



St Andrews Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Play Areas and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 11:00am at The Parish Office, Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Daniel Adams, Jean Blake, Vera Tomlinson and Vince Williams
Officers Present: Emma Sylvester (Clerk), Martin Hambidge (Swindon Borough Council), Luke Jones (Swindon Borough Council)
Public Present: One

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Mary Friend

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
None

**30 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

To accept and the sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 25th July 2019 as a true record.

31 PUBLIC RECESS

A resident from Abbey Meads spoke to the committee regarding overgrown hedges at Stewart Close. Members were shown photographs. After some discussions regarding the schedule of works and visibility issues it was agreed to cut the hedges back before the scheduled visit.

32 POLLINATOR PATHWAYS

Members received a proposed plan for establishing pollinator pathways in the parish starting with Diamond Jubilee Park at Addinsell. The plan (attached in the Minute Book) outlines the number of cuts and proposing starting the pollinator pathways from April 2020.

RESOLVED

To accept plan with two amendments

- to leave grass cuttings when moving the pathways

- to include verge along footpath opposite the Orbital on Thamesdown Drive

To request quote from Swindon Borough Council to carry out the plan

33 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- (i) Members received correspondence of concerns from residents regarding hedge and grass cutting at Ashbrake and Groundwell. Officers from Swindon Borough Council explained that the level of service taken by St Andrews Parish is for one hedge cut per year and although they like to follow a programme of works this isn't always possible as they have to carry out emergency works at junctions to improve visibility. This leaves residents disappointed that the whole area has not been cut. They added that previously Swindon Borough Council carried out 4 cuts per year which helped keep the brambles down. Swindon Borough Council informed the committee that a good idea would be to employ a small hit team that could carry out additional requests.
- (ii) Members continued to discuss the current level of service provided with grass and hedge cutting. It was agreed to request quotes from Swindon Borough Council for improved services.
- (iii) Members discussed other issues in the parish with Swindon Borough Council as follows:
 - (a) Northbourne Road – shrubbery is growing again so leave and monitor
 - (b) Woodcutter Mews – SBC to provide quote for replacement tree
 - (c) Abbotsbury Way – SBC to reseed area
 - (d) Fencing – noted that fencing had been repaired
 - (e) Chartwell Road – Hedging scheduled to be cut to 3ft high
 - (f) Lyall Close – Area is verge and grass is growing well after being reseeded twice.
- (iv) Cllr Adams reported that he felt bin collections in the parish were not frequent enough due to a number of bins becoming overflowing between collections. Cllr Williams responded that the committee was carrying out programme to introduce new dual purpose bigger bins

which is hoped to combat this problem. Members discussed moving all bins to one contractor rather than the three separate rounds of play area bins, dog bins and litter bins.

RESOLVED

For members to assist the Clerk in producing a definitive list of bins and obtain quotes for 2020/21

To purchase 6 x dual purpose bins at a cost £1000

- 34 PLAY AREAS**
- (i) Members noted that at the Finance Committee held on 10th September spending on refurbishment of Standen Way was approved up to a maximum £2000 +VAT
 - (ii) Members discussed quotes received for road markings to be installed at Standen Way
RESOLVED
To approve quote received from TPDAL Ltd to install road markings at Standen Way at a cost of £2000 +VAT
 - (iii) Cllr Tomlinson reported that the Leader of Swindon Borough Council had agreed to fund repairs at Wallis Drive. Martin Hambidge added that he had no budget for this and had not received notification of where he would receive funding from. Cllr Tomlinson agreed to assist in clarifying details.
RESOLVED
To request Swindon Borough Council carry out repairs to Wallis Drive as follows:
Repair concrete steps to left side of slide and return right side of slide to vegetation
At top of slide return steps up to vegetation leaving small sections of steps up
Repair MUGA timber and broken panels
Pressure wash all equipment
Paint equipment
New swing and chains
 - (iv) Members discussed current issues with play areas.
RESOLVED
To undertake the following repairs to equipment and labour to fit:

a) Repair Panel at Brook Park	£398.00
b) Addinsell Slide - Repair	£650.00
c) New yellow bins x 3	£350.00
 - (iii) The clerk reported Swindon Borough Council had been informed of the parish council's solicitor and a response was awaited.

The meeting closed at 12.31pm

Chairman _____

Date _____