

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held virtually via Zoom
on Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7.30pm.

Due to increased levels of Covid-19 and subsequent isolation within the Parish Council Officers and Members, the meeting was held virtually. All decisions are delegated to the Clerk in accordance with Terms of Reference and Standing Orders. All delegated decisions will be approved at the next physical Full Council meeting.

Present

- Cllr Telcy Araujo
- Cllr John Ballman
- Cllr Ray Ballman
- Cllr Marilyn Beale
- Cllr Ian Edwards
- Cllr Paul Exell
- Cllr Steph Exell (Chair)
- Cllr Mick Lucas (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Daniel Miller
- Cllr David Patey
- Cllr Javes Rodrigues
- Cllr Kevin Small
- Cllr Will Stone
- Cllr James Yeowell

Officers

- Andrew Briggs (Estates Manager)
- Aaron Cripps (Libraries Manager)
- Johanna Edwards (Press & Marketing Officer)
- Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)
- Jodie Smart (Head of Finance & Governance)
- Aaron Webb (Community & Youth Officer)

Members received a presentation from Neil Madle and Dan Romani of City Fibre regarding the installation of the fibre broadband network in Swindon which involves underground infrastructure works throughout the Parish. Works are now commencing in Rodbourne which are quite complex.

Dan Romani explained that City Fibre are now moving into phase 2. (Phases are in six monthly stages). Fibre broadband available at instalments of 400 houses per block.

Members asked questions around notification to residents as there had been problems experienced in Broadway previously. Members asked if a street map for works could be produced. Dan Romani responded that it was not possible to provide a street map and schedule as the works were so complex. Notifications were issued to residents on a seven and three day notice period.

Members expressed concern over on-street parking in Rodbourne and how these works would be very disruptive for residents that relied on this parking facility. Dan Romani stated that disruption to on-street parking was unfortunate but unavoidable. The Clerk suggested that City Fibre may be able to come to an arrangement with the Designer Outlet Village to allow residents to park there during the temporary unavailability of on-street parking.

Members stated that there was Cable/Virgin ducting in Rodbourne, and asked whether this could be used rather than the previously stated Open Reach infrastructure. Dan Romani responded that OfCom had made the decision for Open Reach to open their infrastructure but the same had not been agreed for Cable/Virgin ducting.

Members asked what investment Swindon Borough Council had made to the major infrastructure improvements. Neil Madle responded that all of the £40m investment for Swindon had been supplied by City Fibre.

A Member commented that he had contacted Neil Madle on four separate occasions with residents queries and had received satisfactory responses each time.

The Chair asked that any further questions to the representatives from City Fibre be put in writing so that the meeting could commence.

The Chair thanked the representatives from City Fibre for attending. Both Neil Madle and Dan Romani left the meeting at 7.54pm.

Public

There was one member of the public present.

The resident raised concerns over the breach of the lease at the Oasis, stating that the maintenance of the site is still an issue despite the Parish Council writing to Seven Capital. The resident asked that the Parish Council take on the lease of the Oasis building and surrounding land. The resident also shared concerns over a breach of lease on the Hreod Burna Urban Forset (HBUF) land with regards to the trees at the Cricklade Road site. The resident stated that unless the trees are removed by September she will seek legal representation to take the matter further.

Cllr J Ballman declared an interest as a Trustee of HBUF and member of RSPB.

The Chair asked to take questions separately.

The Chair stated that the Parish Council would provide a written response to the first question regarding the Parish Council taking on the lease of Oasis building and surrounding land.

The Clerk confirmed that the resident was questioning the legality of the tree planting at the land at Cricklade Road which was designated as recreation land and that the Parish Council had already responded to the resident on this query in 2020. The Clerk confirmed that he would reissue the response to the resident.

The resident reiterated that she believed the tree planting to be in breach of the lease and that she would seek legal support if the trees are not removed by September.

FC042

Apologies

No apologies were received.

FC043

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Ballman re-declared interests as a Member of the RSPB and HBUF.

FC044

Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 16th June 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

FC045

Environment & Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held on 16th June 2021 and 7th July 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

FC046

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr P Exell raised a query regarding Minute reference FGP023 stating that he believed that the increase in budget for existing capital projects and assignation of £10,000.00 for a new project (CAB office renovations) should have been recommendations to Full Council as these are amendments to the original resolution of Full Council for the use of 2020/21 underspend.

Cllr K Small (Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee) responded that the Committee had acted within its delegated authority so it was not necessary for the item to be referred to Full Council. However, if Members wished to review the decision at Full Council this will need to go on the next Full Council agenda which will subsequently delay the projects.

There was some discussion amongst Members regarding the need to consider this decision further at the next Full Council. Cllr Will Stone suggested that the programme goes ahead as agreed at the Finance & General Purposes Committee, this was echoed by Cllr Daniel Miller.

Cllr K Small proposed approving the Minutes, which was seconded by the Chair.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 6th July 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

FC047

Leisure & Recreation Committee

The Leisure & Recreation Committee Minutes were deferred to the next Full Council meeting. Cllr M Lucas stated that committee do not get a chance to review the Minutes before Full Council due to meeting scheduling. Cllr Lucas stated that he is considering amending Leisure & Recreation Committee meetings to the first Thursday in the month to get the Minutes reviewed ahead of the next Full Council agenda.

FC048

Community Wellbeing

RESOLVED that the minutes for the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee on 7th July 2021 be approved as a true and correct record with the amendment of a spelling correction at Minute CW015 (radar).

FC049

Appoint Internal Auditor 2021/22

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes meeting, that Darkin-Miller Ltd be appointed as Internal Auditor for 5 years, subject to review by Council 4 months prior to the commencement of the Internal Audit each year.

Cllr Araujo left the meeting at 8.30pm.

FC050

Community Governance Review

Members NOTED the presentation of the Clerk regarding proposals from Swindon Borough Council for a Community Governance Review in 2021/22, a copy of which appears as Appendix A.

Members discussed thoughts on a Community Governance Review in 2021/22. The general consensus was that Members felt it was too soon to have another Community Governance Review having had one in 2016. However, if there were to be a Community Governance Review, they would like to be included in the discussions at Swindon Borough Council.

Members AGREED the following response to be provided to Swindon Borough Council: This Council believes that it is too early for a review to take place as the Parish Councils set up in 2017 are still bedding down and need more time before such a review takes place. However, if it is to happen, it would want to be involved to ensure that the people of Central North are represented.

FC051

Parliamentary Boundary Review

Members NOTED: The verbal report of the Chair of Finance & General Purposes (Cllr K Small), regarding a Parliamentary Boundary Review. Cllr K Small stated that a parliamentary review is taking place. Responses are due in August. Cllr Small requested that a Working Party is set up to formulate the response. Cllr Small elaborated that there is a suggestion to incorporate Even Swindon within the Swindon South Constituency which means that the Parish will no longer all be within the same constituency. To ensure that the whole of the parish remains within one constituency and no constituency full outside the permitted number of voters per constituency, then a number of small changes will be needed to neighbouring constituencies including the new East Wiltshire one.

RESOLVED to set a Working Party to agree the response regarding the Parliamentary Boundary Review.

Working Party membership:

Cllr J Ballman
Cllr M Beale
Cllr I Edwards
Cllr S Exell
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr K Small
Cllr J Yeowell

The response to the parliamentary boundary review will be circulated to all Members before the formal response is submitted.

The Chair agreed to add the following emergency item to the agenda:

FC052

Appointment of Pinehurst CSNLLT Ward Member

Further to the decision to appoint Cllr Will Stone to the position of Ward Member for Central Swindon North Leisure & Library Trust (CSNLLT) by Council on 19th May 2021 and Cllr Will Stones refusal to accept the position of Ward Member on the (CSNLLT), Cllr J Ballman has requested to be the replacement Ward Member.

RESOLVED to confirm Cllr John Ballman as replacement Ward Member on the CSNLLT.

The meeting closed at 9.01pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council.

