

South Swindon Parish Council
(Central Swindon South Parish Council)
Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 at 6.30pm
In the Council Chamber, Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, Swindon.

Present:	Cllr N Hopkins (Chair) Cllr S Ahmed Cllr J Ali Cllr S Allsopp Cllr R Banwell-Moore Cllr M Davies Cllr D Dias Cllr D Griffiths Cllr J Firmin	Cllr P Herring Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinny Cllr S James Cllr J Miah Cllr J Pereira Cllr G Philpot Cllr T Philpot Cllr T Silberberg Cllr N Watts
Officers:	Jake Mee Abi Garside-Scutts Carol Clark	Chief Executive Officer Events Manager Administration Assistant
Also Present:	Jon Harris Chris Watts Kris Talikowski	Swindon Borough Council Head of Strategic Transport Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Old Town Business Association
Public:	Two	
Apologies:	Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair) Cllr A Hamid Cllr R Leather	Cllr L Kasmaty Cllr D Vales

2324 – 139 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

2324 - 140 Public Questions

Question 1 – The resident publicly thanked the Events Manager and the events team for putting on a wide variety of performances throughout the summer months at the Town Gardens Bowl.

Question 2 – Is there a timetable for a decision to go ahead with the Mesothelioma Garden in Queens Park?

Question 3 – The resident highlighted the importance of considering resident's mental health and wellbeing during the Council's decision making process.

Parish Council's Response:

Question 1 – The Event Manager thanked the resident for their support and responded by saying the thanks will be passed onto the wider events team.

Question 2 – The Clerk highlighted that Item 12 on the agenda would determine the next steps for the Mesothelioma Garden.

Question 3 – The Chair thanked the resident for bringing the health and wellbeing of residents to the attention of the Council.

2324 - 141 Presentation- South Swindon Parish Council Forum Strategic Transport

Jon Harris, Head of Strategic Transport, presented the key headlines of the Swindon transport strategy. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

2324 – 142 Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed the parish council's newly employed Finance Assistant.

Town Gardens Aviary Refurbishment – Works are nearly complete. The birds are due to be supplied to the Town Gardens.

Tiny Forests – The parish council have been awarded 5 no. new Earthwatch Tiny Forests. We currently have two existing Tiny Forests, one at East Witchel and one at Buckhurst Field.

Quarry Road Tennis Courts –Final drainage plans are yet to be submitted to the parish council. The parish council is currently in discussions with Swindon Borough Council regarding wider drainage issues along Quarry Road.

The Badbury Park allotments transfer is progressing with the housing developer Persimmons.

The Parish Christmas Trees have been ordered.

Front Garden Competition – All prizes have now been handed out to the winning residents.

The Greatest Showman, outdoor cinema experience on the 22nd September is the last Old Town Gardens Bowl event for the 2023 season.

The Queen's Park lake aeration improvement works starts imminently.

Air conditioning has now been installed at the Badbury Park Library.

The GWR park archaeological dig of WWII trenches was a successful. We await an update regarding the archaeological finds.

The Dementia Friendly Alliance visit is now re-arranged for the October 2023 Full Council meeting to give a presentation to councillors about ways councils can improve their performance when dealing with individuals and families living with dementia.

2324 – 143 Information from Borough Councillors

None present.

2324 – 144 Minutes – Full Council

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22nd August 2023 be approved as a correct record.

2324 – 145 Minutes - Planning

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 29th July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

2324 – 146 Minutes – Leisure, Environment & Amenities

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities meeting held on 18th July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

2324 – 147 Payment Schedule - August 2023

The Chief Executive Officer submitted the Payment Schedule for August 2023, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for August 2023 totalling, £295,122.55 be approved.

2324 – 148 Grant Applications

The Chief Executive Officer submitted grant applications. Copies of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

Councillors discussed the following applications:

Kate Parsons £2,000

Match-Funding for the Lost Buildings of Swindon participatory arts/ heritage exhibition project (application to Arts Council England).

RESOLVED: That the grant is agreed in principal following a re-examination of the previous grant application.

Growing South Swindon Community £2,000

To upgrade the mud kitchen to a commercially made, long lasting one and add a sturdy round picnic table where parents can sit and supervise their children and gather for snacks.

RESOLVED: That South Swindon Parish Council purchase the commercially made mud kitchen and that Growing South Swindon Community install the mud kitchen.

Generate Swindon £1,000

Room hire for peer support for non-binary/ transgender residents.

RESOLVED: The grant be approved. Councillors request that Generate Swindon use South Parish Council premises where possible.

Immanuel United Reform Church £1,000

To Partly fund a defibrillator to be placed on the outside of the Church in Upham Road, Walcot, Swindon.

RESOLVED: That the grant is not approved due to the significant funds in unrestricted reserves.

Andrius Tamasauskas

£1,000

RESOLVED: That the grant application is not approved due to the resident not being a constituted group as per the grants policy.

2324 – 149 Projects Update – The Bowl and The Hothouse

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding The Bowl refurbishment and the future of The Hothouse. A copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 - Assets Working Party to review Stage 1 report from BFF and move forward into Stage 2.

3.2 - The CEO to continue to explore grant funding consultants and opportunities for The Bowl.

3.3 - The Parish Council ringfence the incoming CIL funds of £237,478.65 as potential match funding for The Bowl.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3

2324 – 150 Knife Amnesty Bin

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the installation of a Knife Amnesty Bin at Broadgreen, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 That Full Council approve the installation of a knife bin at Broadgreen.

3.2 That the Parish Maintenance Team assist with the install of the other two bins as detailed in 2.4 of the report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2.

2324 – 151 Mesothelioma Garden Consultation Responses

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a verbal report regarding the results of the public consultation for the refurbishment of the Mesothelioma Garden. A copy of the public consultation results appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: To move forward with the original design with the removal of obvious railway elements, to add accessible flooring and to resolve the drainage issues within the mesothelioma garden.

2324 – 152 Events Update

The Events Manager submitted a report regarding the 2023 Town Garden Bowl summer events programme. A copy of the public consultation results appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

2324 – 153 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: Commercial Confidentiality**

2324 – 154 Enchanted Gardens Light Trail

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a verbal report regarding practical solutions to make the Old Town Gardens bandstand events more diverse and inclusive.

The Events Manager provided a verbal report on behalf of the Old Town Business Association regarding the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail 2023.

RESOLVED: To purchase an accessible ramp for bandstand events at a cost of up to £5,000 as a commitment to promote diversity and inclusivity at the Old Town Gardens.

RESOLVED: To note the Old Town Business Association Food & Beverage report.

Meeting Closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

Dated:

Chair of the Parish Council