

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)  
**FINANCE & STAFFING MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2021 at 6.30pm  
at the Marriot Hotel, Pipers Way Swindon SN3 1SH

- Present** Cllr C Watts                      Chair  
Cllr J Howarth                      Vice Chair  
Cllr J Ali  
Cllr J Firmin  
Cllr D Griffiths  
Cllr E Heavens  
Cllr N Hopkins  
Cllr T Philpot
- Officers** Jake Mee                      Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Matt Leather                      Communications and Events Manager (CEM)  
Theresa Gordon                      Planning and Agenda Clerk
- Public** One
- Public questions** None
- Apologies** Cllr S Allsopp  
Cllr M Strinkovsky  
Cllr N Watts
- 1582**    **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**  
None
- 1583**    **Payment Schedule November 2021 – Part 2**  
The Chief Executive Officer submitted Payment Schedule - Part 2 for October 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.  
**RESOLVED** that the Payment Schedule - Part 2 for November 2021 totalling, £152,097.72 be approved.
- 1584**    **Payment Schedule - December 2021 - Part 1**  
The Chief Executive Officer submitted Payment Schedule - Part 1 for November 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.  
Cllrs P Herring and J Milner-Barry arrived during this item.  
**RESOLVED** that the Payment Schedule - Part 1 for December 2021 totalling, £5,624.96 be approved.
- 1585**    **Budget Report**  
The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the 2022-2023 Budget, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.  
The CEO said that the 2022 – 2023 Budget report was as tabled.  
Cllrs discussed the report and Cllr Firmin asked if the arrangement as shown in the budget is that Old Town Bowls Club, do not pay rent, just take care of maintenance. The Chair confirmed that it was a long-term arrangement.  
The Chair gave thanks to the Chief Finance Officer and Councillors who had contributed to the draft budget.
- 3**        **Recommendations**
- 3.1**      That the draft budget for 2022/23 as detailed in this report is recommended for approval at Full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.1 be approved

- 3.2** That the Precept for 2022/23 of £2,653,443 as detailed in this report is recommended for approval at Full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.2 be approved

- 1586** The Chair proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable Mr J Nicholson to give a verbal presentation regarding a grant application for the Community Driving School.

Attending Councillors agreed to the suspension of Standing Orders.

- 1587** Mr John Nicholson from the Community Driving School (CDS) said that CDS is a charity that would like to start an operation in Swindon. CDS are about sponsoring, and funding disadvantaged local people who find themselves in difficult situations such as homelessness, physical, mental, and domestic abuse and are referred to CDS by local charities. CDS provide free driving lessons and in return ensure that recipients volunteer within the local community. CDS can also provide access to Maths, English lessons, CV writing and confidence building courses. CDS have a successful record which is also shown on their you-tube channel.

CDS want to expand across the country and have approached Swindon after a local driving instructor recognised a need for what CDS do in the Swindon area. Research shows that an excess of 5% of job advertisements require applicants to hold a driving license, which discriminates against those that cannot afford driving lessons. CDS have partnered with a local charity in the area and have spoken with Swindon MP Robert Buckland on the subject.

Councillor V Ayris arrived during this item.

Councillors discussed the application and thanked the Mr Nicholson for the presentation.

- 1588** Standing orders were reinstated.

**1589** **Grant Applications**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding grant applications approved by the Grants Committee, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

**Eastcott Community Organisation - £1,000**

Councillors discussed the grant and Councillor Firmin proposed that the Parish support the event this year with the proviso that they look for more sponsorship try to extend the window dressings further into the town centre.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council support the grant this year and the CEO be satisfied and suggest that the organisation find further funding for future years grant of £1,000 be approved

**Community Driving School - £2,000**

**RESOLVED** that Councillors agreed to defer the application until the following measures were shown.

1. To be ringfenced for South Swindon residents only.
2. If South Swindon Parish Council provide a grant the Parish Council have an asset lock for the investment created in Swindon.
3. The Council commit to the grant, but not deliver until such time as full funding had been achieved and proven.

**12<sup>th</sup> Swindon Scouts Group - £500**

Councillors discussed the application.

**RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £500 with the proviso that the organisation look for further sponsorship funding in future years be approved years

**1590 Delegated Decisions by the Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report containing decisions made using delegated powers under the Council Terms of Reference adopted May 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The Chair and Vice-Chair approved the following grants to be awarded after unanimous support from the Grants Working Party

Medaille Trust – £168

Harbour Project – £458

Swindon Borough Council Warm Welcome Team - £522.50

**NOTED**

The meeting closed at 19:10pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council