

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street

- Present**
- | | |
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| Cllr N Hopkins | Chair |
| Cllr L Kasmaty | Vice Chair |
| Cllr J Ali | |
| Cllr S Allsopp | |
| Cllr V Ayris | |
| Cllr D Griffiths | |
| Cllr P Herring | |
| Cllr J Milner-Barry | |
| Cllr S Pajak | |
| Cllr C Watts | Not Committee Member |
| Cllr J Howarth | Not Committee Member |
| Cllr J Firmin | Not Committee Member |
| Cllr S James | Not Committee Member |
- Officers**
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Matt Leather | Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Deputy CEO) |
| Theresa Gordon | Planning & Agenda Clerk |
- Public**
- One
- Public Questions**
- A member of the public asked if a full list of events being held at the Parish Council sites can be made available for Parish residents.
- The Deputy CEO said that a list of events can be publicised, but bookings are still being made and a list could be made accessible closer to the events season.
- The Deputy CEO read out a member of the public's comments: (as published verbatim)
"I look forward to hearing item 7 of tonight's meeting. Most people I know only visited the light trail in the Town Gardens on one occasion. Obviously, Parish staff and other people working in Town Gardens had a chance to see things more than once. All through December, daytime visitors, and users of Town Gardens as a route to and from school or shops and businesses in Old Town had sight of equipment for the evening activity spoiling the gardens. A number of school children found the roped off areas the biggest spoiler to the normal state of the formal gardens. Personally, I found the parking of vehicles belonging to food vendors and beer cabins disagreeable. Also, the metal barriers that had been moved to one side and often fallen over onto pathways. Hopefully, the spending of £200k to set up this month-long event has returned a lot of money to Parish Council coffers, to maintain not only Town Gardens but other parks in the Parish control, as well as giving funds to Better Futures (many thousands of pounds I guess). I look forward to these figures tonight.
- Apologies**
- | |
|----------------|
| Cllr T Philpot |
| Cllr J Miah |
- 1605** **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None
- 1606** **Quarry Road Tennis Courts- Swindon Tennis Centre**
The National Tennis Centre (NTC) gave a presentation regarding Quarry Road tennis courts.
- Zoe Bainbridge & Sharon Healey explained that they were from the Lawn Tennis Association. A joint presentation was given including screen shots and an overview of what the LTA do and how they could support the Parish regarding funding, and

opportunities to upgrade the Quarry Road tennis courts at Town Gardens. The presenters asked Councillors if they would like to visit two of their sites St Marks in North Swindon and Ashcombe Park in Weston-Super-Mare.

Councillors asked the presenters questions and discussed the refurbishment of the courts in Town Gardens and the options presented. Councillors also agreed that a visit to the sites mentioned in the presentation would be good to do. The Chair thanked Zoe and Sharon for the presentation.

1607 Prospect Hospice Presentation

The Prospect Hospice gave a presentation regarding events organised to fundraise for the charity.

Cheryl Crouch and Mel a nurse at the Prospect Hospice, gave the presentation. Cheryl said that the Hospice costs £7.5 – £8 million to run per year. It is adult care only and approximately 300,000 people in Swindon/North Wilts Community are cared for. There is also a team that supports bereaved children. The hospice is currently funded by up to 28% but the remainder is raised by fundraising, donations and 15 charity shops, although the shops had been closed in 2020-21 for 10 months which had impacted income. Events had been cancelled due to Covid and the Hospice currently survives by using reserves which cannot continue into 2022-23. Work has been done to bridge the financial gap by running mailing campaigns, a lottery alongside bid applications to Trusts and Foundations. Community activities are held in aid of the hospice and 8-10 events are organised per year and have been impacted the most. They asked if they could use the town gardens again for their Starlight Walk route.

Cllr Kasmaty asked if the Parish Council's new green trail could be used in a fun run or something similar., to fundraise for Prospect. Cheryl said they would like to try the route in February/March 2023.

Councillors asked questions and discussed the presentation content. The Chair thanked Cheryl and Mel for the presentation.

1608 STFC Foundation- Multi Sport Dome Funding

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding funding of the STFC Foundation Multi Sport Dome, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Deputy CEO tabled the report, which was discussed by Councillors.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** If the Committee are minded, to recommend the grant of £50,000 it be approved at the next available Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the Committee recommend the grant of £50,000 for the STFC Multi Sport Dome be approved at the next available Full Council meeting.

- 3.2** If the grant is recommended for approval, it be subject to conditions as outlined in 2.4

RESOLVED that the grant is recommended for approval subject to the conditions outlined in 2.4 of the report.

1609 Lawn Play Area Consultation Update

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer gave a verbal update regarding a Lawn Play Area consultation.

The Deputy CEO said that a consultation of Lawn residents regarding a play area was agreed in September 2021. Residents were consulted electronically, and via hard copy surveys held at Lawn Community Centre. A large response was received but this

proposal was controversial within the community; therefore, a leaflet drop would give the wider residents an opportunity to respond, it is really important to give every Lawn household the opportunity to respond.

Councillors discussed the details of a wider reaching consultation.

RESOLVED that a wider consultation be approved, with a hard copy of the consultation sent to all Lawn households.

1610 **Enchanted Gardens Light Trail**

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Deputy CEO drew the Councillors attention to the written report which included the donation of £24,952 to the Brighter Futures Charity. Feedback given by visitors to the event was positive and the local community were pleased with the organisation of the event and how much they had appreciated it.

The Chair of the Parish Council thanked the Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee, the Deputy CEO, and all Officers involved for the work put into creating the event and making it such a fantastic success.

Following the success of the 2021 Light Trail Luminism have asked the Parish Council if they would like to continue the event in 2022. Without an agreed specification and costings for the event, the Parish Council is not able to agree to such an event at this stage. However, it is proposed that the Parish Council express an interest to Luminism that they deliver the event for 2022 and request the Events Working Party work with Luminism to bring forward a proposal to a future Full Council Meeting for the Light Trail event in 2022.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1** Resolve to thank Luminism and the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail team for delivering a successful event in December 2021.
- 6.2** Propose to Full Council that the Parish Council express an interest to Luminism that they deliver the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail in 2022.
- 6.3** Request that the Events Working Party work with Luminism to bring forward a proposal to a forthcoming Full Council meeting for how the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail would work in 2022, including detailed costings.

RESOLVED that recommendations 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 be approved en-bloc.

1611 **George Gay Gardens**

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding use of developer contributions from the George Gay Gardens development, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The Deputy CEO tabled the report which contained all required information.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1** Ask Parish Councillors submit proposals on their preferred use for the developer contributions listed in Point 2.2 of the report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 4.1 be approved.

- 4.2** Request that the Assets Working Party propose a strategy for how the Parish Council could utilise the developer contributions listed in Point 2.2 of the report.

RESOLVED that recommendation 4.2 be approved.

1612 Proposal by SBC to Permanently Narrow a Section of Queens Drive to One Lane

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitted a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for consideration, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Councillor Herring Chair of the Planning Committee explained the background of the TRO and that a member of the public had emailed Parish Councillors with issues they had alongside several questions.

Councillors discussed the TRO.

RESOLVED that Councillor Herring would provide the following feedback to Swindon Borough Council.

The Parish Council has considered the TRO intend to introduce a toucan crossing on Queens Drive, north of the subway accessed from Donnington Close and Kirby Close. Following a meeting of the Parish Council's Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee and following feedback received from local residents, we would like to raise the following concerns about the proposal:

- There is a concern that narrowing the southbound road to a single carriageway will lead to an increase in congestion. There is a particular concern that this will impede the journey of ambulances heading towards the Great Western Hospital and other emergency service vehicles heading towards Commonhead.
- The lay-by which runs alongside the narrowed road is intended for use as a bus stop, but is currently primarily used for residents parking (and parking is unrestricted). This means that buses stop in the nearside lane to use this bus stop. If the road is narrowed to a single lane, buses stopping at this bus stop will cause the road to be brought to a stop.
- We ask what consideration was given to alternative positions for this crossing. In particular, if the crossing were further south (in the same position as the underpass), there would appear to be enough space to widen the road allowing the crossing and pedestrian refuge to be built without losing a lane of carriageway.
- Alternatively, we ask what consideration was given to reducing the northbound carriageway to a single lane, rather than southbound. This would appear to have less impact on emergency vehicles, and would not coincide with a bus stop.
- We also ask what consideration has been given to a single-phase toucan crossing (i.e. one without a pedestrian refuge crossing all lanes at the same time, as is in place at Whalebridge).
- Finally, we request that a "trial" be conducted where the road is narrowed using cones so that the effect on congestion can be measured before work commences.

1613 Public Spaces Protection Order for Broadgreen and Queen's Park

To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer regarding the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Broadgreen and Queen's Park.

The Deputy CEO said that a consultation had been held relating to a PSPO regarding consumption of alcohol in Queens Park & the Broadgreen area. The consultation had a clear majority in favour of the order. The Deputy CEO asked if Councillors had an interest in providing enforcement officers to enforce a PSPO in the Queens Park & the Broadgreen area.

Councillors discussed the details of the proposal.

RESOLVED That consideration for whether the Parish Council wishes to directly enforce a PSPO in Queen's Park and Broadgreen be passed to the Services Working Party for consideration.

The meeting closed at 20.42pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council