



WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2018 at 7.30pm
in The Ellendune Community Centre.

Present

Cllr P Bhardwaj
Cllr L Campisano
Cllr H Dosanjh
Cllr J Hewer
Cllr H Hodd
Cllr G Jones
Cllr C Kennedy
Cllr T Kimberley-Fairbourn
Cllr D Phillips
Cllr A Richards
Cllr A Woodhead

Clerk

Jodie Smart

FC/133

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr C Clark, Cllr S Harcourt and Cllr A Spry. No apologies were received from Cllr D Wells.

FC/134

Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr A Woodhead declared an interest in agenda item 11 as Group Scout Chairman and spouse of a Wroughton Youth Football Club Manager.

FC/135

Public Questions

There were two members of the public present who made no representations.

FC/136

Councillor Co-option

In accordance with standing order 3(p) two members had formally requested a signed ballot.

Members **RESOLVED** to elect Diane Phillips as a Co-opted Councillor.

Cllr D Phillips joined the meeting.

FC/137

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 October 2018.

FC/138

Information from Borough Councillors

Cllr Cathy Martyn informed members that she had received complaints regarding parking issues within the village. Cllr Martyn added that there was not a great deal that Swindon Borough Council could do to alleviate the problem, they ask motorists to park considerably and allow enough space for refuse lorries to access roads. Cllr Martyn commented that she had spoken with the cabinet member responsible for refuse and

asked that residents who are unable to have their rubbish collected due to access problems are given the opportunity of another collection.

Cllr Martyn advised members that she had spoken with Highways Officers who confirm that the patching work to Marlborough Road is adequate. Cllr J Hewer thanked Cllr Martyn for making enquiries and added that he had received concerns from cyclists who use the road. Cllr Martyn responded that she still had some questions outstanding with the Officers and would forward on any further responses.

Cllr Martyn informed members that a temporary winter housing provision was being set up within the town centre following the success of the programme last year. Cllr Martyn added that there was now a day centre available for rough sleepers to attend and engage with services if they wanted to. Cllr Hewer commented that Wroughton should feel proud of how they assist rough sleepers.

Cllr Martyn informed members that the public spaces protection order (PSPO) had been extended around the town centre. Cllr H Hodd asked how the PSPO was being enforced. Cllr Martyn responded that Swindon Borough Council Officers such as Car Park Attendants and Security Officers as well as Police Officers and 'In Swindon' representatives were responsible for asking members of the public to comply with the order and the vast majority of people are responsive.

Cllr T Kimberley-Fairbourn thanked Cllr Martyn for her work with rough sleepers. Cllr Kimberley-Fairbourn stated that she felt there was no magic answer for the parking problems but felt that the problem went hand in hand with the air pollution, Cllr Kimberley-Fairbourn asked if Swindon Borough Council were looking at other ways for people to make their journeys, assisting work from home or improving localised services. Cllr Martyn replied that Swindon Borough Council were trying to understand peoples journeys but that recent changes in Data Protection legislation meant that they could no longer access automatic number plate recognition data. Cllr Martyn added that it was the sheer volume of traffic rather than congestion that was causing an air pollution problem and that a consultation was about to go live to obtain the necessary data regarding peoples journeys and air quality action. Cllr Martyn added that she would forward a link to the consultation to the Clerk.

Cllr B Ford commended Cllr Martyn on her volunteering at the rough sleeper shelter and Cllr Martyn added that the response from volunteers this year had been excellent.

Cllr Ford informed members that his portfolio for Adult Health was underspent by £1.3m, however Children's Services were unfortunately massively over budget and were looking at ways to reduce their costs. Cllr Ford added that Adult Services had bought services back into Swindon Borough Council as it was more cost efficient and had a bigger network of support. Cllr Ford stated that Swindon Borough Council were nominated for a National Award following their considerable reduction in delayed transfer of care (bed blocking).

Cllr Ford informed members that patching work for Wharf Road was due to start on 10 December, weather permitting. Cllr Ford added that he and Cllr Martyn had received seven attendees at a recent surgery and most of the complaints were regarding highways or parking issues.

Cllr A Woodhead informed the Borough Councillors of a recent visit from Angus MacPherson, Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner who had given the impression that low level crime in Wroughton was not high on the Police agenda. Cllr Woodhead asked if Swindon Borough Councillors could influence local policing. Cllr Martyn responded that she had monthly meetings with the Super Intendant and encouraged the Parish Council to continue to encourage residents to report crimes to the Police as they are witnessed so that resources can be allocated accordingly. Cllr Ford added that Social Services report regularly to the police and work with them to protect vulnerable people. Cllr Martyn added that the Police and Swindon Borough Council Officers were working in a joined up approach. Cllr H Hodd added that the message from Angus MacPherson appeared to be that Police were busy dealing with issues in the Town Centre. Cllr Hodd commented that crimes were escalating in Wroughton because the perpetrators are getting away with it. Cllr Martyn responded that Police were now engaging in schools and promoting children's first experience of Police as a positive one. Police were also working with children at a high risk of becoming involved in crime through a mentoring scheme, adding that early intervention is key.

Cllr G Jones stated that it was good news that Hospital Road had been resurfaced, stated that the top of Priors hill still needed work and asked how the repairs had come about. Cllr Ford responded that he and Cllr Martyn had pleaded with the Cabinet Member responsible and that they had agreed that access for buses to Thorney Park particularly for School children was essential. Cllr Jones asked if the road owner could be asked to pay for the remaining repairs. Cllr Ford replied that he would make the request to the land owner.

Cllr H Dosanjh stated that she had spoken with the owner of Overtown Manor House and encouraged her to respond to the Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). Cllr Dosanjh stated that the resident had refused on the basis that more houses along Hospital Road may discourage the criminal activity or increase police presence in the area. Cllr Ford responded and encouraged the home owner to report any criminal activity to the police as they were able to enforce the law on private roads. Cllr Ford also asked the resident to respond to the SHELAA. Cllr Martyn added that the formal consultation will take place next year when the Local Plan was at review stage. Cllr Ford added that Government had announced that they were strengthening Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Dosanjh commented that the Service Manager for Planning Policy had stated that Swindon Borough Council were two years away from having a three year housing supply. Cllr Dosanjh added that Wichelstowe was estimated to take fifteen to twenty years to build out, could Swindon Borough Council access funds to build council housing. Cllr Martyn responded that Central Government had lifted the cap on housing revenue loans but that Swindon Borough Council had inherited £140m of debt when Central Government recalculated the national housing debt and allocated debts to Councils accordingly. This meant that Swindon Borough Council has to be extremely prudent when considering further borrowing. Cllr Ford added that Swindon Borough Council had performed two ballots of Council tenants asking if they would transfer to a housing association which would wipe the debt, however council tenants had voted to remain with the council on both occasions. Cllr Martyn informed members that grants from Homes England were only accessible for additional homes rather than replacement council homes. Cllr Martyn added that maintenance costs of existing council homes also had to be prioritised, particularly because Swindon had many non-standard builds such as

listed buildings in the Railway Village and many concrete structure builds. Swindon also has many tower blocks such as the David Murray John and six high rises which all need general maintenance. Cllr Ford added that Central Government had also reduced the Council rent payable by tenants over the past four years.

Cllr B Ford and Cllr C Martyn left the meeting at 8.15pm.

FC/139

Youth Advisors

Members **NOTED** that the Clerk had contacted Ridgeway School to request applications for the Youth Advisor position.

FC/140

Parish Council Representatives' Report

Members **NOTED** the verbal report of Cllr A Woodhead regarding the Wroughton Community Asset Trust. Cllr Woodhead informed members that the library were purchasing movable bookshelves to increase the book stock. Cllr Woodhead added that usage figures were good and that they had received great feedback since the move into the Christine Spooncer Suite. Cllr Woodhead commented that the local schools and pre-schools had been contacted to encourage them to use the library. Cllr Woodhead stated that they would be putting up some Christmas decorations, bearing in mind that the space needed to be used by other hirers. Cllr Woodhead noted that the Victoria Cross replica was now on display and that the library was now being used by the History Group, Quilters and Book Clubs. Cllr A Richards added that the library hours had been tweaked to fit with usage figures and feedback from users. Cllr Richards also stated that they had been very fortunate with their Librarian who was working on encouraging children's activities and had introduced a craft club. Cllr Woodhead added that they were in the process of organising several launch events, using transitional funds from Swindon Borough Council to put on different events to suite the different demographics of the users. Cllr C Kennedy asked if users were aware that they could use the Swindon Libraries Apps to renew their book loans. Cllr Woodhead replied that they had put communications out but these could be refreshed.

Members **NOTED** the verbal report of Cllr H Dosanjh. Cllr Dosanjh informed members that she would be attending a meeting with Vision 4 Wroughton, Swindon Borough Council and the Ridgeway School to discuss signage for the community forest footpaths.

Members **NOTED** the verbal report of Cllr G Jones. Cllr Jones informed members that the Ellendune Hall Trust had met the previous week. Cllr Jones stated that the Centre Manager continued to work full time to continue her work on the invoicing backlog. Cllr Jones added that the Centre Manager was doing a great job and was being assisted by one of the Trustees. Cllr Jones added that the Centre was now fully staffed following the recruitment of a Trust Administrator. Cllr Jones reported that the footfall of the craft fayre on Remembrance Sunday had been very good and that the Centre Manager had learnt some tips to take forward into next year's event. Cllr Jones informed members that the Trust had received surveys of the electrics and plumbing within the Community Centre and were awaiting quotations for some improvements to the systems. Cllr Jones stated that the Trust would not be self-funding in the short term and were working on a grant application to the Parish Council.

FC/141

Chair's Report

A copy of the Chair's weekly precis reports appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Members **NOTED** the verbal report of the Chair. The Chair reported that historical plans such as the emergency and flood plans were being brought back to the relevant committees for review.

FC/142

Clerk's Report

Members **NOTED** the verbal report of the Clerk. The Clerk gave an update on work currently underway by Parish Council staff which included:

The new Grounds Team Member settling in very well.

The Clerical Assistant has passed her Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) qualification.

The Youth Team had proved to be very engaging during the open evening. Work is in progress to continue to make improvements to the setting and provide necessary equipment.

A Data Protection information pack is being formulated for all staff and councillors.

The recent priorities meeting had been very helpful, a draft table of priorities will be issued this coming week.

Cllr H Hodd asked if she could distribute leaflets to young people regarding the Youth Club open evenings. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that any Councillor could take some leaflets.

FC/143

Sports and Youth Facilities Working Party

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Danielle Maundrell, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Early Years Planning, Education, for Swindon Borough Council on to the Sports and Youth Facilities Working Party.

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Neal Maule and Paul Brown from Wroughton Youth FC on to the Sports and Youth Facilities Working Party.

Members **NOTED** the report of the Sports and Youth Facilities Working Party, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book. Members **RESOLVED** to appoint SWA Architects to progress the Maunsell Way project to RIBA stage 3 at a cost of £15,025.00.

FC/144

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Members **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr H Hodd on to the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

FC/145

Badgers Brook Play Area

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the area marked on the map, (a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book) to be leased to the parish council by Swindon Borough Council for a ninety nine year term.

FC/146

WALC – Employment Support Consultation

Members **NOTED** the employment support consultation received from Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC), a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Members **RESOLVED** to respond positively to the consultation, in agreement with a 4% increase in subscriptions which will provide HR consultancy to member councils.

FC/147 **Emergency Planning - Brexit**

Members **RESOLVED** to contact Swindon Borough Council to request information from the Local Resilience Forum regarding emergency planning, including contingencies for Brexit.

Members **RESOLVED** to reinstate the Emergency Planning Working Party with Terms of Reference to be agreed at the December meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint the following members on to the Emergency Planning Working Party:

Cllr Talis Kimberley-Fairbourn

Cllr Hazel Hodd

Cllr Diane Phillips

Cllr Ann Richards

Cllr Amanda Woodhead

FC/148 **Calendar of Meetings**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2019, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book, with one amendment of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting being held on 15 May 2019 rather than 20 May 2019.

FC/149 **Wharf Road Public Convenience**

Members **NOTED** that the Chairs of the Community Buildings Committee and Wroughton Community Asset Trust had decided not to proceed with discussions regarding the transfer of Wharf Road toilets.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Council