

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street

Present	Cllr N Hopkins	Chair
	Cllr J Ali	
	Cllr S Allsopp	
	Cllr V Ayris	
	Cllr D Griffiths	
	Cllr P Herring	
	Cllr J Milner-Barry	
	Cllr S Pajak	
	Cllr T Philpot	
	Cllr J Firmin	Not Committee Member
	Rob Core	Chief Finance Officer (CEO)
	Matt Leather	Communications and Events Manager (CEM)
	Theresa Gordon	Planning & Agenda Clerk

Public One

Public Session A member of the public asked what the charge of the scaffolding being put around the Hot House was and when will the work start on site. The Clerk responded that there is no ongoing charge for scaffolding at the hothouse, charges ceased mid part of last year, and work on the hot house is still to be determined.

A member of the public asked if the Councillors could give a clear explanation of a suggested closure of the Museum building in Old Town. The Clerk said that it was not a question for Parish Councillors.

1439 **Apologies**

Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr J Miah

Not Present

Cllr J Milner-Barry

1440 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

1441 **Swindon Cricket Club Presentation**

A presentation was given by Mr D Harris and Mr T Foreman of the Swindon Cricket Club regarding, what the cricket club were currently providing in the local community and their ongoing work, a copy of which is attached to the Minutes.

There was a question-and-answer discussion, and the club invited the Parish Council and outside bodies to be involved and invited them to take up Trust Membership.

Councillors discussed the presentation and thanked the presenters for coming.

1442 **Parish Council Asset – Tree Policy**

The Chief Executive Officer gave a verbal report regarding the Tree Policy, a copy of which is appears as Appendix A in the Minute book.

The CEO said that most public trees growing within the South Swindon Parish area are in the ownership of Swindon Borough Council and the Borough Council are responsible for their management, inspection, and maintenance; however, the Parish Council had

agreed that the trees will be maintained jointly by the Borough Council and Parish Council, the Policy as tabled sets out South Swindon Parish Council's approach to the management and maintenance of those trees under its care and responsibility.

RESOLVED that the Policy be progressed to Full Council.

1443 **GWR Tree Works**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding tree works in GWR Park, a copy of which is appears as Appendix B in the Minute book.

The CEO said that although the Parish Council had previously employed Swindon Borough Council to carry out eighteen-month tree inspections, it had become clear in a recent detailed HAZ sponsored inspection that not all the issues had been correctly identified nor did the survey go far enough in inspecting mature trees for mitigation in a public park. The report is as tabled with a recommendation.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** To agree to progress this recommendation to Full Council, in that the detailed tree works be completed as soon as possible at GWR Park to the attached specification, this includes the immediate, three month and six-month work plan.

RESOLVED that the Committee agree that recommendation 3.1 be progressed to Full Council.

1444 **Lawns Avenue – Black Walnuts**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the formal entrance to the former The Lawns estate. a copy of which is appears as Appendix C in the Minute book.

The CEO said that the Lawns estate had originally been lined with aged trees which had been damaged by a storm in the 1980's, trees were replanted in the 1990's but had suffered vandalism and disease, leaving several large gaps between surviving trees, which would be replaced.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** Given the previous disease and damage issues this is recommended that if the committee proceed to replacing the missing trees, then a heavy standard tree would be the best course of action. These will require watering within the summer draught periods for the next two years but being more mature would mean they are more resilient.

Therefore, it also recommended to use the Amenity wider Standard Protectors (1.8m x 60cm). Giving both stability and growth protection over a longer period.

The price for the work would be £2,682.00 plus delivery and VAT

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 be approved.

1445 **Lawns Play Area**

The Communications and Events Manager submitted a report regarding a consultation for a play area in the Lawns area, a copy of which is appears as Appendix D in the Minute book.

Cllr Ayris gave a summary of a request from the public regarding the Parish installing a play area for children under 6 in the Guildford Avenue area and asked that a consultation be done.

Cllrs and CEO discussed lease of the land, planning, funding, and management of the proposed site and supported the proposal for a public consultation.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1** To agree to a public consultation in the Lawns area to assess whether there is support for a Play Area on the site identified at the open space on Guildford Avenue. A report will be tabled at the next Leisure, Environment and Amenities

Committee outlining the results of this consultation.

RESOLVED that recommendation 4.1 to agree to a public consultation in the Lawns area be approved.

1446 **Theatre Events in Town Gardens Bowl**

The Chair gave a verbal report regarding Theatre Events in Town Gardens Bowl.

The Chair said that considerable work had gone into Theatre at the Bowl, a consultant had been engaged to help with the events, 300 chairs had been purchased and ticket sales are going well.

There had been a lot of media promotion and the main evenings are Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Old Town Café will be doing food and drink packages. The CEM said that it starts on Saturday and asked if Cllrs were interested in stewarding at the event along with support from Old Town Rotary.

The CEM said the committee are working with Swindon Shuffle on a music event on Bank Holiday weekend and the proceeds will go to Swindon Prospect, also any proceeds over the ticket sales the parish will also donate.

NOTED

1447 **Events Working Party**

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

The Chair said that they had very been busy since the annual parish meeting and thanked the working party for coming together and said that they are planning/preparing a policy document for events. The vintage dance event was very good, and Swindon Photographs in the Parks was also a very good event which received very positive comments from the organisers.

Cllr Hopkins gave thanks to the Parish parks service officers at the park for all of the help they gave for the photo exhibition,

NOTED

The meeting closed at 20.14pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council