

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on **25 October 2022** at 6.30pm
In the Council Chamber, Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, Swindon.

Present:	Cllr C. Watts (Chair) Cllr D. Griffiths Cllr N. Watts Cllr S. Allsopp Cllr S. Ahmed Cllr W. Horley Cllr J. Ali Cllr T. Philpot	Cllr N. Hopkins Cllr S. Pajak Cllr V. Ayris Cllr S. James Cllr P. Herring Cllr L. Kasmaty Cllr J. Firmin Cllr J. Milner - Barry
Officers:	Jake Mee Natasha Abrahamson	Chief Executive Officer Planning & Agenda Clerk
Public:	None	
Public Questions:	Two public questions received via email.	Question 1: Regarding the work at Queens Park and the clearing of the duckweed. Question 2: Regarding the possible purchase of Apsley House by the Parish Council.
Parish Councils Response:	Question 1: The Parish Council contracted 2 days on clearing the duckweed located at Queens Park, the first treatment was applied and has been left to progress along with the colder weather. A further treatment has been approved for the Spring. Due to a lack of maintenance over the previous years, it is likely to take 1-2 years before the pond regains control. The Parish Council will continue in its future maintenance. Question 2: The Parish Council voted unanimously to conduct due diligence on the potential purchase of Apsley House as a community asset from Swindon Borough Council. The Parish understands the fiscal challenges faced by the Borough Council with a £0.4 Billion debt that is two and half times greater than its revenue income. The Parish Council is concerned that an important community asset, that supports local business and local people, would be lost. Also, many concerns were raised that Swindon would lose another heritage building. South Swindon Parish Council triggered a moratorium that halted the sale of the building whilst the Parish Council could conclude its due diligence. The Parish has now received a full structural survey and valuation that could potentially be deferred to the asset working group for a recommendation to be submitted to the next full council meeting. It should be noted that Swindon Borough Council refused to supply any such information therefore it was incumbent on the Parish Council to action this work. In parallel to the survey an outlying business plan has been produced. It should be	

noted that it is not the intention to compete with the potential new museum and art gallery in the Civic Office. The business plan objective was to create a mixed model that include a commercial gallery offering and other revenue generating activities whilst maintaining a community aspect for the usage of the building. The parameters of the business plan were to be robust enough to understand that the potential venture would be an investment and would seek not to act as a drain on the Parish revenue account. If Councillors are minded to move forward, the next step would be a peer review of the business plan.

The Parish has received the full survey as of yesterday and an indicative valuation today and this will be discussed in the full council meeting today.

Apologies: Cllr J. Howarth
Cllr J. Miah

Cllr E. Heavens
Cllr M. Gladman

2223 – 84 Declarations of Interest

None

2223 – 85 Chairs Report

The Chairs report was dispensed of this meeting due to all information being included within the agenda.

2223 – 86 Information from Borough Councillors

None present

2223 – 87 Delegated Decisions

A written report was provided to Councillors regarding a decision taken by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council relating to GWR Park, with a recommendation to note. A copy of which appears as appendix A in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 That the decision and report be noted.

RESOLVED: To note the report and decision made by the Chair and Vice Chair regarding GWR Park.

2223 – 88 Accounts – August & September 2022

The CEO submitted a copy of the accounts for August and September 2022. A copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix B

RESOLVED: That the accounts for August 22 be approved

RESOLVED: That the accounts for September 22 be approved.

2223 – 89 Payment Schedule – September 2022

The CEO submitted the Payment Schedule for September 22 totaling £ 453,798 a copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix C.

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for September 22 be approved.

2223 - 90 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report

The CEO provided an update regarding the Parish Councils management accounts for the quarter ending September 2022, a copy of which can be found as appendix D in the minute book.

RESOLVED: To note the quarter 2 budget monitoring report for the quarter ending in September 2022.

2223 – 91 Quarry Road Tennis Courts – New Operator

A written report was provided to Councillors regarding a proposal received from the National Tennis Association to operate the Quarry Road Tennis Courts and costs associated to refurbishing the Quarry Road Tennis Courts. A copy of which can be found as appendix D in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 Support the proposal by the National Tennis Association to run the Quarry Road Courts once refurbished by the LTA.

3.2 Support an application to the Landfill Communities Fund to provide a grant towards the cost of rebuilding Court 3 at Quarry Road.

3.3 Request the Parish Council Clerk approve an Operator Agreement with the National Tennis Association based on the headline terms laid out in the National Tennis Association's proposal

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** recommendations 3.1 with an amendment to read : Support the proposal by the National Tennis Association to run Quarry Road Courts once refurbished by the LTA as per model 2 of the proposal.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.2 and 3.3.

2223 – 92 Apsley House Update

A verbal report was provided by the CEO regarding the results of the survey and business plan for the acquisition of Apsley House.

The Survey was received the day before the 25 October Full Council and therefore did not allow Councillors and Officers enough time to thoroughly absorb its contents and it was recommended that the Apsley House agenda item be referred back to the Assets Working Party to be discussed and brought back to the 22 November Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Apsley House agenda item be referred back to the Assets Working Party to be discussed and brought back to the 22 November Full Council meeting.

2223 - 93 Queens Park Hot House

The CEO provided a written report regarding the options available for the Queens Park Hot House and to seeks a decision from Council to enable progression with the project. A copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix E.

Recommendations

3.1 That the Council proceed with Option 5 – full demolition of the building. Once this has been completed Council may consider the potential to install a semi-permanent structure in its place.

3.2 If recommendation 3.1 is approved that the CEO begin the planning process to obtain permission to do so.

3.3 Subject to 3.2 and planning permission being granted; that the CEO tender for a contractor to carry out the demolition and this to be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** recommendation 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3

2223 – 94 Town Gardens Bowl Refurbishment

The CEO provided Councillors a draft copy of the tender specifications for the appointment of an architect for the Town Gardens Bowl refurbishment for approval. A copy of which appears as appendix F in the minute book.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the tender specifications for the appointment of an architect for the Town Gardens Bowl refurbishment.

2223 – 95 Broadgreen Community Centre Improvements

The CEO provided a report regarding the remedial works required to improve the condition of the Broadgreen Community Centre, a copy of which appears as appendix G in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 Approve the quote from Company 2 to complete the roof replacement work at Broadgreen Community Centre, using Option 2 as our preferred solution.

3.2 Approve the quote from Company 2 to complete the access control work at Broadgreen Community Centre as specified in Point 2.5.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** recommendation 3.1 with an amendment to read: Approve the quote from Company 2 to complete the roof replacement work at Broadgreen Community Centre, using Option 1 as our preferred solution.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** recommendation 3.2

2223 – 96 Swindon Haz Consultation

Council discussed the HAZ consultation regarding the rerouting of the outbound buses from Emlyn Square and although Council are in support of the decision a comment should be made that due to removal of the bus stop along Birch Street, the remaining bus stops for the new route are located at the Health Hydro and then at the cross roads of Dean Street, Church Place which are of considerable distance from another and that another bus stop should be installed around the Birch Street/Faringdon Road area.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the response to the Swindon HAZ Consultation in support of the rerouting of the outbound buses from Emlyn Square with a comment that due to removal of the bus stop along Birch Street, the remaining bus stops for the new route are located at the Health Hydro and then at the crossroads of Dean Street, Church Place which are of considerable distance from one another and that another bus stop should be installed around the Birch Street/Faringdon Road area.

2223 – 97 Grants

Council discussed the grant applications that had been scrutinised by the Grants Working Party held on 29 September 2022, where further information was required from the applicants.

Swindon Shock Basketball Wheelchair Club

- Breakdown in costs
- Is this a Covid bounce back request?
- To advise the Grant applicant on our Grants Policy Guidelines

Swindon Shock supplied the information requested and as such have satisfied the Grants Working Parties concerns, and that this application does fall within the Parish Councils Grants Policy and will be granted.

Swindon Town – Women's Football Club

- Breakdown of costs
- What will the money be spent on?

Swindon Town Women's Football Club supplied the information requested and as such, have not satisfied the Grants Working Parties concerns, and that this application does not fall within the Parish Councils Grants Policy and will be refused.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the grant application received by Swindon Shock Basketball Wheelchair Club for the sum of £2000.00

RESOLVED: To **REFUSE** the grant application received by Swindon Town Women's Football Team.

2223 – 98

Community Working Party

Council discussed the Terms of Reference, a copy of which appears as appendix H in the minute book, proposed for the set up of a Community Working Party to review and establish any necessary community issues relating to safety, cost-of-living, support, and any other social problems that the Parish may be able to assist with.

Members Elected to sit on the Community Working Party:

- Cllr T. Philpot
- Cllr S. James
- Cllr S. Allsopp
- Cllr N. Hopkins
- Cllr J. Firmin

Elected Chair of the Community Working Party:

- Cllr S. Allsopp

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the formation of the Community Working Party and its elected Chair and members.

2223 – 99

Remembrance Sunday Services

The Parish Council confirmed their representation for the Remembrance Sunday Services that take place across the Parish.

RESOLVED: To note the Parish Councils representation throughout the Remembrance Sunday Services taking place across the Parish.

2223 – 100

Swindon Local Council Forum Meeting Report

A written report was provided by Cllr D. Griffiths regarding the most recent Swindon Local Council Forum Meeting Report to note.

RESOLVED: To note the most recent report from the Swindon Local Council Forum.

2223 – 101 Admission of Public and Press

To resolve in accordance with standing order 3(d) that ‘in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw’. Reason: **Commercially Sensitive**

2223 – 102 Enchanted Gardens Light Trail – Vendors

Council reviewed vendor offers for the hot food catering at the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail

Recommendation

3.1 The instructions of the council are sought for a decision on a food vendor to operate at the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail in December 2022.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** Farr’s Catering as the food vendor to operate at the Enchanted Lights Trail.

Meeting Closes: 20.15

Signed:

Date: