

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 04 February 2020 at 6.30 pm  
in the Council Chamber, Parish Council Offices Gladstone Street

<b>Present</b>	Cllr N Hopkins	Chair
	Cllr J Firmin	Vice-Chair
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr M Gladman	
	Cllr S James	
	Cllr L Kasmaty	
	Cllr J Miah	
	Cllr J Milner-Barry	
	Cllr D Griffiths	Not Committee Member
	Cllr P Herring	Not Committee Member
	Cllr T Philpot	Not Committee Member

  

	Cllr C Watts	Not Committee Member
	Cllr N Watts	Not Committee Member
	Rob Core	Clerk
	Jake Mee	Deputy Clerk

**Public** Four

**Public Session** There were no comments or questions from the public.

**1046** **Apologies**

Cllr V Ayris  
Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr S Pajak

**1047** **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

**1048** **Queens Drive Subway**

The Clerk gave a presentation, including pictures regarding Kirby Drive subway, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Clerk gave a brief review of a mural painted at Queens Drive subway which had been successful and said that following the project a further mural could be painted at the Kirby Close subway entrance which leads to the Lawns. (an artist had produced a sketch reflecting the skyline of the area shown in Appendix A) he said that the cost would be a minimum of £5,000 plus £2,000 for graffiti paint. The Clerk also suggested that rewilding could be included the surrounding area of the subway. The Clerk had approached Swindon Borough Council prior to the meeting regarding the mural, and they had responded with caveats to the work being done i.e. risk assessments, etc. The Clerk then made another suggestion to the parish council, that a brick substation/structure in GWR Park could be painted with a historical theme i.e. steam railways, WW1, Poppies etc. The Clerk felt that a mural would help with graffiti issues in the park.

Councillor C Watts said that a notice/information board was needed at the Coate Water mural to let people know who had done it the reason for it.

Councillor D Griffiths said that there should be more artwork across the borough as it brightens up the town and deters graffiti.

The Clerk agreed with Cllr Griffiths and asked if the Councillors wanted him to pursue the mural at Kirby Close subway and tie it in with the In-bloom project and that the GWR Park mural could be dealt with at a later date as a secondary project.

It was agreed that the parish council would explore the choices given.

**NOTED**

**1049 Swindon Road Garden**

The Clerk Gave a verbal report regarding the Swindon Road Garden area.

The Clerk said that the garden was currently an area of Swindon Borough Councils and had previously been a project completed in 1990 and called the Moonrakers garden. The garden had a mural in the flooring and a plaque stating it had been a community garden. The garden had been neglected for approximately 15 years and was very overgrown when the parish had it cleared. There is no rear access and a wall leaning in from the right hand side is a property wall which does not belong to the garden. The Clerk had obtained quotes for the buttress support work at approximately £2,000 which would be carried out by the parish maintenance team. It would be good to unlock the area, make it secure, make repairs and pass to a local community group working with the In-Bloom working party and the parish need to push forward to get the work done.

Councillor L Kasmaty will canvas within the community she said that she knew of a group who have some funds available which may help.

**RESOLVED** that the buttress work be approved

**1050 Allotments Working Party**

The Chair of the Allotments Working Party had nothing to report.

**1051 Events Working Party**

The Chair of the Events Working Party gave a verbal report.

The Chair said that there had been an initial meeting the previous week and the working party had looked at the parish parks current schedule of events, there are a lot of events and some issues with one or two of them but the working party had given officers approval to confirm a number of the events. The working party are meeting again and hope to make further progress on any issues of concern. The existing price schedule from Swindon Borough Council will be used although it comprises of odd amounts and following a discussion with the Deputy Clerk/RFO the prices will be rounded up for ease of the finance process. Early progress had been made from that meeting and the chair had produced a paper intended for initial discussions, and when reviewed by the group for amendment/updating it could be published as a strategy for the parks going forward. It is still in its early stages prior to being put into the public domain. There is a lot of work still to be done, but things will become clearer in the next month or two.

Cllr C Watts said that the work that had been done so far looked really good.

**NOTED**

**1052 GWR Working Party**

The Chair of the GWR Working Party had nothing to report.

**1053 In Bloom/Gardens/Wildlife Working Party**

The Chair of the In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Party gave a verbal report.

The Chair said that the party had just met and that a lot of the South Swindon Parish Council members were keen to have a tree planting policy. Due to the climate emergency it is not easy to put trees in built up areas so it would help if more trees were planted in the right places therefore the working party would be putting a policy together. The party talked about the "it's your neighbourhood scheme" and will compile a list of people in the Parish who will be taking part in "it's in your neighbourhood", which is part of the RHS Britain In-Bloom scheme for the communities. Progress had been made

regarding the Eastcott/ Swindon Road area where there will be a group of community gardeners shortly. The parish In-bloom entry is about making where you live look better and is what in bloom is all about. The working party are currently talking about routes, people looking after their area, planting flowers where possible, and any further required updating.

The group are now officially called South Swindon Blooming

A Wildlife corridor walk will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 starting at Dunsford Close at 1:30pm.

**NOTED**

**1054 World Wars Working Party**

The Chair of the World Working Party gave a verbal report.

The Chair said the World Wars Working Party had four main items that had been agreed the first was to refurbish the Town Gardens memorial at a cost of £1,600 which will be taken to the Finance & Staffing Committee for formal approval, the second would be the replanting of roses in Queens Park Memorial garden which will be paid for out of the planting budget.

The Chair said that there had been two more ideas:

A monument in Queens Park to recognise the communities that were affected by the war either because they were in Swindon at the time or may have come to Swindon since and the working party are looking at ideas around what that might look like and have spoken to the people involved in what had previously been done in GWR park.

Looking at some sort of e-project in particular to capture some of the materials that are around in Swindon from both World Wars and have them on some kind of online tool for Schools etc.

Councillor C Watts asked if the local historian who had previously helped with the posters for Queens Park is primarily focused on WW1.

The Deputy Clerk said that he had contacted the local historian and confirmed that he is interested in helping the parish and will attend the next WW Working party meeting to see how he can help.

**NOTED**

**1055 Town Garden Gates Refurbishment – Video Screening**

The Clerk presented a video of refurbishment of the Town Garden gates.

The Clerk said that the work being done on the Town Gardens gates was progressing and that a local historian had supplied information on the original Town Gardens gates which would be good information for a notice board in the Town Gardens

The Clerk said that the video is in draft at the moment and he will ask for the historical detail which had been shown at the meeting to be added to the video. The video will be added to the website when appropriate.

Councillors discussed the video and Councillor N Hopkins said that he had done some research and found that the Old Town Bowl may be the oldest surviving bowl in the UK and he had been in touch with Historic England and would be going back to speak to them.

**NOTED**

The meeting closed at 7:20pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council