

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2024 at 6.30pm
In the Council Chamber, Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, Swindon.

Present:

Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair)	Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr S Allsopp	Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinney
Cllr R Banwell-Moore	Cllr R Leather
Cllr M Davies	Cllr J Pereira
Cllr D Dias	Cllr G Philpot
Cllr J Firmin	Cllr T Philpot
Cllr D Griffiths	Cllr T Silberberg
Cllr P Herring	Cllr D Vales
Cllr S James	Cllr N Watts

Officers: Jake Mee Chief Executive Officer

Public: One

Borough Representatives Cllr Chris Watts

Apologies: Cllr N Hopkins Cllr J Miah
Cllr J Ali
Cllr S Ahmed

Absences: Cllr A Hamid

Public Questions A member of Queens Park Community Council in attendance spoke to Item 13 on the agenda regarding the Mesothelioma Garden, Queens Park.

They offered a donation of £500 from the QPCC towards a train wheel or other train related element for the garden and would liaise with the CEO.

2324 - 355 Apologies

Cllr N Hopkins, Cllr J Ali, A, Cllr S Ahmed, Cllr J Miah

2324 – 356 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None

2324 - 357 Chairs Report

As the Chair had given their apologies no report was given.

2324 – 358 Minutes – Full Council 20 February 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

2324 – 359 Minutes – Leisure, Environment & Amenities 05 March 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 5th March 2024 be adopted and approved as a correct record.

2324 – 360 Payment Schedule – February 2024

The Chief Executive Officer submitted the Payment Schedule for February 2024, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: that the Payment Schedule for February 2024, totalling £247,786.23 be approved.

2324 – 361 Accounts – January 2024

The Chief Executive Officer submitted the accounts for January 2024, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the minute book.

RESOLVED: That the accounts for January 2024 be approved.

2324 – 362 Accounts – February 2024

The Chief Executive Officer submitted the accounts for February 2024, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the minute book.

RESOLVED: That the accounts for February 2024 be approved.

2324 – 363 Community Planters

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding community planters, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 Subject to permission from the Highways Authority, authorise the CEO to deliver planters at the Kent Road and Prospect Place sites as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: to approve recommendation 3.1

2324 – 364 Christmas Trees Order

The Community Facilities Officer submitted a report regarding Christmas trees, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 Hire three Christmas Trees from Company 1 based on the specification in Point 2.4 and the quote in Point 2.5 of £15,750. An order prior to 31st March will guarantee these costs.

3.2 Request that Parish Council Officers begin work in engaging the respective communities around the proposed tree locations in consultation with the Events Working Party.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2

2324 – 365 Mural at GWR Park Substation

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding a mural on the substation at GWR Park, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 Subject to permission from SSEN, to authorise the CEO to commission a mural at the GWR Park substation.

3.2 Authorise the CEO to agree to the design of a mural at the substation in consultation with the Assets Working Party and Central Ward Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2

2324 – 366

Broadgreen Block Booking

Cllrs Domingos and Pereira submitted a report regarding a private booking by them consisting of community activities and a potential discount for bulk booking Broadgreen community centre, a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the minute book.

Recommendations

3.1 That council consider the request to grant a discretionary discount of £15ph for a 12-week trial period of the above activities hosted at Broadgreen Community Centre.

3.2 That the community facilities charging structure be reviewed to include potential discounts for block/bulk bookings.

As Cllrs Domingos and Pereira had declared a pecuniary interest in this item they left the meeting whilst discussion and voting took place.

Councillors discussed concerns around clashes with existing bookings, the proposed discount being too large, diversity of the community activities, continuity after the trial period ends, confusion over whether it was a parish led exercise,

It was proposed that a formal charging structure review to include block and bulk bookings should be carried out.

RESOLVED: That the Assets Working Party draft a charging structure to include bulk and block bookings for community facilities to be brought to the April Full Council meeting.

Cllrs Dias and Periera rejoined the meeting.

2324 – 367

Mesothelioma Garden, Queens Park

The Parish Projects Office presented a report regarding the refurbishment of The Mesothelioma Garden in Queens Park, a copy of which appears as Appendix G in the minute book,

Recommendations

Since this project is highly important to the parish and will receive a great deal of scrutiny and public attention, it is vital that a quality and timely job is delivered.

Despite being £2,075 more expensive than contractor 1, the officer recommends we award this job to contractor 3.

Whilst there is no doubt contractor 1 could deliver the project, the officer strongly believes the extra cost is worth it, to secure contractor 3. They will give the parish

council a greater guarantee of quality and workmanship. Contractor 3 have delivered many prestigious garden and park renovation projects throughout the south-west already, some of which are known to the Projects Officer. They have worked for many large landowners including the National Trust, English Heritage, The American Museum and BANES Council. This pedigree is hard to dispute and the officer wishes to hire these services for this important project.

1. Choose contractor 3 to build the project.
2. Enable a budget of £50,000 in total to allow for the contract to be delivered and a train wheel or railway themed item of similar historical significance, to be sourced for the garden.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 1 and 2

2324 – 368 Library Report

The Libraries Manager submitted a report regarding Old Town Library, a copy of which appears as Appendix H in the minute book.

Recommendations

6.1 That the Parish Council agree to the changed opening hours at Old Town Library as proposed in Point 5 for a trial period of 1 year, to be reviewed after 6 months.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 6.1

2324 – 369 The Works Group (HAZ Legacy)

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a draft Terms of Reference for The Works Group (HAZ Legacy), a copy of which appears as Appendix I in the minute book.

RESOLVED: to respond with the Parish Councils support for the Terms of Reference as drafted and to request that Central Swindon North Parish Council be added to the composition of the group.

Meeting Closed at 19:45pm

Signed:

Dated:

Chair of the Parish Council