

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2021 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street

Present Cllr N Hopkins Chair
Cllr L Kasmaty Vice Chair
Cllr J Ali
Cllr S Allsopp
Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr P Herring
Cllr J Milner-Barry
Cllr S Pajak
Cllr J Firmin Not Committee Member

Apologies Cllr J Miah
Cllr T Philpot

Not Present Cllr V Ayris

Officers Rob Core Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Jake Mee Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Matt Leather Communications and Events Manager (CEM)
Martin Hambidge Parish Open Space Consultant (POSC)
Theresa Gordon Planning & Agenda Clerk

Public One

Public Questions A member of the public asked why dogs were not permitted in the Town Gardens during the Enchanted Light Trail event. The CEM said that assistance dogs would be allowed but deemed a Health and Safety issue to allow dogs into the inner event area.

A member of the public asked why part of GWR Park is still unusable a week after the Oktoberfest event of the 29th and 30th October as the ground is still uneven and rutted over a large area, and what are the remedial plans and time scale for the park to be useable. They also asked what the deposit was for the event and who will be doing the repair work. The CEM said that the conditions were not dry enough for ground works, but preparation work had been carried out and further work will be done when the weather is suitable. The Council are in discussion with the event organisers regarding covering the cost of the required remedial work. The event organiser has agreed to pay the full cost of the work.

Apologies

Cllr T Philpot
Cllr J Miah

1559 Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

1560 Tag Tap - Free Community Project

A presentation from the Tag Tap Community Project was deferred to a later date.

1561 Mums on a Mission- Swindon

The Mums on a Mission Group Swindon gave a presentation regarding the need for inclusive play equipment in Swindon.

The speaker said that the group had been set up to campaign to make Swindon's green

spaces and parks accessible to everyone. The group all have children with special educational needs and disabilities and are aware of the differing needs of children. The group are currently raising awareness across Swindon for play equipment to be more accessible for all types of disabilities. The group have worked with other parishes and would like to work with the South Swindon Parish.

Cllr Hopkins said that various parish play areas had been refurbished along with inclusive equipment. Councillor Chris Watts asked if the group would be interested in doing an assessment of the refurbished play areas. The speaker said that the group would be happy to visit and provide feedback to the Parish Council.

1562 **The Gap- Park South Community Garden**

The Communications and Events Manager submitted a report regarding the handover of an area of Public Open Space to a community group called The Gap, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The CEM said that the report was as tabled and that a consultation had been held which had shown interest in using the area as a community garden. The Parish Council would be supporting the volunteers as per 2.4 of the report.

Councillors discussed the details of the report and help that would be provided by the Parish Council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** To agree to the Parish Council's signing of the agreement with Swindon Borough Council referred to in Point 2.4.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council's signing of the agreement with Swindon Borough Council referred to in Point 2.4 be approved.

- 3.2** Pending an adequate Risk Assessment produced by the residents, authorize Parish Council Officers to handover the site referred to in Point 2.1 to The Gap community group.

RESOLVED that Pending an adequate Risk Assessment produced by the residents, authorise Parish Council Officers to handover the site referred to in Point 2.1 to The Gap community group be approved.

- 3.3** To nominate a Parish Councillor to become a member of the The Gap community group, reporting back to the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee every 6 months to update the Parish Council on the progress being made on the site.

RESOLVED that Councillor C Watts election to The Gap community group be approved.

1563 **South Swindon in Bloom**

To consider a report from the Parish Open Space Consultant (POSC) regarding the Parish Council's 2021 In Bloom evaluation and award and consider future steps for 2022, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The POSC said the Parish had retained their Britain In Bloom Silver status in 2021 and that feedback from the In Bloom Judge had been positive and included recommendations which would improve the work that the Parish are doing in all categories.

Councillors discussed the report and recommendations made by the POSC

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** Resolve to agree to proceed with an entry in 2022 focussing on a more strategic approach to In-Bloom to include feedback received from the Judge as

detailed in the report.

RESOLVED to that recommendation 3.1 be approved.

- 3.2** Resolve to agree to encourage greater community participation for the In-Bloom project through volunteering including the open day event and supporting volunteering guidance.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.2 be approved.

- 3.3** Resolve to agree to implement a pilot project for In-Bloom focussed on the Old Town area for an entry in 2022.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.3 be approved.

1564

2022 Rewilding Strategy

To receive a report from the Parish Open Spaces Consultant regarding a strategy for rewilding in 2022, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The POSC said that the report gave an introduction to re-wilding ethos and any associated requirements.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1** Resolve to proceed with the Re-wilding Strategy as detailed within the Report and in particular agree to the following:

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 be approved

- 3.2** Continue with the existing re-wilding areas in 2022 with the exception of Beverstone Grove which will be reinstated back to the normal grass cutting standard for amenity areas.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.2 be approved.

- 3.3** Extend the overall size of the re-wilding areas at Buckhurst Crescent and Sandringham Road Open Space.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.3 be approved.

- 3.4** Provision of additional wildflower seed sowing and plug planting at Savernake Street Recreation Ground as requested by Councillor Herring.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.4 be approved.

- 3.5** Investigate whether TWIGS in Cheney Manor would be interested in supplying wildflower plugs for use by the Parish.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.5 be approved.

- 3.6** That any new requests for additional re-wilding areas shall be assessed during 2022 in line with the criteria detailed in the Report but no new areas will be added to the current list of re-wilding areas for 2022.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.6 be approved

- 3.7** Seek a formal variation to the Deed Agreement with Swindon Borough Council to allow for areas of re-wilding.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.7 be approved.

1565 **Composting and Water Butt Provision**

The Parish Open Space Consultant submitted a report regarding new community provision of Composting and Water Butt provision, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The POSC said that the report gave details of green waste disposal generated by the Parish Council and community garden projects. He proposed that a trial be undertaken to divert part of the green waste currently take to Waterside be retained for composting on a few sites initially as part of the trial, and that the provision of water butts could reduce reliance on a piped water supply.

3 **Recommendations**

- 3.1** Resolve to agree to proceed with the trial of composting at the Town Gardens, Queens Park, outside the Parish Council Offices, and other community projects as deemed suitable subject to stakeholders' agreement as detailed within the Report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 be approved

- 3.2** Resolve to agree to proceed with a trial of rainwater harvesting at the Town Gardens, the Parish Council Office and other sites as deemed suitable subject to stakeholder agreement as detailed within the Report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.2 be approved

1566 **Signage Audit of Formal Parks**

The Parish Open Space Consultant gave a verbal report regarding a new audit and plan for future signage in the Parish Council's formal parks, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The POSC said that the report gave information on the public signs and notice boards in the Parish formal parks, some of which were installed by the Parish Council along with some inherited. He proposed that an audit of the signage be done to establish a plan for future new signage in these areas.

3 **Recommendations**

- 3.1** Resolve to agree to proceed with the audit and future plan for signage within the 3 formal parks, incorporating the request from Cllr Herring as part of this review along with the new story boards planned for Town Gardens & Queens Park as detailed within the Report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 3.1 be approved

1567 **Town Gardens Café Improvements**

The Item was deferred to a future meeting.

1568 **Cavendish Square Christmas Tree**

The Communications and Events Manager gave a report regarding the possibility of a Christmas Tree and lights at Cavendish Square, a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The Communications and Events Manager said that the process for the event had been difficult due to various delays in receiving required information.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** Resolve to order the Christmas Tree based on the specification and quote provided in Point 2.4 this final recommendation was amended to leave authorisation to the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee.

RESOLVED that amended recommendation 3.1 be approved

- 3.2** Subject to permission from Swindon Borough Council as landowner, place the Christmas Tree in Cavendish Square as marked in Point 2.3.

WITHDRAWN

- 3.3** Subject to permission from Swindon Borough Council as the owner, commission electrical works at The Shop that will allow for an electrical box to be installed on the outside of this building, based on the quotation referred to in Point 2.5. And agree that the Parish Council will cover all electricity costs incurred from the Christmas Tree lights.

WITHDRAWN

- 3.4** Should permission for the location and electrical work referred to in Point 3.2 and 3.3 be refused by Swindon Borough Council, agree for the Parish Council to place the Christmas Tree on the premises of St John's Church, with all costs necessary to power a Christmas Tree on the St John's Church site covered by the Parish Council

WITHDRAWN

1569 **Queens Park Hot House**

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

The Chief Finance Officer said that the report referred to the scaffolding charges, ongoing costs, and the surveyor's recommendations

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** To select Contractor 2 to provide the opening up works for free as per 2.1

RESOLVED that that recommendation 3.1 be approved.

- 3.2** To authorise a decision by the Chief Finance Officer on the hire, purchase or take down of the scaffolding based on whichever option is financially advantageous.

RESOLVED that amended recommendation be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council