

## CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held virtually via Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm

|                 |                  |   |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| <b>Present</b>  | Cllr S Henderson | (Chair)<br>(Moredon Ward)   |
|                 | Cllr S Exell     | (Vice-chair, Chair of Community Wellbeing Committee)<br>(Even Swindon Ward)                                   |
|                 | Cllr J Ballman   | (Pinehurst Ward)  |
|                 | Cllr R Ballman   | (Gorse Hill Ward)   |
|                 | Cllr P Exell     | (Chair of Environment & Planning Committee)<br>(Rodbourne Cheney Ward)  |
|                 | Cllr M Lucas     | (Chair of Leisure & Recreation, Vice-chair of Finance & General Purpose Committee)<br>(Rodbourne Cheney Ward) |
|                 | Cllr D Montaut   | (Pinehurst Ward)  |
|                 | Cllr K Small     | (Chair of Finance & General Purpose Committee)<br>(Even Swindon Ward)   |
|                 | Cllr J Yeowell   | (Vice-chair of Community Wellbeing Committee)<br>(Ferndale Ward)  |
| <b>Officers</b> | Andy Reeves      | (Parish Clerk)  |
|                 | Andrew Briggs    | (Estates Manager)   |
|                 | Aaron Cripps     | (Libraries Manager)   |
|                 | Matt Bradley     | (Marketing & Press Officer)   |
|                 | Hannah Morgan    | (Minute Taker)  |

**Public** One

**Public Session** The member of the public present introduced themselves as Richard Kimber, Chairperson of Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association.

Cllr S Henderson joined the meeting via phone at 7.09pm.

Cllr S Henderson welcomed the member of the public present and explained the Parish Protocol for Public Sessions.

Richard explained that he had been invited to attend the meeting by Cllr P Exell to suggest any areas within the Rodbourne Cheney area that could be developed and included in the Paris Capital Programme being discussed under Agenda Item 4.

Richard informed members that the Rodbourne Cheney area was lacking playing areas and/or fields. He suggested a specific area where play equipment could be installed, Cedars Close. Additional areas were also suggested.

Cllr K Small thanked Richard for his suggestion(s) and explained that the 'Capital Spend' item was included to raise Cllr awareness and that the specific matter of play areas would be for the Leisure & Recreation Committee to consider.

Cllr M Lucas invited Richard to contact him directly to arrange a walk around of the Rodbourne Cheney area to look at potential sites for development.

The member of the public left the meeting after this item.

**301**     **Apologies**

Cllr K Parker  
Cllr S Thompson

**302**     **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF) & the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

**303**     **St Marks Tennis Centre**

Cllr S Henderson explained that this item was to approve Minute 252 of a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, in relation to St Marks Car Park extension

Cllr K Small moved that the Council adopt Minute 252 of a Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting, in relation to St Marks Recreation Ground Car Park.  
He confirmed that the Finance & General Purpose Committee had looked at the item in detail and agreed that the recommendation of a report circulated previously was the best approach and best value for money would be achieved if the area concerned was to be tarmacked. He added that this was the best time to action the recommendation.

Cllr K Small confirmed that funds for the works would come from Capital Funding or a remaining balance from the 2020/21 Revenue Budget.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr J Ballman. All agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that Minute 252 of a Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting, in relation to St Marks Recreation Ground Car Park be approved and adopted.

The Estates Manager referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting and highlighted variations to a previous version circulated.

Cllrs agreed that it was not necessary for the Estates Manager to run through the report in detail.

The approx. cost of the works being agreed was confirmed as £40k, which included lighting.

Cllr J Ballman queried what the next steps to be taken were. The Estates Manager responded that works would begin in the new year and would be completed within the current financial year. He confirmed that the order for the works would be placed imminently.

**304**     **Capital Spend**

Cllr S Henderson explained that he wished for Cllrs to consider how the Parish Council could engage with parishioners so there was an understanding of what the precept is spent on.

Cllr K Small was asked to lead on the item.

Cllr K Small explained that at the previous Full Council meeting a report re: reserves and various allocations (general, election, capital, insurance) was presented which highlighted points Cllrs should be aware of:

- There is currently £565k held in reserves for specific reasons.
- Minimum £140k remains for unknown Capital Projects to take place before Mar 2022.

Cllr K Small explained that Committees were being asked to make bids for capital funds

available. He went on to explain the process for agreeing capital spend; a Committee would come up with ideas to be voted on to create a Committee priority list. Committee priority lists would be presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee who would make recommendations to Full Council.

Full Council would be responsible for deciding upon the final priority list.

Cllr K Small commented that the number of projects included in the final priority list could vary from a few to hundreds and this was reliant on the decisions made by Full Council and what members consider to be their priorities.

Cllr K Small spoke to members of a longer term capital programme and how priorities and projects could, and would, be moved up or down the final priority list depending on Cllrs desires. He added that some projects could remain in the priority list for long periods of time due to reprioritisation of other projects and although it was important that all projects are included in the programme, it wouldn't mean they'd be actioned imminently.

Cllr K Small asked Cllrs to think about how they could get parishioners and individuals involved in the Capital Programme and processes being discussed. He encouraged Cllrs to engage and speak with local communities and get feedback to feed into the Council Committees.

Members were asked to follow and consider 3 main steps:

1. Obtain opening information
2. Don't be frightened to suggest anything
3. Talk to Parish Officers or relevant Committee Chairs about any ideas as they may be able to help develop an idea.

Cllr K Small stated that it was unlikely any decisions on capital spend would be made at meetings scheduled to take place in December 2020 so there was time over the festive period for members to consider and develop any ideas.

Members were advised to get ideas into the midst asap.

Cllr D Montaut commented that a capital programme gave an opportunity to develop a vision for the local Parish and think about which direction it needs to go in. He agreed that the process and steps highlighted by Cllr K Small provided a good way forward. Cllr D Montaut went on to express worries around the capital programme becoming based on strong individuals desires and he suggested longer debate was needed on community needs and vision and a Community Plan was needed.

Cllr K Small agreed with the points made by Cllr D Montaut. He added that there would be a need to look at revenue and ongoing costs associated with any requested capital spend and whether projects could be viable in the longer term.

It was mentioned that due to current low interest rates it would be possible for the Parish Council to borrow funds capital projects.

Cllr J Ballman suggested members needed to give careful consideration to who benefited from suggested projects when considering capital spend. It was asked what guidelines could be used to determine who/where would benefit from projects.

Cllr J Ballman went on to comment that it was time to spend to save and agreed that not all funding needed to come from the Parish precept. He added that it would be a good think for the Parish Council to generate work for local companies.

Cllr K Small comments that spending to save was not an issue for the Parish Council

currently and these types of activities had been undertaken by other local authorities when restructuring or there was a need to reduce spend.

Cllr M Lucas spoke of PPS and a bid being made to install solar panels at Community Centres and changing rooms. It was said that this would be a capital project that would have multiple beneficiaries and would reduce costs in the long run. Cllr K Small added that there would be an opportunity to expand and install solar panels at the Committee/Charity managed Community Centres.

Cllr S Henderson confirmed that further conversations were to be had at the next Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council