

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022 at 6:30pm  
In the Raggy Hall, Eastcott Community Centre, Savernake Street Swindon SN1 3LZ

**Present** Cllr C Watts (Chair) Cllr P Herring  
Cllr S Ahmed Cllr W Horley  
Cllr J Ali Cllr N Hopkins  
Cllr S Allsopp Cllr S James  
Cllr V Ayris Cllr L Kasmaty  
Cllr J Firmin Cllr S Pajak  
Cllr M Gladman Cllr M Strinkovsky  
Cllr D Griffiths Cllr N Watts  
Cllr A Hamid

**Officers** Jake Mee Chief Executive Officer  
Abi Scutts Events Manager  
Theresa Gordon Planning and Agenda Clerk

**Public** One

**Public Questions** None

Apologies

Cllr J Howarth (Vice Chair) Cllr M J Miah  
Cllr E Heavens Cllr J Milner-Barry  
Cllr J Miah Cllr T Philpot

**1618 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

Councillors J Ali and N Hopkins declared non-pecuniary interest in item 3.2

**1619 Chair's Report**

Crocus Planting

The Parish would like to pass on our thanks to the Swindon Old Town Rotary Club for the planting of 4000 crocus bulbs in the Avenue at the Lawns last Sunday. This is a welcome addition to the new trees that have been planted by the Parish Council along with the protective iron work.

Queens Park

The new ornate railings for Queen's Park's Memorial Garden are due to be installed at the end of next week. While this work takes place the Groundwell Road entrance into the park will be closed to ensure the area is safe and secure to work in.

The Chair apologised for the time it has taken to get the new railings in place. Unfortunately, the parts to the railings have been in short supply which has caused the delay.

This work is part of the Parish Council's overall improvement programme for Queen's Park which has included the rebuilding of the Durham Street entrance wall and refurbishment of its gate.

Cambria Bridge

The Parish Services team paid a visit to Cambria Bridge Recreation area earlier this week, planting up the gaps in the Laurel hedge and creating a raised bed with new sleepers which will be used for planting by volunteers. Thank you to all of the team.

Marriott Bed

Fantastic work has been done by OTRA Gardens at the Marriott bed and at the new Hesketh Crescent Play Area bed. Thank you to all of the volunteers for your hard work.

Swindon Road Community Garden

Fantastic work has been done by volunteers at the Fishing for the Moon Garden. Thank

you to all involved for maintaining and planting bulbs at this wonderful community garden.

Community Litter Pick: Thank you to everybody who joined the Parish Council's litter pick as part of Keep Swindon Tidy Day last Sunday. Special thanks to Plastic Free Swindon and Keep Swindon Tidy for organising all of your litter picking efforts across Swindon. A great way to start 2022!

#### Brighter Futures

We are absolutely thrilled to report that through the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail ticket sales, £24,952 was raised for the Brighter Futures charity- the registered charity for GWH.

On top of that the charity raised an additional £4,677.83 from sales and donations at the live event through their stand, so in total £29,629.83 was raised for the charity through this event. Parish Councillors would like to thank everybody who attended the Light Trail and contributed to the Brighter Futures charity.

Brighter Futures have said this money will be going toward their Way Forward programme, which focuses on creating a hospital environment suitable for Swindon's growing and ageing population. Their key projects include the expansion of urgent and emergency care services, including the Emergency Department and a new rehabilitation unit for patients.

Volunteer Day: This has been organised for the 26th March at Twigs. Aim of the day is to build a network of volunteers inside our Parish who can support projects that improve the environment in South Swindon. The Environment Working Party and its Chair, Linda Kasmaty, has been leading on this. If any Councillor would like to attend speak to Linda.

In summary, it is really pleasing to see the amount of partnership working with volunteers, charities, trusts, and foundations, without which the parish would not be able to deliver such exciting and relevant projects and initiatives to our Parishioners. Moving forward we should look to expand on this good work, and I would ask that Councillors keep their ear to the ground for worthy initiatives that the parish could add value.

#### Old Town Library

A recent report has shown that loans at Old Town Library are now at similar levels to what they were pre-Covid. Between 2017- when SSPC first took on the library- and 2020 the library had increased its loans by 125%- far more than any other library in Swindon. To get the loans back to those levels is a stunning achievement by the Old Town Library Team.

Green Trail: The aim is to launch the trail on Saturday April 9th with an inaugural walk. Officers are working hard to get the trail ready, with coppice work to improve lighting along trail, the information boards which Parish Cllrs have been consulted on today and placing waymarking's along the additional stretch that makes the trail circular.

#### Tree Planting

In the coming months there will be extensive tree planting taking place at Westcott Rec and Buckhurst Field. At Westcott Rec we have woodland blocks being planted in the field adjacent to the allotments and the play area. At Buckhurst Field we will be planting a new community orchard at the Bentley Close side of the field. Both of these schemes are part of the national Trees for Climate initiative that aims to plant 500 hectares of trees over the next five years. We are also working with Nationwide Building Society, Vaillant UK and Earthwatch to plant Swindon's second Tiny Forest – following the first planted at East Wichel Park. The Tiny Forest planting day is on the 5th March. All Parish Cllrs are welcome. All tree planting has been funded through external sources, with the Parish Council working successfully with other organisations to achieve this.

#### **1620 Minutes - Full Council Meeting 22 November 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 22 November 2021 be approved as a true record.

#### **1621 Minutes – Finance & Staffing Meeting 21 December 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on 21

December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**1622 Minutes - Full Council Meeting 21 December 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21 December 2021 be approved as a true record.

**1623 Publication Scheme**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a copy of the publication scheme, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute book.

The CEO said that the publication scheme is a standard document that all Councils are required to retain, and that the report was as tabled.

**RESOLVED** that the Publication Scheme be approved and adopted

**1624 Safeguarding Policy**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a draft of the safeguarding policy for review, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute book.

The CEO said that a lot of work had been put into the policy to ensure that it met the necessary criteria and that Swindon Borough Council had approved the policy.

Councillor Griffiths thanked the Youth Worker and her assistant for the work they had done.

**RESOLVED** that the Safeguarding Policy be approved and adopted.

**1625 Swindon Town FC Community Foundation Lease**

The CEO submitted a report regarding a lease of open space at the County Ground, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute book.

The CEO said that due to the Covid19 Pandemic the Parishes Street and Grounds team had been based at Broadgreen offices, which had proved particularly useful and going forward the area would benefit from a team staying in the location. Swindon FC Community Foundation have a lease on a site at County Ground Lane and are willing to lease a section to the Parish to create a suitable welfare unit for the team to work from.

**3 Recommendations**

**3.1** That a draft lease for the land detailed in 2.6 be drawn up with Swindon Town FC Community Foundation to be approved by Full Council at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.1 be approved

**3.2** That the CEO obtain costings for site preparation and employee amenity to be approved by Full Council at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.2 be approved

**1626 Swindon Town FC Community Foundation Grant**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report from a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute book

The Chair thanked Councillor Firmin for producing the report.

The CEO gave an overview of the report and assured the Council that a grant would not be released until all points in 2.4 of the report were met.

**3. Recommendations**

**3.1** If Council are minded, to award the grant of £50,000 as detailed in the report.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.1 be approved

**3.2** If the grant is approved, it be subject to conditions as outlined in 2.4

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.2 be approved

1627

**South Swindon Parish Council Budget & Precept 2022/23**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the 2022– 23 Budget and Precept, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute book.

The CEO gave an overview of the report and said that the report was as tabled.

**3. Recommendations**

**3.1** That the draft budget for 2022/23 as detailed in the attached report is approved.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.1 be approved

**3.2** That the Precept demand for 2022/23 of £2,653,443 is approved

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.2 be approved

1628

**Enchanted Gardens Light Trail**

The Deputy CEO submitted a report regarding the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail, a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute book.

**6. Recommendations**

**6.1** Support the Parish Council expressing an interest to Luminism that they deliver the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail in 2022.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 6.1 be approved.

**6.2** Note that the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee have requested 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 recommendation 6.2 be approved.

**6.3** That recommendation 6.1 and 6.2 do not preclude the Parish seeking alternative vendors for the provision of the event.

**RESOLVED** that additional recommendation 6.3 be approved.

1629

**Grants Applications**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding grants for consideration, a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute book.

Cllr N Hopkins and Cllr J Ali declared a non-pecuniary interest in recommendation 3.2

**3. Recommendations**

**3.1** To support the Prospect Hospice grant application.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.1 be approved.

**3.2** To support the Satellite Rotary Club of Swindon Old Town grant application based on the conditions set out in Point 2.4 of the report.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.2 be approved

1630

**Payment Schedule January 2022 – Part 1**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted Payment Schedule Part 1 for January 2022, a copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute book

**RESOLVED** that the Payment Schedule part 1 for January 2022, totalling £222,612.82 be approved.

**1631**     Accounts – November 2021

The Chief Executive Officer submitted the Management Accounts for November 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix I in the Minute book

**RESOLVED** that the Accounts for November 2021 be approved.

**1632**     Events Report

The Events Manager submitted a report regarding future events, a copy of which appears as Appendix J in the Minute book.

The Chair introduced the new Events Manager Abigail Scutts to Councillors.

The Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee said that 19 events had been arranged to date and a large mix of events would be following.

**3**       Recommendations

**3.1**     Support the Events Working Party’s proposal to allow an Indian Independence Day event in GWR Park as described in Point 2.1 of the report.

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.1 be withdrawn.

**3.2**     Support the Events Working Party’s proposal that the arrangement with Park Yoga continues in 2022, as described in Point 2.2 of the report

**RESOLVED** that recommendation 3.2 be approved

The meeting closed at 7.16pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council