

South Swindon Parish Council
(Central Swindon South Parish Council)
Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

- Present:** Cllr N. Hopkins
Cllr L. Kasmaty
Cllr S. Pajak
Cllr D. Griffiths
- Cllr S. Allsopp
Cllr V. Ayris
Cllr P. Herring
Cllr J. Ali
- Apologies:** Cllr J. Milner - Barry
- Officers:** Matt Leather
Natasha Abrahamson
Jake Mee
Deborah Lamb
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Planning & Agenda Clerk
Chief Executive Officer
Libraries Manager
- Also Present:** Kris Talikowski
- Old Town Business Association
- Public:** Five
- Public Questions and Comments:** A question was received via email enquiring as to why the benches located at GWR Park have not yet been replaced.
- The Chair responded by explaining that due to the cold weather, the concrete bases were taking longer to set. The new benches were due to be delivered in January and fitted shortly after.
- 2223 – 20** **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
- None
- RESOLVED:** *The Chair requested that Standing Orders be suspended for the following item: **Old Town Partnership Update.***
- 2223 – 21** **Old Town Partnership Update**
- Kris Talikowski provided Councillors with an update regarding the partnership activities of the Old Town Business Association. A question-and-answer session followed.
- RESOLVED:** *To reinstate standing orders.*
- RESOLVED:** *To move the Libraries, update item before items 5&6 (Mill Lane & Community Facilities Update)*
- 2223 – 22** **Libraries Update**
- The Libraries Manager provided a written report regarding the Parish Councils Library service. She requested that Councilors agree to the removal of children's book fines to encourage families to stay with the library service should they find themselves in a situation where the late fees have accrued. An 'overdue book' amnesty was previously run at the Library where people could return overdue books without charge. Hundreds of books were returned. A question-and-answer session took place.
- RESOLVED:** *To discuss the removal of Children's book fines at a later meeting.*

2223 – 23

Community Facilities Update

The Deputy CEO provided a written update on the Badbury Park and Broadgreen Community Centre's.

Recommendations

3.1 Note the contents of this update.

3.2 Approve the contents of the Badbury Park Community Facility letter referred to in Point 2.5 with a view to the letter being delivered to all households in Badbury Park.

3.3 Approve the Chair of the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee to work with Parish Officers in a Task Force to develop proposals for opening the Badbury Park Community Facility as outlined in Point 2.6.

RESOLVED: To note recommendation 3.1

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.2 & 3.3

RESOLVED: *The Chair requested that standing orders be suspended for the following item: **GWR Park Requests.***

2223 – 24

GWR Park Requests

A written report was provided to Council regarding requests received from residents. A local resident, Mr. Webb, that was present at the meeting, spoke to Councilors regarding his request.

Recommendations

3.1 To consider the request made by Mr. Webb regarding the planting of a memorial tree for reasons explained in Point 2.1.

3.2 To consider its response to the request made by Ms. Thurston regarding the former GWR Park Bench as outlined in Point 2.5.

RESOLVED: To approve the planting of a memorial tree at GWR Park as outlined in point 2.1

RESOLVED: To Defer recommendation 3.2

RESOLVED: *The Chair requested that standing orders be reinstated.*

2223 – 25

Mill Lane Community Gardening

A written request was received from the Mill Lane Community Gardening Group asking for assistance with purchasing some items to enable the Community Group to purchase items, allowing them to expand their raised beds.

RESOLVED: To approve the transfer of £518.19 to the Mill Lane Community Gardening Group.

RESOLVED: That Parish Officers check for underground services & pipes before an expansion can be approved.

2223 – 26

GWR Park Improvements

The Deputy CEO provided a verbal update regarding the HAZ and Blossom Circle improvements at GWR Park.

RESOLVED: To note the verbal report provided by the Deputy CEO.

2223 – 27 Resident Rewilding Policy

The Vice Chair of Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee provided the Council with a request to formulate a South Swindon Parish Council Residents Rewilding Policy after requests were received from two different residents of South Swindon Parish Council, interested in creating small rewilding areas.

RESOLVED: For Cllr Kasmaty to work with the Parish Councils Open Spaces Officer to seek advice on the legalities, and to set the criteria for future resident rewilding requests.

2223 – 28 Quarry Road Tennis Courts

The Deputy CEO provided Council with a verbal update on the refurbishment of Quarry Road Tennis Courts.

RESOLVED: To note the verbal update.

Meeting Closes at 20.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council