

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2020 at 32 The Circle

Present Cllr M Lucas (Chair)
Cllr J Yeowell (Vice-chair)
Cllr J Ballman
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr D Patey
Cllr S Thompson

Officers H Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
A Briggs (Estates Manager)
A Webb (Youth Worker)
H Armagan (Allotments Officer)
M Johnston (Community Centre Manager)

Public Four members of the public and 1 member of the press were present.

Public Session One member of the public, William Reynolds (WR), read out a letter sent to Cllr J Ballman re: the planting of trees at Cricklade Green.

Cllr M Lucas explained that Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) had been asked to provide the Parish Council with a diagram of where trees had been planted and are to be planted for review. He added that the Parish Council were to complete a visit of the site where trees had been planted and where HBUF wanted to plant additional trees.

It was confirmed that HBUF had been asked to include adequate clearings and pathways in their plans.

Cllr M Lucas responded to comments made about drug use and anti-social behaviour in the area concerned and said that this was an issue across the whole of Swindon and issues within the Parish are looked at separately and monitored by the Parish Council and other parties.

It was stated that the Parish Council were supportive of planting trees as well as continuing to provide open spaces.

One member of the public present asked to attend any site visits conducted by the Parish Council. Cllr M Lucas confirmed that members of the public present could be informed of the date of the site visit(s) once this had been confirmed.

Members of the public present stated a preference for a weekend visit.

One member of public present spoke of how he uses the open space where trees have been planted and how these activities would be prohibited by the way in which the trees had been positioned.

One member of the public present, Josie Lewis (JL), asked for a letter to be read aloud. Cllr M Lucas read out the letter provided by JL.

Cllr M Lucas explained that agenda items 8 and 9 would be taken ahead of all other items.

363 **Apologies**
None received.

364 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
Cllrs J Ballman & S Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 8 and 9 as

trustees of Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF).

365 **Update from Youth Worker**

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

The Youth Worker confirmed that all who attended had enjoyed the Christmas Meal provided at Pinetrees Community Centre on 23rd December 2019. He added that some of those that attended wouldn't usually have a Christmas Dinner over the festive period.

Thanks was given to Asda for collecting donations of gifts and toys which were given out to the young people that attended the Christmas Meal.

The Youth Worker spoke of the conference he had been asked to speak at. The conference will be attended by a number of youth organisations and the cost to attend would usually be £600 but he had been offered a place free of charge. He stated that he would provide an update on the conference at the Committee meeting to be held in February 2020.

Members were informed that the American Football Team, Swindon Storm, who the Parish Council had been working with had shown an interest in working with the Youth Worker and a group of young people were to attend an American Football taster session.

It was confirmed that the boxing sessions for the young people would start at the end of January 2020 and some young people would be invited to the Committee meeting to be held in March 2020.

Cllr M Lucas thanked the Youth Worker for all his work and hoped his speech at the conference goes well.

366 **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.

32 The Circle

Cllr J Yeowell asked if there would be disabled access to the rear of the building. The Estates Manager stated that this could be investigated.

Even Swindon Community Centre

Cllr J Yeowell asked about comments read about the car park being locked over the festive period. The Estates Manager responded that the Community Group that lease the building have the authority to lock the car park.

LED Lights to Alleyway of Pinetrees

It was confirmed that it had been agreed to do something about lighting & CCTV at the alleyway to the side of Pinetrees Community Centre.

Planning application for container storage at Southbrook Recreation

Cllr S Thompson commented that the Committee should be consulted on the placing of a storage container for the American Football Team at the Southbrook Recreation Ground. The location for storage container was confirmed.

Noticeboards

The Estates Manager confirmed that the board to be installed outside John Moulton Hall (JMH) had been collected by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and should be in place imminently. The supplier had been contacted re: fixings required for the wall mounted board to be installed at Pinetrees Community Centre and SBC were to provide a quote for the installation of a board outside of Farmfoods, Rodbourne Cheney.

Cllr D Patey queried whether the American Football Team had signed up the Parish Councils Conditions of Hire. The Estates Manager responded that he was expecting all documents to be signed the following week.

367 **Update from Allotments Officer**

The Allotments Officer explained that work across the allotments had slowed down due to the recent wet weather.

The Allotments Officer informed the Committee that a tenant of the Crowdys Hill Leisure Garden site wished to move their chickens due to an issue with rats at the site and that the Parish Council had been asked for their assistance with this.

The Estates Manager commented that the rat problem wasn't something the Parish Council could mitigate. Assistance had been given for the same problem at the Cheney Manor Leisure Garden site which had helped the problem but had not cured it.

The Allotments Officer suggested he could complete training for the treatment of pests and rodents.

The Estates Manager suggested the Parish Council work with the adjacent school to find a solution to the problem being experienced at the Crowdys Hill site.

Cllr D Patey asked what Swindon Borough Council (SBC) would've done to tackle similar problems previously. It was confirmed that SBC had their own pest control team previously.

The Allotments Officer explained that he would be covering over unused plots when the weather improves, to avoid them becoming overgrown and nuisance to tenants. He added that he would cover over an area at the Churchward site where the growth of horsetail causes issues.

The Allotments Officer informed members that he had helped with the delivery of the Parish Council Christmas Giving Boxes.

Cllr R Ballman queried the status of compost tea brewing which had been discussed by the Committee previously. The Estates Manager confirmed that the item had been put on hold and would be revisited if/when a grounds person was employed by the Parish Council.

368 **Update from Community Centre Manager**

The Community Centre Manager confirmed that 65 Christmas Giving Boxes had been delivered.

Thanks was given to Asda who had provided 3 trollies of donated toys and gift set which were shared between the Youth Worker and other community groups who use Pinetrees Community Centre and John Moulton Hall (JMH).

The Community Centre gave thanks to the Swindon Advertiser for a story recently published.

The Committee were told that a pair of Alpacas had attended a Dementia Café session in December and that the Café was going well.

The Community Centre Manager stated that a party for older people in the care system had been held for Christmas and the party held by MHA had gone well. She added that a lunch put on for over 65 year olds hadn't been very well attended.

The Community Centre Manager informed the Committee that she was to meet with a company who provide Virtual Reality sessions for young people with a hope to set something up for the school half term.

A new exercise class for post & pre-natal women was to start at Pinetrees Community Centre. It was said that this a new class being brought to Swindon.

The Community Church ran from John Moulton Hall (JMH) had increased their bookings and

were increasing the footfall in JMH. A Christmas Lunch was held on Christmas eve and this was attended by a special guest, Bear Grylls.

The Community Centre Manager informed the Committee that she was beginning to think of activities that could take place for VE Day and members were asked to feedback any ideas they may have.

Cllr R Ballman asked for activities for people with learning difficulties to be looked into. It was suggested that the Magic Table could be utilised.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if any other groups had made use of the Magic Table to date. It was confirmed that the table had not been marketed.

Cllr M Lucas asked if the Dementia Café could be held in other locations. The Community Centre Manager responded that this was a possibility and suggested holding a session over a weekend.

Cllr M Lucas spoke of the Parish Magazine and how it should be used to advertise and promote the work of the Parish Council. He added that it had been agreed at a meeting the previous evening that 3 editions were to be published in the new financial year.

The Community Centre Manager thanked the Allotments Officer and Youth Worker for their help delivering Christmas Giving Boxes during December 2019.

369 **Barnfield Area Drain Inspection**

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

Cllr J Yeowell queried the ownership of the pipework concerned.

The Estates Manager confirmed the location of the drain concerned and explained that the Parish Council would be assisting to alleviate a problem experienced by tenants of the Rodbourne Farm Leisure Garden site which they are responsible for.

Cllr J Ballman commented that it was worth completing the works to establish what the problem is and to see if the Parish Council can remedy the problem.

It was confirmed that although the Rodbourne Farm site hadn't flooded during 2019, the water had become level with the higher ground.

The Estates Manager explained further the works being proposed and confirmed the costs of this.

All agreed to approve the recommendation of the report.

RESOLVED that the Estates Manager be allowed to undertake a CCTV inspection, and if required a high pressure jetting of the area drain which runs through the Rodbourne Farm Leisure Garden site.

370 **Tree Planting**

A sketch provided by Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) was presented.

Cllr M Lucas commented that the drawing was not sufficient and asked that HBUF worked with the Parish Clerk and Estates Manager to create a GIS plan.

It was said that the Parish Council did not have the authority to grant permission to plant trees in some of the locations included in the diagram.

Cllr S Thompson expressed that he was unhappy with comments made about the diagram

provided.

HBUF were asked to ensure sufficient space was allowed for mains pipes which run underground in certain areas.

The decision made by Full Council at their meeting in December 2019 re: the trees which had been planted without permission was confirmed; that the trees would remain in place until a visit could be arranged so the volume of trees planted and remaining open spaces could be assessed.

It was confirmed that an area coloured Blue on the diagram was outside of the land leased by HBUF and that permissions to plant trees would need to be sought from other parties.

Cllr M Lucas stated that the Parish Council held a maintenance lease only for the land to the West of Pinehurst Road and could not give authority to plant in the area.

Cllr S Thompson stated that he would like the Parish Council to seek authority to plant in the area on behalf of HBUF.

The Estates Manager read out some points to consider as provided by the Parish Clerk.

Cllr S Thompson spoke of the current and future structure of HBUF and informed members that he was to suggest to the Trustees that a current and future vacancy be fulfilled by members of the Parish Council.

The Estates Manager confirmed that any unplanted trees were to be planted by February 2020.

Cllr J Ballman commented that theoretically any land being maintained by the Parish Council could be planted on by HBUF providing the Parish Council obtained the appropriate permissions.

It was confirmed that 1,500 trees had been planted and 1,500 trees remained unplanted. HBUF have funding available for 10,000 trees in total but had only purchased 3,000 to date.

Cllr M Lucas proposed that the Parish Council look at other areas within the parish that trees could be planted.

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

RESOLVED that the Parish Council look at other areas within the Parish that would be appropriate for tree planting.

371 Planting of Holly Bushes

Cllr M Lucas suggested Holly Bushes could be planted as suggested by HBUF. He commented that the existing coppice could be planted providing there was sufficient clearance in the canopy.

Cllr D Patey proposed HBUF be allowed to plant Holly Bushes as suggested by Cllr M Lucas, seconded by Cllr R Ballman.

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

RESOLVED that HBUF be allowed to plant holly bushes as suggested providing there was sufficient clearance in the canopy.

372 2020/21 Budget

Cllr M Lucas informed the Committee that he had attended a Budget Working Group meeting the previous evening and that capital costs were to be included in the 2020/21 budget for

works to be completed in playgrounds and play areas. Cllrs were asked to feedback any specific areas they felt needed works completing.

Cllr M Lucas confirmed that it had been agreed to make adjustments to the water pipe systems and 2 Leisure Garden sites which were to be confirmed. He went on to explain that there was a possibility of installing composting toilets at Leisure Garden sites where ladies and children were prevalent.

Cllr J Ballman asked the Estates Manager to request an up to date quote of a composting toilet.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee