

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2021 at 7.15pm
at the Marriot Hotel, Pipers Way Swindon SN3 1SH

Present	Cllr C Watts (Chair)	Cllr M Strinkovsky
	Cllr J Howarth	Cllr N Watts
	Cllr S Ahmed	Cllr P Herring
	Cllr J Ali	Cllr N Hopkins
	Cllr S Allsopp	Cllr S James
	Cllr V Ayris	Cllr L Kasmaty
	Cllr J Firmin	Cllr J Milner-Barry
	Cllr D Griffiths	Cllr S Pajak
	Cllr E Heavens	Cllr T Philpot

Officers	Jake Mee	Chief Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk (CFO/DC)
	Matt Leather	Communications and Events Manager (CEM)
	Martin Hambidge	Parish Open Space Consultant (POSC)
	Theresa Gordon	Planning and Agenda Clerk

Public Two

Public Questions A member of the public asked three questions:

1. When will the Victoria Road toilets re-open. The CFO said that Swindon Borough Council own the toilets and the parish had already asked when they would be opening again, Swindon Borough Council responded that the toilets are subject to compliance checks before they can be re-opened. The Parish currently fund the cleaning of the toilets and would continue to do so and contact Swindon Borough Council for a progress report.
2. Litter has built up outside the Museum and Art Gallery in Old Town. The CFO said that the Museum belongs to Swindon Borough Council, but the parish would be willing to send litter picking staff and a sweeper to help clean up the area including that part of Bath Road.
3. Oktoberfest question of how many days were paid to the Parish Council by the event organiser for this event. The Communications and Events Manager said that the parish had received £1,500 for the event and £1,000 returnable deposit.

Apologies

Cllr M Gladman
Cllr A Hamid
Cllr W Horley
Cllr M J Miah
Cllr J Miah

1550 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

1551 **Chair's Report**

The Parish Council are delighted that more than £13,000 had been raised for the Prospect Hospice from the "My Dad's Bigger Than Your Dad" festival event. The Parish Council worked jointly with the committee of the Swindon Shuffle and others to put on the event, and we are delighted that the event raised so much money and thank you to everyone who made the event possible with the events officers and volunteers. It was a special event, and we look forward to working with the Swindon Shuffle again for the "My Dad's Bigger Than Your Dad" festival in 2022.

The Chair added he was delighted that Old Town Library had been recognised by the

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in their annual Points of Light magazine for its outstanding work in the community from the dramatic increase in book loans to park story trails, on-line story times during the lockdown and much more. The library is going from strength to strength, and the Chair thanked Deborah, Monica, and the wider Old Town library team for their excellent work.

Frequent visitors to Queens Park had noticed that the Groundwell Road entrance to the park is closed and other work is taking place including in the secret garden. This is due to the parish council's ongoing refurbishment and improvement work taking place in the park. The first stage of the improvement program was to rebuild the Durham Street entrance wall and refurbish the entrance gates to the park. The Durham Street gates look spectacular, and refurbishment of the other gates are still planned. The Parish is also building accessible railings in the Remembrance Garden and Secret Garden to make the park more accessible to visitors. The Chair said we ask Queen's Park visitors to remain patient while this work takes place and believe that the end results of the work will be a significant improvement to the park.

The Chair congratulated all the students involved in the Photo Swindon 2021 exhibition held in Old Town Gardens which showed off the work of our local talented young people.

The Parish Council was inspected by the Britain in Bloom Judge for the South Swindon in Bloom entry. The route included Shaftesbury lake, rewilded areas, Old Town Residents Association Gardens, East Wichel Tiny Forest, Town Gardens, Queens Park and Fishing for the Moon Garden. The Parish Council attended the Britain in Bloom award ceremony and were awarded silver in the Pennant category. The Chair thanked all volunteers and parish staff who worked hard to bloom up.

Oktoberfest is taking place on Saturday at GWR park and tickets are still available.

1552 Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Meeting – 29 September 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Meeting held on the 29th September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

1553 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting – 29 September 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 29th September 2021 be approved as a true record.

1554 Minutes of Planning Meeting – 19th October 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 19th October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

1555 Committee Membership

To consider a nomination for Cllr D Griffiths to take membership of the Assets Working Party.

Councillor S Ahmed arrived during this item.

RESOLVED that Cllr Griffiths election to the Assets Working Party be approved.

1556 Enchanted Gardens Light Trail

The Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee gave a verbal report about the Town Gardens Enchanted Light Trail.

Cllr Hopkins said that tickets had started to sell well although ticket sales had slowed due to a rise in Covid infections. The Town Gardens café would be supplying food and non-alcoholic beverages, another bar would be supplying soft and alcoholic drinks and a gift stall to date. Banners had been placed all around the parish and councillors were asked to take posters for display anywhere where they would be seen.

The event would be aired on local radio and advertised on social media, also a door drop will be taking place around Swindon and press releases are ongoing. The event will be listed on many sites and Total Swindon.

The parish is working on a project with schools for a display around the bandstand in Town Gardens along with Yes Events who are working with the schools. The required infrastructure, staffing, security, and signage are in hand and have been finished or in progress.

NOTED

1557 GWR Park Conservation Management Plan

The Communications and Events Manager said that the report was as tabled, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Councillor Herring asked if there was any money involved in the Conservation Management Plan. The Chief Finance Officer said that the original funding for the project had been £100,00 to be spent on the park and when last checked £73,000 was left over. Subject to further funding if available, the Council need to prioritise how the money should be spent going forward.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Agree to broadly endorse the information contained within the CMP of GWR Park.

RESOLVED to approve recommendation 3.1

3.2 Agree to the publication of the CMP for GWR Park, including the document being published on the Parish Council's website.

RESOLVED to approve recommendation 3.2

3.3 Delegate responsibility to the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee to work with HAZ partners to approve a longlist of priority actions for GWR Park emerging from the Conservation Management Plan. It is intended that a draft longlist of actions, including detail of costings and feasibility, will be tabled at the 11th January Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee.

RESOLVED to approve recommendation 3.3

1558 NALC Points of Light

The Chair had informed Councillors of the Points of Light Magazine article in his Chairs report.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council