presented to Swindon Storm and if accepted the American Football Club be granted use of the top field and use of the Pavilion and car park at the Southbrook Recreation Ground.

Cllr P Baker left the meeting at the end of this item.

348 Parish Council Representatives' Reports

The Parish Clerk informed members that the National Trust were holding an open evening at their Helix site the following evening and Cllrs were asked if they would like to attend.

The Parish Clerk asked for feedback on a suggestion that recommendations are placed at the front of reports in future.

It was asked that Minutes be circulated ahead of meetings in future.
The Parish Clerk spoke of funding available to make all publish all papers online.

The current process for the signing of Minutes was explained.

Cllr S Henderson informed Cllrs that the meeting of the Social Cohesion Working Group had been deferred to until January 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Vice-chair of the Council