

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2020 at 7.00pm at 32 The Circle

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

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

Public Four

Public Session 1 member of the public introduced herself as Mary Farragher (MF), the secretary of Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF). MF asked for clarity of the decision made re: the trees planted on Cricklade Road.
Cllr M Lucas stated that the Parish Council were requesting input from their solicitors regarding any permissions required and applicable legalities.

MF informed the Committee that the unplanted trees and holly bushes had been stored at a Leisure Garden site and it was felt that some of the holly bushes had not been stored safely and some had been removed by Leisure Garden users.

A member of the public, William Reynolds (WR), referred to the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held 8th January 2020 where it was agreed that a meeting between Cllrs and residents would be arranged. WR asked whether a meeting had been arranged.

A member of the public, Josie Lewis (JL), supported the comments made WR and asked to attend the site meeting.

Cllr M Lucas confirmed that a date for the meeting was yet to be set.

Cllr S Thompson voiced concerns about members of the public attending a site visit.

Cllr M Lucas confirmed that a site meeting would take place and details and conclusions would then be discussed at the following Leisure & Amenities meeting, including details from the legal report requested.

Cllr S Thompson suggested any decisions should be made by the Full Council.

The Parish Clerk explained that any decision would be made by elected members. He suggested Cllrs meet with residents to gain their views. A meeting of Cllrs only would then be held to discuss the conclusions of the site visit and views of residents would be fed into the decision making process.

Cllr S Thompson asked if only local residents would be invited to the site meeting.

Cllr M Lucas confirmed that local residents, Cllrs and members of HBUF would be invited as the views of all parties needed to be taken into account.

382

Apologies

Cllr P Exell
Cllr S Exell
Cllr D Montaut
Cllr K Small

383 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllrs J Ballmans and S Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6, HBUF, as Trustees of Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF).

Cllrs J Ballman and J Yeowell declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as members of the Central Swindon North Parish Community Library & Leisure Trust.

384 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

385 Finance & Staffing Committee

Cllr J Yeowell referred to Minute 315 and asked if the blinds had been fitted at Even Swindon Community Centre. The Estates Manager confirmed that the blinds were in place and had bene well received.

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

386 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting held on 8 January 2020 be confirmed and adopted.

387 Leisure & Amenities Committee

Cllr J Ballman referred to Minute 369 and asked for an update. The Estates Manager explained that he was waiting for the ditch to drain to allow access. It was hoped that the inspection could take place in a couple of weeks.

Cllr R Ballman referred to Minute 366 and asked for further details. The Estates Manager explained that he was looking into options available.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 8 January 2020 confirmed and adopted.

388 St. Marks Recreation Ground

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

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the report referred to 2 different trusts: the Central Swindon North Parish Library & Leisure Trust (L<) and the Swindon Community Tennis.

Cllr J Yeowell queried whether the transfer would be simple, unlike with the Parish Libraries where there were issues with the transfer of membership data. The Parish Clerk explained that the Parish Council would write to all members informing them of the transfer and ask for approval of the data transfer required.

Cllr R Ballman commented that the item had been discussed the previous evening and it had been suggested that Neil Allen (NA), who runs the tennis courts, becomes a member of the L<. Cllr J Ballman agreed that NA would be a valuable asset.

Cllr J Ballman went on to inform members the tennis courts were not only used by local

People and that people came from across the country to play and the facilities had a wide and good reputation. He added that the courts would need to be maintained to a high standard, but works had been completed in 2019, funded by Swindon Borough Council (SBC).

It was confirmed that the Parish Council were already responsible for the play area and park grounds, except for the North End Bowls Club who were located on site.

Cllr J Ballman suggested the recommendation of the Finance & Staffing Committee be approved.

The Parish Clerk stated that the recommendation could be approved by the transfer would need to be approved by the L< at their meeting taking place the following evening.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the sinking fund held by Swindon Community Tennis were protected by law could only be used for the tennis courts.

Cllr D Patey proposed that option 3 of the report be approved, as recommended by the Finance & Staffing Committee, seconded by Cllr M Lucas. All agreed.

RESOLVED that a) the Tennis facility at St Marks Recreation Ground be transferred to the Parish Council and is then transferred to the Central Swindon North Parish Library & Leisure Trust as custodian and the Trust manages the third-party arrangement with the Tennis Coaching & Café Provider.

b) The third-party provider will report their outcomes to the Central Swindon North Parish Library & Leisure Trust on a revised SLA as crafted in part by the Social Cohesion Working Group and the Trustees.

389 Interview Panel

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

The Parish Clerk gave an introduction and background information to the report presented.

It was confirmed that either the Chair or Vice-chair of the Council would sit on the panel, not both.

It was confirmed that Safeguarding and Skills training would be available to those that would sit on an interview panel.

Cllr D Patey queried why the Parish Clerk would not be involved with Tier 1 appointments. The Parish Clerk explained the current status and standard process in other organisations. He added that Cllrs were represented by Officers and so should have a say in who represents them.

Cllr J Ballman provided further detail and confirmed the Clerk would be involved in appointments in an advisory role. He went on speak of his own experience and success of Cllrs conducting interviews and making appointments.

Cllr J Ballman confirmed that he would take the advice of the Clerk, but any decision would be made by Cllrs involved in the recruitment process.

Cllr R Ballman proposed the recommendation of the report be approved, seconded by Steve Thompson. All agreed.

RESOLVED that a) Tier 1 & Clerk appointments would be conducted by a three member panel as specified below:

1. The Chair/Vice Chair
2. Cllr of the Parish Council Staffing Panel
3. Parish Cllr

b) The Clerk will no longer recruit or have voting rights and will attend Tier 1 interviews in an advisory capacity.

c) The Clerk would retain delegated authority for the recruitment and interviewing of Tier 2 roles and below.

390

2020/21 Budget

The Parish Clerk explained that an additional meeting of the Finance & Staffing meeting was to be had before the finalised draft of the budget could be presented.

He explained that the delay was caused by possible large variables and questions around the costings for the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing provision.

Cllr J Ballman agreed that it was best to delay presenting the draft budget until further information re: the variable figures had been received.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Finance & Staffing Committee would meet to the following week to agree the draft budget which would then be presented to Full Council at a succeeding meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.53pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Vice-chair of the Council