

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021 at 7.15pm
at the Marriot Hotel, Pipers Way Swindon SN3 1SH

- Present**
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| Cllr C Watts (Chair) | Cllr P Herring |
| Cllr J Howarth | Cllr N Hopkins |
| Cllr S Ahmed | Cllr S James |
| Cllr J Ali | Cllr L Kasmaty |
| Cllr S Allsopp | Cllr J Milner-Barry |
| Cllr V Ayris | Cllr S Pajak |
| Cllr J Firmin | Cllr T Philpot |
| Cllr D Griffiths | |
- Officers**
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Jake Mee | Chief Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk (CFO/DC) |
| Martin Hambidge | Parish Open Space Consultant (POSC) |
| Theresa Gordon | Planning and Agenda Clerk |
- Public** Five
- Public Questions**
- A member of the public asked what the cost of restoration to the entrance to Queens Park from Durham Street in total, including the work carried out by Parish staff fitting and working on the gates and painting all metalwork on site.
- The Deputy Clerk responded that the walls at Durham Street had cost £19,605 to rebuild which was a separate project, aside from the gates which are all being done for the park and have so far have cost £2,158 which includes re-usable blasting booths for use on all the other gates. The projection for all gates in Queens Park to be refurbished in-house is £8,500 which is a significant saving on the quotation of £17,500 received from an external company. The work done by the in-house staff is an excellent job which they will maintain along with the other gates saving £9,000.
- A member of the public asked that their thanks be passed on to the grounds team who had repaired the flower containers at Broadgreen, and now look really nice.
- 1523** **Apologies**
- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Cllr M Gladman | Cllr M J Miah |
| Cllr A Hamid | Cllr J Miah |
| Cllr E Heavens | Cllr M Strinkovsky |
| Cllr W Horley | Cllr N Watts |
- 1524** **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
- None
- 1525** **Chair's Report**
- The Chairs Report was deferred.
- 1526** **Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Meeting – 24 August 2021**
- RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Meeting held on the 24th August 2021 be approved as a correct record.
- 1527** **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting – 24 August 2021**
- RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th August 2021 be approved as a true record.
- 1528** **Minutes of Planning Meeting – 31 August 2021**
- RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 31st August 2021 be approved as a correct record.
- Two members of the public arrived during this item.

- 1529** **Planning Applications delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair**
The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report containing the delegated responses of the Chair and Vice Chair, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute book.
RESOLVED that the responses of the Chair and Vice Chair be approved.
- 1530** **Planning Decisions**
The Chief Finance Officer submitted for information a report containing the decisions made by Swindon Borough Council, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute book.
NOTED
- 1531** **Swindon Local Councils Forum – Draft Protocol**
The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report regarding a draft copy of Swindon Local Councils Forum for approval, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute book.

The Chair introduced the item and the CFO said that Swindon Local Councils Forum (SLCF) previously known as Swindon Area Committee is for councillor representatives of parish and town councillors in Swindon. There is a parish charter which was in need of updating, Cllr D Griffiths and the Deputy Clerk had drafted a version of the protocol and sent to other parishes in the Forum.

Councillors Griffiths said that the report was to be noted.

Cllr V Ayris arrived during this item.
NOTED and to be deferred until a final version of the Protocol was available.
- 1532** **Expression of Interest, Oakfield Site**
The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report regarding registering an expression of interest in the development of the Oakfield site, Marlowe Avenue, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute book.

The CFO said that non-committal meetings had been held between the parish and Swindon Borough Council and the report gave councillors the opportunity to discuss whether it fitted in with the parish's future plans. Cllrs discussed the content of the report and said that the parish needed to take part in further discussions with the Borough Council and other parties.
RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 to send a non-committal expression of interest letter to the Borough Councils property manager so that they can move the Project discussion to the next stage. This expression is not legally binding, it merely serves to progress the discussions between both parties. This would encourage the Borough Council to progress building condition surveys to better understand the options available be approved.
- 1533** **Swindon Museum and Art Gallery**
The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report for consideration concerning registering an expression of interest of a short-term transfer of Apsley House to the Parish Council, a copy of which appears with a letter of support as Appendix E in the Minute book.

The CFO submitted the report which was examined and discussed by councillors. The Chair proposed that recommendation 3.1 be amended to include: subject to conditions contained in 2.4 of the report.
RESOLVED to approve the amendment to 3.1 of the report.
Recommendations
3.1 That the Parish Council resolve to inform Swindon Borough Council of a non-committal expression of interest from the Parish Council pertaining to the potential short-term lease of Apsley House for the purpose of re-opening the facility to the public at the earliest convenience subject to conditions contained in 2.4 of the report.

Resolved that recommendation 3.1 as amended be approved.

1534 **Assets Working Party**

The Chair of the Assets Working Party submitted a report to update councillors on the current progress of Town Gardens and Queens Park, a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute book.

The Chair of the Assets working party gave an update on the current progress of works at Town Gardens Bowl and Queens Park Hothouse.

NOTED

1535 **Green Trail Circular Extension**

The Parish Open Space Consultant submitted a report regarding extending the Green Trail, a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute book.

Councillors discussed ways in which an extended circular route could be accessed and walked and how information boards would enhance the public's usage of the trail. Cllr P Herring proposed that amendment 3.2: To approach other bodies to discuss opportunities in developing the route.

RESOLVED to approve the amendment.

Recommendations

- 3.1 Resolve to agree to the extension of the Green Trail to make the route a circular Trail as detailed in the report.
- 3.2 To approach the local business forum to discuss opportunities in developing the town centre route.

RESOLVED that recommendations 3.1 and amended 3.2 be approved.

1536 **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: Confidential Councillor Business.

1537 **Councillor Apologies**

The Deputy Clerk/Chief Finance Officer submitted a report regarding councillor attendance, a copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute book.

Councillors discussed the report and recommendations.

Recommendations

- 3.1 To accept apologies from Cllr Gladman from 3rd March 2021 to the current meeting of 29th September 2021 and not to invoke Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.2 That Council accept apologies and excuse Cllr Gladman from attendance at meetings until 31st March 2022.

RESOLVED that recommendations 3.1 and amended numbering of 3.2 be approved.

The meeting closed at 20.21 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council