



St Andrews Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance/Play Areas Committee Meeting

Held on Thursday 15th August 2024 at 7:00pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Steve Heyes (Chairman), Sue MacDonald and Paul West.
Officer Present: Louise Rose – Administrative Officer
Luke Jones – Grounds Maintenance Manager (GMM)
Public Present: 0

The meeting started at 7.10 pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3. MINUTES TO BE SIGNED

Resolved

4. PUBLIC RECESS

Members of the public are invited to make representations to St Andrews Parish Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

5. ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Sue MacDonald to be Vice-Chairman

6. OPEN SPACES

- i) Members received the open spaces spreadsheet and the GMM reported that all issues had been dealt with.
- ii) Members received the play parks issues spreadsheet and the GMM reported that Bridlewood swings had been painted. There was a discussion about modifying the surface of Delius Park to better manage flood issues

7. TREES ON VAUGHAN WILLIAMS WAY

The council discussed concerns with Swindon Borough Council regarding several trees that have become top-heavy, leading to instability due to insufficient root support. As part of the ongoing Trees for Climate project, it was agreed that 18-20 new fastigate flowering cherry trees could be planted to address this issue.

8. BIN SIGNS

The council discussed the need to update the bin signage to ensure consistency across all locations. It was agreed that each bin should have an ID number, as well as a contact telephone number and email address to make them easily identifiable. The council also agreed to explore different design options for the new signs.

9. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The council discussed the potential benefits of implementing an occupational health program, which would support both staff well-being and the council's overall efficiency. It was agreed upon that more information on this initiative from different companies be gathered to explore further options.

10. EMPTYING THE BINS ON A WEEKEND

The council discussed the possibility of collaborating with Haydon Wick Parish to introduce a weekend bin service. It was agreed that further discussions with Haydon Wick Parish would be necessary to explore this potential partnership in more detail.

11. TREES FOR CLIMATE PHASE 2

It was discussed that Groundwell West, a large open space with banks that limit other uses, could benefit from planting. Shrubs for bird nesting were considered, along with a variety of tree species and a discussion on incorporating different colours in the area.

12. WEED SPRAYING

AGREED to discuss and investigate a joint tender with Haydon Wick for Weed spraying to gain economy of scale

Chairmans Announcements

Swindon Borough Council will be transferring responsibility for some grounds maintenance. Initial discussion suggested that the council consider outsourcing these services to a specialised company.