

South Swindon Parish Council
Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2023 at 7.15pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr L Kasmaty (Chair) Cllr J Firmin Cllr D Griffiths Cllr S James Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinney Cllr T Philpot	Cllr T Silberberg Cllr G Philpot (substituting for Cllr R Banwell-Moore) Cllr N Hopkins (substituting for Cllr P Herring)
Apologies:	Cllr R Banwell-Moore (Vice-Chair) Cllr S Allsopp Cllr P Herring	Cllr J Pereira Cllr D Vales
Officers:	Matt Leather Carol Clark Sam Victory	Deputy Chief Executive Officer Administration Assistant Communication Officer
Also Present:	Jon Holloway	Swindon Town Football Club Community Foundation
Public:	None	
Public Questions:	None	

2324 – 221 Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation

A non-pecuniary interest was declared by Cllr L Kasmaty as an allotment holder.

2324 – 222 STFC Community Foundation Presentation

Jon Holloway provided members with a short video and presentation regarding the STFC Community Foundation's new sports facility. A copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book. The Head of Foundation provided insight into the wide-ranging activities that are hosted at the facility.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

Cllr S James left the meeting during this item.

RESOLVED: To note the presentation.

2324 – 223 Parish Council Gateway Signage

The Communications Officer provided a written report regarding gateway signage at vehicular entry points into the Parish. A copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 Approve the purchase of the gateway signage.

3.2 Approve the design of the signage. Decide to go with the design above in 2.4 or order the additional panels described in 2.5.

AMENDMENT: To approve the removal of 'Please Drive Carefully'. To approve the change from 'Supporting South Swindon in Bloom' to 'South West in Bloom Winner'.

3.3 Approve the 5 locations, pending approval from Swindon Borough Council and delegate exact locations to the CEO.

AMENDMENT: To approve 6 locations, pending approval from Swindon Borough Council and delegate exact locations to the CEO.

3.4 Delegate to the CEO to source a contractor, or delegate the work internally, depending on staff workload.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 and 3.4.

To approve recommendation 3.2 with the proposed amendment.

To approve recommendation 3.3 with the proposed amendment.

2324 – 224

South Swindon In Bloom

The Parish Council's Open Spaces Consultant provided members with a written report that provided an update on the South Swindon in Bloom entry into the 2023 South West in Bloom competition and proposes a number of recommendations to be considered. A copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 Resolve to agree that the Parish Council continues to support the South Swindon in Bloom entry into the South West in Bloom main competition in 2024 (Champion of Champion category).

3.2 Resolve to agree that the Judges feedback be implemented for any future entry.

3.3 Resolve to agree to the Bloom Strategy for 2024 as detailed in the Report.

3.4 Resolve to agree to continue to encourage greater community and business participation for the South Swindon in Bloom project and the Its Your Neighbourhood Scheme.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4.

2324 –225

Rewilding Strategy Review

The Parish Council's Open Spaces Consultant provided members with a written report reviewing the Parish Council's Rewilding Strategy this year. A copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: **Recommendation**

3.1 Resolve to proceed with the current list of re-wilding areas listed in Point 2.1 for 2024.

3.2 Request the Parish Council Deputy CEO investigate the purchase of a new or suitable second-hand flail mower collector and to purchase this equipment if the cost is within the Clerk's delegated spending limits.

3.3 Note the current discussions with Swindon Borough Council regarding new rewilding schemes funded by the Biodiversity Net Gain fund.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

2324 – 226

Allotment Service Update

The Deputy CEO provided members with a written report from the Parish Council's CEO regarding changes to allotment fees for non-parishioner allotment holders. A copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

Recommendation

3.1 That the committee decides whether alternative options for charging of non-parishioners that had plots prior to the parish being established should be implemented.

3.2 If the committee are minded to they should recommend a charging structure to Full Council in November.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

To approve alternative option 3 – pre-2018 non-parishioners paying the equal, numerical price increase in line with parishioners.

		Number of Plots	23/24	Income	2024/25 Alt. 3	Income
Non-Parishioner pre-2018	Full Plot	8	£80	£640	£126	£1,008
	Full (65+)	2	£76	£152	£118	£236
	Half Plot	21	£40	£840	£63	£1,323
	Half (65+)	13	£38	£494	£59	£767

2324 – 227

Heritage Action Zone Interpretation Signage

The Deputy CEO provided members with a written report from Swindon's Heritage Action Zone Officer regarding interpretation signage in GWR Park and the wider Railway Village area. A copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: To agree the inclusion of a lectern style information board just inside the park - by the Exeter Street entrance.

2324 – 228

Tree Planting Update

The Parish Council's Administration Assistant submitted a report regarding new tree planting in the Parish. A copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.

Recommendation

3.1 To note the report and consider next steps regarding tree planting in the new planting season.

RESOLVED: That an informal meeting be convened to consider tree planting areas within the Parish.

2324 – 229

Polish Memorial in Queen's Park

The Deputy CEO provided a written report to consider a request from Swindon's Polish Committee for a Polish Memorial. A copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute Book.

Recommendation

3.1 Consider the request from polish community members for a Polish Memorial at the location in Queen's Park identified in Point 2.3.

3.2 Consider if the committee wishes to provide any feedback on the design of the memorial highlighted in Point 2.2.

RESOLVED: For the Deputy CEO to request that the Polish Committee consider a plaque on the Mother

Language Tongue memorial in GWR park.

2324 – 230

Buckhurst Field Improvement Plan Update

The Deputy CEO provided members with a written report on the Parish Council's emerging plans for Buckhurst Field. A copy of which appears as Appendix I in the Minute Book.

Recommendation

3.1 To note the contents of this report.

3.2 To provide comment on the current direction of the Buckhurst Field Improvement Plan and pitch lease/hire fee with the Swindon Junior Robins.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the report.

To approve the Deputy CEO's emerging plans as per the written report.

2324 – 231

Arts Workshops in the Town Gardens Bowl

The Deputy CEO provided members with a written report regarding an evaluation from Prime Theatre on the arts workshops the Parish Council commissioned for young people in the Town Gardens Bowl. A copy of which appears as Appendix J in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED:

To note the evaluation report.

Meeting Closes at 21.26pm

Singed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council