

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021 at 6.30pm
at a VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Present	Cllr N Hopkins	Chair
	Cllr J Firmin	Vice-Chair
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr V Ayris	
	Cllr M Gladman	
	Cllr S James	
	Cllr L Kasmaty	
	Cllr MJ Miah	
	Cllr J Miah	
	Cllr J Milner-Barry	
	Cllr S Pajak	
	Cllr C Watts	Not Committee Member
	Cllr J Ali	Not Committee Member
	Jake Mee	Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Matt Bradley	Communications and Events Manager (CEM)	
Theresa Gordon	Planning & Agenda Clerk	

Public None

Standing orders were suspended to receive presentations from Karen Phimister of Swindon Borough Council and Shane Hewlett of Swindon Town FC Community Foundation.

1312 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

Cllrs S Allsopp and Cllr J Firmin declared non-pecuniary interest as they are both members of the Swindon Town Football Club.

1313 **GWR Park HAZ Update**

Karen Phimister of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Stakeholder group gave an update regarding GWR Park.

Cllrs V Ayris, J Miah, MJ Miah, J Ali, and J Milner-Barry joined the meeting during this item.

Karen said that Swindon Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) are focussing on the area around Swindon's historic railway village, and a programme of works had been created which will deliver refurbishments to key historic buildings and spaces, of which GWR park is one. The Parish Council now manage GWR park which has played a significant role in the sporting and social life of Swindon's Railway Village for more than 170 years.

Historic landscape specialists Cookson and Tickner have been appointed to prepare a conservation management plan, do research, and hold a consultation to understand how people want to see the park developed and used in the future. The plan will identify how remaining historical features can be preserved and enhanced, alongside the type of signage covering the park's history. It is an important project for HAZ as it provides a health and wellbeing benefit to all users particularly to local residents of the railway village and town centre whilst also engaging with Swindon's heritage.

A programme of works which started in February 2021 with Initial research and commissioning arboreal, cultural, and topographical surveys paid for by HAZ. Followed

by 4 stages of consultation: - promoting and publicising the project, gathering information and feedback via an on-line survey, broadcasting feedback received during consultation and consultation on the draft document.

Karen said that she would like to hear from as many people as possible and asked if parish councillors would help to broadcast that the Conservation Management Plan is happening and that there will be an on-line consultation. Karen can be contacted via: kphimister@swindon.gov.uk

Cllrs discussed the original structures, the route to the park from town centre, promoting the park and other heritage sites within the Heritage Action Zone were also discussed.

The Chair thanked Karen for her presentation.

NOTED

1314

County Ground Bowls Club

Shane Hewlett from Swindon Town FC Community Foundation gave a presentation regarding the County Ground Bowls Club.

Shane said that the community foundation had always wanted to support the most vulnerable groups i.e., the elderly, young children, disability groups etc. who had recently struggled with the lack of indoor sporting facilities. An indoor/outdoor multi use sheltered facility would be ideal with a more functional use for all groups they work with.

Shane said that the Bowls Club had been vacant for three years and become a haven for undesirables. The foundation had cleared the area surrounding the Bowls Club and felt that it would be a good opportunity to bring the area to life and obtaining a lease had been discussed with both Swindon Borough Council and the Parish. An indoor image of the proposed building shown on screen demonstrated how the indoor area of the facility would look like as a multi-use space. The primary sport would be football and other sports had been looked into including multi sports, which would make it more usable, and a covered venue would give local children the opportunity to use a site which is indoors.

Shane said that it is now a huge sporting hub with a balance between supporting groups/clubs and residents, and is now a cleaner, safer place which the parish have helped with immensely by the work they have done in helping to keep the area clean and tidy.

Shane said that they anticipated the facility to come in between £800,000 - £900,000 and are confident that the money can be secured and would offer a wonderful venue to be used by the local community and the most vulnerable groups in Swindon. We are confident that the target can be reached and would appreciate any help from the Parish.

Cllrs discussed points on traffic management, local residents and size of the structure.

The Chair thanked Shane for his presentation.

NOTED

Standing orders were reinstated.

1315

Swindon Borough Council Cycle Parking Scheme

The Chief Finance Officer gave a verbal update regarding the Swindon Borough Council, Cycle Parking Scheme.

The CFO said that Swindon Borough Council have funding they would like to put into cycle stands, in Old Town and near Shaftesbury Lake, the CFO asked Councillors if they had any ideas of where else to put them, for example near leisure areas or transport links.

Councillors suggested several sites including Queens Park, Commercial Road and Clifton Street. The CFO said that he had made a list of possible locations and he would

ask SBC to confirm how much funding would be available and bring back to the committee when advised.

NOTED

1316 Tiny Forest Update

The Communications and Events Manager gave a verbal update regarding the Tiny Forest project.

The CEM said that it had been agreed at the last meeting to go forward with the Tiny Forest project and that a contract had now been signed. The planting would be done between the 9th and 12th of March 2021. A picture of the Information board that is being placed at the site was displayed on screen and the CEM confirmed that the cost of the project was £25,000 and had been funded by BMW Mini.

NOTED

1317 Shaftesbury Lake Notice Board & Queens Park Plaque

The Communications and Events Manager gave a verbal report regarding Queens Park and Shaftesbury Lake.

The CEM said that a replacement notice board could be made by the parish's in-house maintenance team, to replicate the original for Shaftesbury Lake area.

There is a Sculpture called Turtle Storm in Queens Park, it has an interesting history, which the Parish would like to share with residents and visitors to the park by commissioning a plaque explaining the background of the sculpture.

Councillors discussed both matters and supported the work being done.

NOTED

1318 Allotments Working Party

The Chair of the Allotments Working Party gave a verbal update regarding work carried out on allotment sites.

The Chair said that Westcott, Shrivvenham and Glenwood access tracks had been completed. Broome Manor (Pipers Way) Main site track is to commence in the coming week.

Fencing at the Western boundary of Westcott Allotment site has been completed.

Further work to allotment tracks will be completed during the coming months:

- Hatton Grove
- Burghley Close
- Dawlish Close
- Monkton Close
- Cranmore Avenue
- Bisley Close
- Broome Manor (Pipers Way Extension)

Parishioners had been in touch thanking the Parish for the Deer fencing at Westcott which also reflected how much had been achieved.

NOTED

1319 Events Working Party

The Chair of the Events Working Party gave a verbal update regarding future events.

The Chair said that there is a working party meeting scheduled for Friday 5th March and now the Covid-19 restrictions might be lifting it indicates that more work can be done toward planned events.

NOTED

1320 In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party

The Chair of the In Bloom, Gardens and Wildlife Working Party gave a verbal update regarding the rewilding scheme.

The Chair said that she had received a map displaying areas of wildflowers and that the areas will be left uncut until August when seed sowing will begin and will be finished by 2022 and plans already made with residents will go ahead.

The pocket garden had been completed but an opening event cannot be held due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Rotary club had also offered to work on the garden.

The video recordist is unable to make any video's the moment.

Cllr Hopkins said that the railway embankment is hard to manage, and the Clerk had agreed to provide equipment to help with the workload which will enable more rewilding to be done and savings can be made from areas remaining uncut.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 20.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council