# CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 7.00pm via Zoom Link.

**Present** Cllr S. Exell

Cllr J. Ballman Cllr D. Patey Cllr P. Exell Cllr J. Yeowell

Cllr S. Henderson

Katie Currie SBC Cllr Abdul Amin SBC

Cllr Adorabelle Shaikh SBC Cllr Junab Ali SBC

Jane Griffiths SBC

**Officers** A Reeves (Parish Clerk) A Webb

G Barr

M Johnston A Cripps

J Smart A Briggs

# Apologies

None Received

# Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Hreod Burnah Urban Forest.

# Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes from the Community Wellbeing Meeting of the 4th November 2020 were recorded as an accurate record.

One amendment was received, after approval, from Gladys Barr as follows:

The CW Committee will draft a Community plan that will:

* + Improve the quality of life of the residents of Central Swindon North Parish, by taking action, through practical projects with priority focus on the most disadvantaged residents.
	+ Support the Charities and community groups within the area, particularly given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic
	+ Support the sustainability of our parish council community assets.

In producing the plan the Committee will:

* + Examine local intelligence to understand and prioritise our social issues (informed by the CSNPC Profile report, community groups intelligence, Police crime information, Voluntary Action Swindon etc)
	+ Agree the social outcomes and activities/actions that we can take, working in partnership with all relevant organisations where possible
	+ Agree the performance measures and monitor and evaluate impact to provide Value for money evidence
	+ Produce a funding plan that will identify direct or grant funding opportunities which can support the Community Plan.
	+ Assist Community Wellbeing Work Programme with related funding applications

# Reporting

The draft plan will be presented to the Community Wellbeing Committee and once completed to the Full Council for consideration.

# Membership

The working group will be made up of Parish Councillors and Parish officers. It will be Chaired by the Chair of the Community Wellbeing Committee.

The working group will invite into its discussion’s community representatives and partners to fully inform the Community Plan.

# Timeframe

The working group will seek to draft the Community plan before the end of December 2020 and meeting will be held at the required frequency.

The above amendment will need to be approved by Committee at the subsequent minute approval on 6th January 2021.

# SBC Covid Update

Cllr Junab Ali detailed how SBC were responding to the impact of CV19 on minority ethnic groups and what considerations can be made to help support residents who may be disproportionately isolated.

Cllr Ali advised that a BME network meeting was set up in August to look at issues affecting minority groups in Swindon, representatives from the Nepalese, Turkish, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Indian and West African communities were present.

The group demonstrated to the network a range of challenges, particularly around communication and the physical symptoms/impact of the disease. For example, Cllr Ali advised that those from the Indian sub-continent are 50% more likely than average to suffer from diabetes and therefore would have a compromised immune system.

Cllr Ali went on to add that BME populations also make up a larger proportion of front line working particularly in the medical arena so the importance of ensuring the message of safe working is communicated effectively.

Cllr Amin began to consider the network outcomes, Cllr Amin advised a plan of ‘basic education’ in supporting those with English as second language was a point to consider further with SBC. Cllr Amin also advised that overcrowded housing remains a key issue nationally but also in Swindon and that more needs to be done to provide families with affordable housing.

Cllr Shaikh pressed the importance of the accessibility of social media and that Councillors have been producing a number of coordinated messages utilising the skills set of local community members. So far messaging has been particularly focused on generally staying safe, the parents and carers of children and multi- generational households.

Cllr Shaikh cited the success of working with religious leaders who already have an audience and that messaging through religious gatherings has been absolutely critical in Swindon. The response from residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

Cllr Shaikh gave an example of residents who had to travel to London to collect their passports during the lockdown; where one of the other members of the household had tested positive there was a community response which aimed to prevent this from happening informally, based partly on the information that had received on Covid and the actions that needed to be taken.

Cllr Steph Exell thanked SBC Councillors for their contributions and asked what, if anything CSNPC could do to help. Cllr Ali advised that data is important and in short supply, if data could be shared that would be useful.

Katie Currie from SBC provided a statistical update on the CV19 impact locally. The rate of infections was 36.6 cases reported over a 7 day average. As of 30th November 2020; Swindons infection rate was 135.5 per 100,000 over a seven day period, which is below the England average of 152 and this number is currently reducing as the impact of the lockdown take effect.

Katie explained the specific response SBC is doing to help support residents including deploying community messaging and education within red routes and shopping areas and explained SBC’s Outbreak Management Plan.

The OMP outlines measures to protect the public’s health by preventing, identifying and containing local Covid-19 outbreaks. SBCs Director of Public Health has been responsible for defining these measures and producing the plan in conjunction with the newly established Covid-19 Health Protection Board.

Katie concluded by summarising that the aim of the plan is to prevent the spread, reduce the rate of infection, respond rapidly to any neighbourhood rises in infection so that they can be contained quickly and safely.

Katie pressed the importance of working with partners such as Parish Councils as we have access to useful local knowledge. In addition, SBC will work with other partners to help gather and analyse data, recognise and respond to triggers.

Cllr Steph Exell thanked SBC Councillors and Officers for their contributions and updates and committed the Council to maintaining links while we jointly support residents through the pandemic.

# Post Natal Family Intervention

Jane Griffiths from SBC presented the remaining slides from the ‘Placed Based Working’ programme commenced in October 2020, initially presented by the Parish Clerk in November 2020.

Jane explained the benefits of local working and described the rationale why Pinehurst is being trialled as an area as this area mirrors most closely the area used in the Joseph Rowntree Foundation placed based project which took place in Bradford.

Jane advised that in the realm of families, children and community heath, the programme would aim to be strategic and clear about the programme’s purpose and importantly involve local stakeholders in the design of the programme and its projects, one such example is the NDTi project.

One important element Jane pressed was that all research should be translated into practical action and that the Council should stick with projects rather than continually moving on to new work.

The project timeline is set for 18 months and details of implementation governance can be found in the slides.

Jane summarised about what key outcomes service users should expect to see by the end of the timeline. This includes ensuring all statutory services are joined up and ensure maximise impact for people. Importantly that services are delivered as close to people as possible in local neighbourhoods and communities.

There should also be a reduced demand on services at higher levels of intervention. The Parish Council too could benefit as one aim is to reduce anti- social behaviour within communities

Cllr Steph Exell thanked Jane for the comprehensive families and children’s update. Jane committed to ensuring Parish Councillors are updated with progress at key milestones of the project.

# National Development team for Inclusion. NDTi Update

The Parish Clerk summarised an introductory set of slides to the project and the outcomes the programme hopes to achieve.

The programme ultimately aims to understanding local communities and assist SBC in support residents who are in receipt of some form of SBC intervention to get support locally. This is known as a ‘Community Led Support Programme’ which is being led out by SBC with guidance from NDTi as a consultant.

The Clerk explained that the programme is currently being developed and the key areas the Parish Council are working on is the creation of a dedicated Community Hub in Pinetrees and providing assistance with Community Mapping.

The Clerk advised that it is important that SBC understand the process that supports implementation, and the programme needs to remain fluid and adaptable. This will be culturally challenging for some in this professional field of work.

Currently the Clerk advised he is helping SBC Adults & Childrens teams to gain an understanding of what strengths based approaches look like in practice and how this can work in individual conversations with people we come into contact with.

The Clerk advised he will ensure Councillors are kept up to date and that SBC Ward Councillors will also be part of the programme stakeholders.

Cllr Steph Exell reiterated the Councils support for the programme and updates will be provided either by the Clerk or Kati Wood from SBC from February 2021.

# Community Plan Working Group Terms of Reference

The Grants Manager reviewed the terms of reference as circulated. Councillors noted the report.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council adopts the Terms of Reference. All agreed with no abstentions.

# Grants Manager Update

The Grants Manager provided the monthly Grants Update Status Chart with further details.

The Grants Manager confirmed that the three funding streams applied for at the last update in November have all been approved. The £5,000 Solar Cooperative to CSNL&LT, £4,000 Wiltshire Community Foundation & £10,000 The Swindon Sports Partnership for Older people activity programme the latest successful applications.

The Grants Manager advised she has assisted the CAB in an application for

£14,000 to further support local residents in what will be a very busy year.

The Clerk & Grants & Estates Managers have also applied from SALEX for a decarbonisation fund for all Parish Assets. This is a grant for feasibility work on fitting solar panels to the roofs of our community asset estates.

Cllr J Ballman & Cllr S Exell congratulated the Grants Manager on another clean sweep of successful applications that will further support residents without any financial burden.

# Youth Officer Update

The Youth Officer presented a visual presentation on the Parish Youth Disability Implementation programme and the Youth Council which is to commence in January 2021.

On the Youth Council. Cllr P Exell cited a previous Parish Council he was on which had a Youth Council and had representatives from each school, it may be an idea to replicate this model to complement any young people outside the auspices of education. That way a fair representation across the Parish geography is provided.

On the DIP, Cllr S Exell advised that there is currently high demand for disabled youth services and stressed how vital this work is. Cllr S Exell also mentioned the forthcoming presentation later this month on accessible play equipment from a resident who has a disabled child.

The Clerk noted that around 6% of children in the UK are disabled but only 2% of our equipment is specifically designed to support disabled children and that the layout of equipment may not be fully inclusive. As the L&R Committee develops the play areas project accessibility is a key consideration by the 2004 Equalities Act.

Cllr J Ballman advised that he has audited many of the play areas in his ward and cited concerns over our use of wood chippings and challenged how whilst these provide a safe base, they may not be accessible. Cllr Ballman had a preference from ensuring ‘fully inclusive’ rather than areas of dedicated stimuli and as much thought needs to go into the layout and design as it does to the actual equipment.

Cllr S Henderson advised that he felt many play areas are over a decade old and in the intervening years developments on disability accessible equipment has been significant. The Council will likely find the sector able and willing to respond to our residents needs.

Cllr S Exell asked that the Estates Manager produces a report on inclusivity as part of the audit.

# Social Care Legislation

Cllr Steve Henderson provided an update on the Equalities Act and play areas and echoed the points made in the previous agenda item on the need for an inclusivity audit.

# Finance- Library Grant Application

Cllr John Ballman asked that the presentation be made by the Libraries Manager.

The Libraries Manager advised he will present the Grant request and the Head of Finance & Governance will present the report on the 19/20 budget and grant payment to the Parish Council.

The Head of Finance & Governance advised many invoices were paid by the Parish Council on behalf of the trust and then re-invoiced back ‘on bulk’ retrospectively while banking arrangements were put in place. These are now complete and Trustees have online access to the METRO account.

So far there are still outstanding rent circulation payments to be made to the

Parish Council of £24,000. So far the Trust have not received the grant to settle this amount.

The Head of Finance and Governance went through the estimated budget for 2021/22 and advised this will be in the region of £60,000 and detailed the intended expenditure.

Cllr J Ballman again cited his reluctant to include ‘wooden dollars’ as the

£24,000 rent payments for example, provided via grant to the trust come back to the Parish Council as a rent circulation. This provides an impression that the Trust is a more expensive option than it already is.

The Clerk responded that the spaces occupied by libraries must be invoiced as separate entities as we would do with any charity and is good practice. The Clerk did advise that now banking facilities are correctly established, a further separation of the Council & Trust is critical to ensure legal compliance. This will be further evidence with the construction of the Sports Hub in 2021/22.

The Head of Finance & Governance asked the Committee to consider a recommendation of £55,000 to be approved for the next financial year with the rent circulation point made by Cllr Ballman made clear to all Councillors.

Cllr Ballman and Cllr S Exell again asked that the figure presented should be nearer £31,000 + £24,000 and wished for this to be minuted.

Cllr J Ballman wished at this point to reiterate in the minutes that he holds a non-pecuniary interest in the CSNL&LT and did not vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the 2020/21 reports are approved.

The Libraries Manager went on to present the Libraries proposal for 2021/22.

Cllr Paul Exell asked if as a water butt and carpets are still being considered at the Moredon Rodbourne Cheney library. The Libraries manager explained in technical detail how the atmospheric rainwater cycle process works; and how we can use this excess rain water on flowers and grass before it goes to sewage and reduce the libraries high water bills.

Cllr P Exell advised he will be willing to use the remaining £4,000 of the 2020/21 Ward grant toward this project.

Cllr S Exell advised she will ensure the FGP report is presented with this request and the appropriate quotes will need to be obtained by the Libraries Manager for January 2021 FGP.

# Finance – Community Wellbeing Revenue & Capital Budget

The Head of Finance & Governance presented the Committee budget proposal reports.

Cllr Ballman raised concerns that he felt the committee was moving away from complementary and more directly involved in statutory social care provision.

Cllr Ballman also asked why the additional £20.000 towards Adult support was added.

The Clerk advised this was part of an adult’s support programme and as this cannot yet be priced exactly as NGB’s are not functioning due to the pandemic; the detail has been formulated, the Clerk advised he will circulate the high level detail.

Cllr Ballman would have liked to have the adults programme discussed at earlier meetings although had no objections to the principal of adult support it must be done in the context of a Parish Councils limitations.

The Capital report was approved for consideration; with the exception of the 2020/21 Libraries Grant at an extraordinary meeting.

# Community Wellbeing Communications Update

The Press Officer gave an update on the Social Media campaigns completed since the last meeting.

The Press Officer advised that he required visual/audio equipment and the Clerk would approve this under delegated authority as less than £1,000. All Agreed.

# Christmas Hamper Scheme

The Clerk advised that we would not be providing a full scheme this year due to CV19 but we hope to utilise leftover funds from Arval to provide a vulnerable family package which will include sweets, food and a toy.

**Cllr Exell closed the meeting at 22.17 and thanked all involved. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th January 2021.**