

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

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2020 at 6.30pm  
at a VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

<b>Present</b>	Cllr C Watts	Chair
	Cllr J Howarth	Vice-Chair
	Cllr J Ali	
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr V Ayris	
	Cllr J Firmin	
	Cllr M Gladman	
	Cllr D Griffiths	
	Cllr P Herring	
	Cllr N Hopkins	
	Cllr W Horley	
	Cllr S James	
	Cllr L Kasmaty	
	Cllr J Miah	
	Cllr M J Miah	
	Cllr J Milner-Barry	
	Cllr S Pajak	
	Cllr T Philpot	
	Cllr M Strinkovsky	
<b>Officers</b>	Rob Core	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	Jake Mee	Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
	Matt Bradley	Communications and Events Manager (CEM)
	Theresa Gordon	Planning & Agenda Clerk
<b>Public</b>	None	
<b>Public Session</b>	No public questions.	
<b>1272</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	
	Cllr S Ahmed	
	Cllr Heavens	
	Cllr N Watts	
	<b><u>Not Present</u></b>	
	Cllr A Hamid	
<b>1273</b>	<b><u>Declarations of Interest &amp; Applications for Dispensation</u></b>	
	Cllr C Watts declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 due to family member interest.	
<b>1274</b>	<b><u>Chairs Report</u></b>	
	<b><u>Parish Parks</u></b>	
	There have been a lot of fantastic projects taking place in our parks since my last Chair's Report.	
	The Town Gardens Gates Restoration project has reached its conclusion with the grade 2 listed Quarry Road double gates now restored. This has concluded work more than a year in the making and completes our first major heritage project. The formal opening of the gates will take place at 12pm on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January. Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions all Councillors will not be able to attend this formal opening, but I would urge Councillors to look at the finished gates at a time of your convenience.	

As well as the gates we have also completed the refurbishment of the PC Richard Webb Sundial in the Town Gardens Rose Garden, including new resin around the plinth that holds the sundial. A few weeks ago, we held a formal reopening of the sundial and I was delighted to be joined by the widow and son of PC Richard Webb. His widow Lesley wrote to the Parish Council after the formal reopening saying how proud her and her son were of the refurbished sundial and how grateful they were to the Parish Council for this work.

As well as delivering on these projects we have also reopened the public toilets at Town Gardens and Queens Park for the winter. Parish Councillors will note these toilets are usually closed during the winter when footfall in the parks reduces. However, following increased use of our parks during the Covid Lockdown the Parish Council has taken the decision to reopen the public toilets in Town Gardens and Queens Park during the winter.

It is fantastic that people have enjoyed Town Gardens and Queens Park so much during the autumn and winter months and the Parish Council feel it is right to keep the toilets open for people enjoying both parks.

### **Arts in the Park**

I can also report that, following the very successful Old Town Library Story Trail in November, we now currently have two winter trails up in our Parish Parks. The Old Town Library has reintroduced their Story Trail, which is currently in Town Gardens until Thursday, this month being Christmas themed.

The Parish Council has also teamed up with the Eastcott Community Centre to set up a Festive Children's Trail in Queens Park. For children wishing to take part, there are six images in the park and each image represents a letter, spelling a word for the festive season.

The Winter trail will remain up in Queens Park until the 17th December when it will switch with the Old Town Library Story Trail and remain up in Town Gardens until the 29<sup>th</sup> December. It is a great we are working with community organisations like Eastcott Community Centre on community projects. The trails also do justice to the Parish Council's decision to increase the amount of staffing hours at Old Town Library which has allowed their librarian more time to do community projects.

### **In Bloom Recognition**

Earlier today the Parish Council received a letter from South West in Bloom congratulating us on our efforts to bloom South Swindon during Covid 19.

As part of our In Bloom efforts we have undertaken work to improve the Swindon Road pocket garden. Earlier this month Parish Council's Grounds workers were on site to tidy up the area which had become overgrown with little work done to the area. Our gardeners at Town Gardens will also be supporting the pocket garden planting vegetation to make this public space into a sensory garden. We look forward to the finished result in the Spring and I would like to thank grounds workers, Kevin, and Hazell for doing a splendid job at this public garden.

Another area for our In Bloom efforts has been at the Shaftesbury Lake wildlife area. The Parish Council has recently been working with the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake group to rewild a strip of the Park South side of the lake. On Monday Parish Councilor's and volunteers braved the weather to take part in a Community Raking Event which starts the work needed to make this area a Wildflower Meadow. This has paved the way for sowing wildflower seeds in the early Spring to hopefully add colour to the area.

### **Allotment Track Improvements**

When taking on the running of allotments inside our Parish, Parish Councillors took the decision to reduce the charge for allotment plots for our parishioners. Therefore, allotment plot holders living inside the Parish have the cheapest allotment rate in Swindon.

On top of this the Parish Council has undertaken a rolling program of investment in our allotments. Part of that investment has included improving vehicular access in to and

around our allotment sites. We have currently refurbished two allotment sites so far with another track at Glenwood expected to be refurbished before Christmas. Further track refurbishment will be completed early next year.

### **Keep Swindon Tidy**

We have been working with a group called Keep Swindon Tidy to get designs from children living in the Parish for anti-litter signage. The best designs we hope to be able to place in our parks and with the permission of Swindon Council, other open spaces throughout the Parish.

The organisation has also been working with Parish Councils across Swindon to establish a Keep Swindon Tidy Day. This will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

We will be organising two litter picks to support this event, one meeting at Cavendish Square in Parks and the other at the start the canal path in Kingshill. Both starting at 11am. I would encourage all Parish Councillors to try to support this event.

### **Old Town Christmas Lights**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November Parish Councillors may have watched online the Old Town Christmas Lights switch-on. As well as covering the cost of installing the lights in Old Town I am delighted to report that Old Town Library supported the event, providing a Christmas-themed Story Time. Congratulations to the Old Town Business Association on providing another great switch-on event in difficult circumstances this year.

### **Christmas Wishes**

Finally, I would like to wish all Parish Councillors and Officers a lovely Christmas Break with their families. 2021 is looking to be another busy one for the Parish Council so I hope we will all take this time to relax and be fresh for the New Year.

1275

### **Parish Libraries**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report regarding book stock renewal for Old Town Library and staffing at Park Library a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

#### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the 2021/22 stock costs budget for Old Town Library of £6,246 from Swindon Borough Council as detailed in 2.4 of the report are approved.

3.2 That the 2021/22 staffing costs budget of £34,574 from Swindon Borough Council as detailed in 2.5 of the report are approved.

**RESOLVED** that recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 be approved and a letter be sent to Swindon Borough Council approving the costs of stock and staffing 2020/21.

1276

### **Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting – 24 November 2020**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Meeting held on held on 24 November 2020 with one abstention be approved as a correct record.

1277

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting - 24 November 2020**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 November 2020 with one abstention be approved as a correct record.

1278

### **Minutes of the Planning and Environment Extraordinary Committee Meeting - 1 December 2020**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Meeting held on 1 December 2020 with one abstention be approved as a correct record.

1279

### **Planning Applications delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair submitted a report containing the delegated responses of the chair and Vice Chair, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** that the responses of the Chair and Vice Chair be approved.

**1280 Planning Decisions**

The Deputy Clerk submitted for information a report containing the decisions made by Swindon Borough Council, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

**NOTED**

**1281 Youth Working Party**

The Chair of the Youth working party gave a verbal report about work being done by the Parish Youth Worker Lisa Randall.

Barnardo’s Children’s Charity have offered to run one regular youth club session a month free of charge next year.

Currently Lisa has worked with the following, along with follow ups with local schools.

Put together parcels and packs for isolating adults and children.

Organised a poster project for children called “what Swindon means to them” which could be launched as a competition across schools after Christmas.

Is in the process of trying to organise decorating the Queens Drive subway with local children and hoped to begin at Easter time 2021.

Lisa has helped ten students be accepted into College, and the Lawn Manor Academy and St Joseph’s School are especially pleased with all the help Lisa has been in getting the children into College.

The Chair said that there are positive things happening this year and looks forward to a busy year in 2021.

The Deputy Clerk said that he had met a child Lisa had worked with directly and although the type of youth work is not what was originally envisioned, Lisa is doing fantastic work and the child’s school confirmed that their attendance had increased from 50% to 100% due to direct contribution from Lisa.

**NOTED**

The meeting closed at 18:49pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council