

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 at 6.30pm
at the Marriot Hotel, Pipers Way Swindon SN3 1SH

Present	Cllr C Watts (Chair)	Cllr N Hopkins
	Cllr J Howarth	Cllr S James
	Cllr V Ayris	Cllr J Milner-Barry
	Cllr J Firmin	Cllr L Kasmaty
	Cllr D Griffiths	Cllr S Pajak
	Cllr P Herring	Cllr N Watts
Officers	Rob Core	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	Jake Mee	Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
	Matt Leather	Communications and Events Manager (CEM)
	Theresa Gordon	Planning & Agenda Clerk

Public One

Public Questions None

1453	<u>Apologies</u>	Cllr E Heavens
	Cllr S Ahmed	Cllr W Horley
	Cllr J Ali	Cllr J Miah
	Cllr S Allsopp	Cllr J Miah
	Cllr M Gladman	Cllr T Philpot
	Cllr A Hamid	Cllr M Strinkovsky

1454 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

1455 **Swindon Harriers Athletics Club**
Due to unforeseen circumstances the presentation did not take place and been deferred to a future meeting.

1456 **Chair's Report**
Britain in Bloom

The next few weeks are very important to South Swindon Parish; on the 29th July the Britain in Bloom organisers will be taken on a tour of the parish.

In 2019 we received a silver award in the pennant section of Britain In Bloom which we were very pleased due to the short time we had to organise it; we also won an award for the best Victorian Garden in Old Town. Britain In Bloom did not take place in 2020 which was a fallow year due to Covid-19 also there is a slightly different format for 2021.

I would like to thank Cllr Linda Kasmaty for all the work she has done and also thanks to the officers who created the route, having done an excellent job in readiness. Cllr Kasmaty has requested that we pass on our thanks to The Friends of Shaftesbury Lake group: Pam Jones and Gail Collins, the Old Town Residents Association Community Gardeners: Judith Randall-Sly, Alison Savins, Pat Murphy, Jane Rodbourne and Rosemary Savage and would also like to thank Cllr J Firmin and Andy Barnes for the Broadgreen planting and Kate Parsons and Andy Barnes for the work they have done the Fishing for the Moon Garden, all of which will be part of the route. It is important to understand that Britain in Bloom is not just about flowers it is about communities getting involved in a combination of works including litter picks as done recently in Broadgreen the Parks and Walcot which was also supported by parish councillors. We are showing the wild-flower meadows for the first time, also the Town Gardens gates which the judges had only previously seen on plans. Planting at the top of Marlborough Road has been done and is part of the route we are really pleased with the results. A large part of the route is going to be the South Swindon Green Trail which we have just finished; The major path goes around Coate Water to the Wishound by

Nationwide, then around Broome Manor Golf Course. A new surface has been finished which can be used all year round and will be part of the completed Green Trail which will run from Shaftesbury lake to Cambria bridge area which is a distance of five miles.

Thanks to Cllr Kasmaty for inviting Joseph Ingleby the creator of the Turtle Storm sculpture in Queens Park to the parish to unveil a new plaque for the sculpture. He spoke of the history of the sculpture and how pleased he was to see it is enjoyed by visitors again. It is something which will be part of our Britain in Bloom and thanks are given to the parish staff who created the plinth which completes the sculpture. People who attended had a question-and-answer session with the sculptor which was enjoyed by everyone.

Shows in the Bowl

It has been a great start with shows being held by theatre groups in the Town Gardens Bowl and thanks to Cllr N Hopkins and CEM Matt Leather for the work they had put into the shows and achieved in a short time. So far we have held two shows, Blythe Spirit with approximately 130-140 attendees and 2 shows of King Arthur with approximately 250 attendees across both events. There are 3 more events to take place, the Great Gatsby on 30th July, Wonders with Grimm on 31st July and Romeo and Juliet on 19th and 20th August. Cllr Hopkins had written to 5 groups in one day and all 5 groups responded within 24 hours saying that they wanted to play at the “Iconic” bowl which means we will be able to operate the bowl for far more events in the coming years.

GWR Park

A GWR Park survey being held as part of the HAZ Project, and the Parish has been working with Swindon Borough Council and Historic England. Parish councillors have assisted with the survey and spoken face to face with people who are unable to access it on-line. Current feedback leans toward re-instating the bandstand, toilets and formal gardens with a café facility which will be completed to reflect the heritage of the park. People can still contribute to the survey at www.swindon.gov.uk/gwrparksurvey. From the survey to date a draft plan has been produced by landscape architects Cookson and Tickner which sets out a vision and action plan to support the Parish Council in the medium to long term although we are unsure how that support will manifest itself. If it supports itself financially we are listening attentively and interested in how the whole Heritage Action Zone culminates.

Photo Exhibition

The photo exhibition has moved from the Town Gardens to GWR Park and is being moved tomorrow to Queens Park. The exhibition had been very well received and we are about to finish with the Jason Florio Gambia Collection and works of another world-renowned photographer - Martin Parr will be taking over. The exhibition will then make its way via the parks back to Town Gardens and Sanne De Wild's work will be the final photographic work to make its way down again. This is quite a unique event and thanks again to Matt the CEM for organising the logistics of the exhibition and thanks to the staff at South Swindon Parish Council who found a solution to move the weighty exhibition frames from park to park which was a major task.

1457 Minutes of the Extraordinary Planning Meeting – 8 June 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary Planning Meeting held on the 8th June 2021 be approved as a correct record.

1458 Minutes of Extraordinary Full Council Meeting – 8 June 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on the 8th June 2021 be approved as a true record.

1459 Minutes of Full Council Meeting – 22 June 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd June 2021 be approved as a true record.

1460 Minutes of Planning Meeting - 29 June 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 29th June 2021 be approved as a correct record.

- 1461** **Minutes of Leisure, Environment & Amenities Meeting – 06 July 2021**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Meeting held on the 6th July 2021 be approved as a correct record.
- 1462** **Payment Schedule – June 2021**
The CFO submitted the Payment Schedule for June 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute book.
RESOLVED that the Payment Schedule June 2021, totalling £10,416.37 be approved.
- 1463** **Accounts – May 2021**
The CFO submitted the accounts for the period to May 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute book.
RESOLVED that the May 2021 accounts be approved.
- 1464** **Accounts – June 2021**
The CFO submitted the accounts for the period to June 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute book.
The CFO said that the quarterly budget monitoring report will be brought to the next meeting.
RESOLVED that the June 2021 accounts be approved.
- 1465** **Committee Membership**
The CFO gave a review of the working party membership and that a vote was required for Cllr M Strinkovsky take up membership of the Finance & Staffing Committee and Cllr C Watts take up membership of the Staffing Working Party and the Assets Working Party.
RESOLVED
That Cllr M Strinkovsky election to the Finance & Staffing Committee be approved.
That Cllr C Watts election to the Staffing Working Party and Assets Working Party be approved.
- 1466** **Swindon Borough and Local Councils Protocol**
Cllrs C Watts and D Griffiths gave a verbal report alongside a draft copy of the Swindon Borough and Local Councils Protocol 2021 for Councillor's review and comments, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute book.
Cllr Griffiths gave a verbal report regarding the Local Councils Protocol and the services the parish would look to take on, which subject to the Chairs agreement would be taken to the next full council for approval. The Chair said that Cllrs could take the document away to read carefully and to appreciate that any chosen services need to be appropriate.
NOTED
- 1467** **GWR Park Tree Works, Queens Park & Town Gardens**
The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding work to trees in GWR Park, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute book.
The CEO said that only the GWR report was available for the current meeting and reports for Queens Park and Town Gardens would be brought to the next full council meeting. The CEO gave an overview of the report and said that the previous inspections actioned by the borough on behalf of the parish had not identified all of the issues, therefore a detailed survey of tree works had been completed and as shown in the report was thorough and explanatory. The CEO also confirmed that the GWR report had been heard at the Leisure, Environment and Amenities meeting held on the 6th July 2021.
Cllr Milner-Barry arrived during this item.
Recommendations

3.1 To agree 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.

3.2 that the works as detailed in the report be funded by the earmarked fund for trees be approved

RESOLVED that recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 be approved.

1468 **Community Governance Review**

The Chief Finance Officer gave a verbal report regarding a proposed Community Governance Review from Swindon Borough Council, a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute book.

The CFO said that SBC had provided a report on a Community Governance Review consultation which will commence in November 2021 and should be completed within a year to then be actioned. It is up to the parish if they want to be included and they can refuse to take part in the review, if the parish do not want to be included that should be stated now.

The Chair said that the parish had reached a pinnacle where the parish are working well including a new depot and staff, with the capacity for the work required and want the chance to move forward with what we do. Cllrs discussed the review and Cllr Griffiths Proposed that South Swindon Parish Council are happy with its current boundaries and support the Lliddington and Wroughton parishes in keeping their boundaries the same and at the first step we will support them as three parishes working together.

Cllr Kasmaty arrived during this item.

RESOLVED that the CFO draft a letter to SBC (As shown in Appendix F) in response to the consultation.

1469 **New Planning Protocol**

The Chair of the Planning Committee submitted a new planning protocol to be considered, a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute book.

The Chair of the planning committee gave an overview of the planning process currently followed by the planning committee and identified the changes shown in the planning protocol document.

Changes to applications meant that applications will be forwarded to ward councillors to identify applications requiring being brought to the planning committee with councillors using their local knowledge to call in applications. Large applications will be discussed as usual by the committee.

RESOLVED that application will be forwarded to ward councillor to call in.

1470 **Queens Park Hot House**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report regarding Queens Park Hot House, a copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute book.

The CFO gave a verbal summary of the report which had been reviewed at a meeting of the Assets Working Party and the following recommendation had approved by them.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Solid Engineering be instructed to commission a second more detailed structural survey as per 2.4 and the resulting report to be brought back to Council at the earliest opportunity for a project brief to be defined based on those findings.

Cllrs discussed the report and also refurbishment of other amenities in the park as part of the entire project.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 of report be approved.

1471 **Town Gardens Bowl**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report regarding Town Gardens Bowl, a copy of which appears as Appendix I in the Minute book.

CFO gave a verbal summary of the report which had been reviewed at a meeting of the Assets Working Party and the following recommendation had approved by them.

3 Recommendations

3.1 That Company 1 be instructed to project manage the refurbishment of the Town Gardens Bowl Phase 1 as per the attached Project Brief.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 of the report be approved.

1472 Admission of Public and Press

To resolve in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that ‘in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw’.

Reason: Commercially Sensitive.

1473 Broadgreen Community Centre LTS

The Chief Finance Officer gave a verbal alongside a written report to councillors, a copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute book.

RESOLVED

Recommendation 3.1 That the extension of the use of Broadgreen Community Centre as an LTS be approved to 31st December 2021 as shown in the report be approved.

Recommendation 3.2 That the Assets Working Party look into opportunities to increase use of Broadgreen Community Centre upon reopening and retaining future bookings for current users. Including but not limited to refurbishment works, equipment replacement, alternative venues, and free hire of other Parish Owned spaces utilising the surplus mentioned in 2.4 (spending to be approved by Finance and Staffing Committee or Full Council) as shown in the report be approved.

1474 Events Report

The Communications and Events Manager gave a report on upcoming events, a copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute book.

RESOLVED

Recommendation 3.1 That Parish Councillors agree to the detailed site plan of the illuminated lights trail in the Town Gardens from 1st December to 31st December as shown in the report be approved.

Recommendation 3.2 To consider the name “South Swindon Illuminated Woodland Trail” for the Town Gardens event as shown in the report be deferred.

Recommendation 3.3 To agree that Brighter Futures are approached to be a charity partner for this event, with ticket costs being increased by £1 that will go to this charity *with amendment that Brighter Futures be the lead partner for this event with an option to have other charities if they are approached be approved.

Recommendation 3.4 Support the Events Working Party’s proposal to allow an Indian Independence Day event in GWR Park as described in Point 2.5 of the report be approved.

Recommendation 3.5. To agree to partner with the Swindon Shuffle to organize a music event with a total Parish Council budget of up to £6,000 (including £1,000 contingency) to cover event organising, safety and infrastructure. All spending for this event will be allocated to the Events Budget as shown in the report be approved

The meeting closed at 20.22 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council