

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 7.00pm via Zoom Link.

Present Cllr S. Exell
Cllr D. Patey
Cllr P. Exell
Cllr J. Yeowell
Cllr S. Henderson

Officers A Reeves (Parish Clerk)
A Webb
G Barr
A Cripps

Public Questions

Resident Bill King raised concerns over the arbitrary nature of roadworks being completed concurrently and the delays and inconvenience which is caused. Cllr Steph Exell thanked Mr King and noted this.

437. **Apologies**

None Received

438. **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

No declarations were received.

439. **for Health Covid-19**

The Clerk presented slides detailing the gradual transition since 2014, of sports and leisure responsibility in Swindon from Swindon Borough Council to the private sector and partially now to Town & Parish Councils.

The Clerk outlined the work of Swindon Travel Choices around promoting public transport, electric charging points and local health initiatives. The Clerk highlighted the Walking Maps created in 2017 which the Parish Council could help to promote locally to encourage increased participation with promotion through signage, information boards and an online interactive map.

Cllr Paul Exell suggested the QR codes be flexible. Cllr Paul Exell highlighted that the Haydon Loop walk goes into Haydon and signs won't be able to cross the border. The Clerk responded this is correct but we could advise Haydon Wick of the work we are doing and whether they would like to take part.

RESOLVED: Permit the Clerk to devise a wider walking for Health strategy in conjunction with Swindon Travel Choices using a public consultation.

To present residents with a survey consultation on health & wellbeing and how the Parish Council may support residents aims at being healthier and more active locally post pandemic.

Should external funding not be found, to request the March 2021 Committee to consider further enhancement to the Swindon Travel Choices walking route infrastructure: with improved QR signage up to £1,900 on key parts of the routes.

440. BME Covid19 Response

Cllr Steph Exell introduced the item by making reference to the SBC Adult Health Overview committee last week, a task group established to look at health inequalities and scrutinise why challenges with Covid appear more profound for our BME communities.

Cllr Steph Exell used the Labour commissioned Doreen Lawrence report to emphasise the issues faced by BME communities. Cllr Steph Exell noted one area of the report that noted; that on 10th April 2020 the first ten NHS doctors to die from Covid19 were from BME backgrounds. In addition 68% of all NHS staff overall who have died from Covid19 are from BME backgrounds.

SBC Cllr Bob Wright went on to present a verbal report on the work he is doing at SBC to highlight the challenges of the BME community through the pandemic; also focussing on areas such as the increase in domestic violence and mental health challenges.

Cllr Bob Wright went to advise there is no known genetic reasons for the disproportionate effect on the BME communities but that it is more likely linked to societal issues such as an increased likelihood of being in front line roles or living in multi-generational households.

Cllr Bob Wright went to explain some of the institutional challenges in organisations to respond to the challenges.

The Clerk asked Cllr Wright what had changed in supporting those in HMO's (Housing of Multiple Occupation) since the licensing requirements back in 2004 were implemented. In 2017 the Government reviewed the licensing requirements, focusing on health. What if any of those recommendations have been implemented? Can Parish and Town Councils support in lobbying for changes in licensing?

Cllr Bob Wright advised Parishes could support by asking people for information on HMO's and pass on data to the principal authority.

Cllr Steph Exell thanked SBC Cllr Bob Wright for his time.

441. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

442. Reaching Communities Bid

The Grants Officer is finalising the Stage 1 National Lottery bid before this goes to board later this month.

Bids for the Arts Council Thriving Communities fund have now been finalised & submitted for £50,000 as using Moredon for low level activity. We should know by the end of March 2021 as to the success of this application.

The Clerk provided an update on the £500,000 Sport England funding for the closed road circuit. The Clerk advised that work is ongoing to support SBC in their obligations and we will have a final decision by March 9th 2021.

Cllr Steph Exell again passed on her thanks for the excellent work on progressing these applications.

443. Community Officer Update.

The Community Officer provided a visual 2021 Strategic Plan, noting the following, assuming social restrictions are lifted:

1. Breakfast club to commence April 2021
2. Disability programme to launch May 2021.
3. School Holiday Education Trip August 2021
4. Pinehurst Beach Hut to continue post pandemic.
5. Youth Council to be established in Summer/Autumn 2021 with support from VAS

Cllr Steph Exell asked the committee to reflect on the annual anniversary of the committee and to demonstrate what has/is being achieved by the committee. Cllr Steph Exell went on to remind councillors to think 'who is the committee trying to help?', 'what activities are best to support those outcomes?' and 'how can we best measure these outcomes to secure further funding?'.

The Grants Manager asked councillors to consider that it is for the committee to determine what success measures are, the community plan will help clarify and support that.

Cllr James Yeowell asked whether children participating in the Youth Council should be representative of the different schools in the Parish. The Community Officer advised that schools from Moredon, Penhill & Pinehurst would be included.

Cllr Paul Exell referred to the points that Cllr Bob Wright on BME communities and asked that we ensure all demographics are included in the strategic plan overall and recognise that some groups may be more difficult to include.

444. Coronavirus Act 2020. Revisions to Public Meetings

The Clerk outlined the current provisions in the Act with regards formal decision-making meetings and advised that the Government intend to allow the legislation to lapse on May

6th 2021.

The Clerk advised that Government believe primary legislation would be required to make such a change which would require a first and second reading in parliament as well as a number of other processes until Royal Assent is granted. A process which could take in excess of a year.

The Clerk raised concerns that not all members and officers would be vaccinated by May of this year; therefore, to force in person meetings may unintentionally hinder access to the democratic process not only for Councillors and Officers but for those members of the public who may wish to attend.

In a wider sense Councillors overwhelmingly felt that the online meetings had been a success, citing convenience, efficiency and accessibility as their main benefits.

RESOLVED: The Chair & Clerk to issue a letter to Robert Jenrick MP on behalf of the Community Wellbeing Committee asking that the legislation to permit online decision-making meetings is extended and/or made permanent.

445. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: that in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items based on Commercial Confidentiality, Personal Staffing Issue.

446. Marketing & Press Officer

Councillors agreed that the Head of Libraries would undertake the temporary role of Press and Marketing Officer until April 2021.

**Cllr S Exell closed the meeting at 21:07 and thanked all involved.
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd March 2021**