

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held virtually via Zoom on 20 January 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present Cllr S Henderson (Chair)
Cllr P Exell
Cllr S Exell
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr D Montaut
Cllr D Patey
Cllr K Small
Cllr T Smith
Cllr S Thompson
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers A Reeves (Clerk/RFO)
A Briggs (Estates Manager)
A Cripps (Libraries Manager)
J Smart (Head of Finance & Governance)
A Webb (Youth Worker)
G Barr (Grants Officer)
H Armagan (Allotments Officer)

Also Present Angus MacPherson – Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Public None

Public Session There were no members of the public present.

403 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Rodrigues and Cllr K Parker.

404 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Declarations of non-pecuniary interests were received from Cllr S Thompson in respect of his membership of the Hreod Burna Urban Forest.

405 Presentation from the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner

The Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Angus Macpherson, gave a presentation regarding the upcoming precept setting for the police, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Cllr D Montaut mentioned the importance of community policing and stressed the necessity for community and parish council involvement in the process. Crime statistics need to be published so resources can be assigned. Mr MacPherson responded that he agreed and that whilst he had less people there was less opportunities to liaise with the community.

The Chair asked when the increase in Officer numbers would result in a higher police presence. Mr MacPherson responded that it took approximately two years for a new Officer to receive the necessary training and qualifications.

The Clerk raised the following observations from public responses following the last meeting that Mr MacPherson attended:

- 101 wait time has improved significantly.
- The number of issues with anti-social behaviour and knife crime in Pinehurst have had an excellent Police response.
- Residents are not sure on how to report information.
- Breaking of the criminal cycle is still an issue.
- Fear or perception of crime has increased over the last couple of years.

Mr MacPherson responded that the 101-team had to work over two sites during Covid restrictions and that the Probation service is still being put back together. Probation supervision is also difficult under Covid restrictions. Mr MacPherson added that the local intelligence function is being replaced.

Cllr J Yeowell asked how patrolling was going during Covid restrictions. Mr MacPherson responded that within the workforce the Covid infection has been mirroring the local community. The Police have spent a lot of time making sure the premises and vehicles are Covid secure and that the correct PPE is in place. Overall sickness has fallen during Covid, although some staff have had to self-isolate.

The Chair thanked Mr MacPherson for attending.

Mr MacPherson left the meeting at 7.25pm

406

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held virtually on 16 December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

407

Environment & Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held virtually on 2 December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

408

Finance & General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held virtually on 1 December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

409

Leisure & Recreation Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting held 8 December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

410

Community Wellbeing Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held 2 December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

411

Environment Policy

Members noted a written policy request for an Environment Policy presented by the Chair of the Environment & Planning Committee, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED to approve the Environment Policy as presented by the Chair of the Environment & Planning Committee with an amendment at point 1, that this should be the minimum standard.

Action – Clerk to share the Environment Policy with IDVerde.

412

Parish Council Vision

Members noted a verbal update from the Chair of Community Wellbeing and the Parish Clerk on a proposed Parish Council Vision document. The vision document was presented and appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

There was some discussion over whether the document should be a mission statement or a policy. It was agreed that a mission statement would be more appropriate and afford the desired level of flexibility.

RESOLVED to adopt the draft mission statement as presented by the Parish Clerk and instruct the Parish Clerk to seek public consultation prior to the next Full Council meeting.

413 Kiln Lane Allotments

Members noted the report of the Estates Manager on the Kiln Lane Lease proposal agreed in September 2020, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

There was some discussion over the loss of hedgerow when the space is converted into a parking area. The Estates Manager confirmed that there was no hedgerow at the point that the fence is being moved from or to.

There was also some discussion over the risk that the company may move or change hands and not restore the site to the original state. The Estates Manager confirmed that there is a clause in the lease which states the area must be restored to its original state at the end of the lease term. If this did not happen then there would need to be legal proceedings.

There was further discussion about the drainage of the currently boggy site. The Estates Manager confirmed that the agreement with the tenant states that they must provide sufficient drainage when the area is converted into parking spaces.

RESOLVED:

1. To agree a short-term lease of 25 years (that includes break clauses) in respect of the proposal and planning application.
2. To agree to all terms outlined within the lease and license and set a rental charge for leasing the land. Proposed at £2,000.00 per annum. The charge will be subject to annual inflation in line with RPI. Subject to Officers taking out a land valuation exercise.
3. To agree that 'Direct Windows' are to cover all costs for the build & construction works that are to be undertaken as per the conditions of the planning application, which will be completed in line with all build and construction codes. The organisation agrees to carry out necessary repairs to keep the area in good order throughout the lease. i.e. fencing, hedgerow, tarmac, drainage etc.
4. To stipulate that the land be returned to its original condition or as close to, at termination of the lease agreement.
5. To agree that all monies received from the lease are ringfenced for use on improvements to the Allotments.
6. That the New boundary between the Kiln Lane Allotment and leased area should include a hedgerow.

Note – payment of the additional hedgerow to be met either by the tenant or from the rental income of the site.

414 Forestry England Consultation

Members noted the report of the Parish Clerk on the closure of the Forestry England/CSNPC/SBC Akers Way Tree Planting project public consultation, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Clerk to:

1. Draw **£8,566** of grant funding from *Forestry Commission England* through *Swindon Borough Council*. The funding is to be used for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the Great Western Tree Planting Project as specified within Appendix D.
2. Commission the purchasing, installation and three-year maintenance agreement of the trees to the Councils approved contractor IDVerde.
3. Approve a tree maintenance agreement with IDVerde as an addendum to the management contract signed in July 2020 to be valid until March 2024. After this time there should be no further intensive maintenance required by the Council. Should Council return the service in-house in the final year; this payment will be adjusted accordingly. The agreement will also include the replacement of trees which succumb to disease and/or poor planting up to 14%, but not from vandalism or animal damage.

Action – Clerk to confirm the projected canopy cover following the tree planting.

415 HBUF and CSNPC Tractor Hire Agreement

Members noted the draft formal lease agreement for Tractor use; between CSNPC (Central Swindon North Parish Council) and the independent charity HBUF (Hreed Burna Urban Forest), a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

Cllr S Thompson reiterated his declaration of interest in HBUF.

RESOLVED to approve the formal lease agreement for tractor use between CSNPC and HBUF as per Appendix F.

Cllr S Thompson abstained from voting on the matter.

416 Resolution RAG Review

Members noted the Resolution RAG Review to 31 December 2020 as presented by the Head of Finance & Governance, a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.

417 National Living Wage

Members noted the verbal report of the Parish Council Chair outlining that the Council adopts a *Real Living Wage* threshold of minimal remuneration (currently £9.50ph) replacing those posts where *National Minimum Wage* (currently £8.72) would have previously applied.

Cllr K Small confirmed that he would ensure this item was raised at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council