

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 24 JANUARY 2019

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Claire Crilly, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, James Robbins, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Carol Shelley, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Gary Sumner, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

63. Minutes Silence

The Council held a Minutes Silence in memory of Mr Maurice Fanning, a Member of Thamesdown Borough Council and this Council between 1987 and 2010 and Mayor of the Borough during the Municipal Year 1997/98.

64. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Matthew Courtliff, Janine Howarth, Teresa Page and Andy Spry.

65. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

66. Minutes

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2018, be confirmed and signed.

67. Declarations of Interest

The Worshipful The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Jim Robbins made a prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 7(a) as he was employed by a Member of the European Parliament.

Councillors Kevin Parry and Chris Watts made personal and non- prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 7(c) and (d) in their capacity as Chairs of Parish Councils within the Borough.

Mr John Ranford submitted written questions regarding climate change. The Council was advised that the Leader of the Council had provided a written response to Mr Ranford's questions and this had been circulated at the meeting.

Mr Ranford asked a supplementary questions regarding the effects of climate change. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr Andy Bentley submitted written questions regarding changes required to combat the effects of climate change in Swindon. The Council was advised that the Leader of the Council had provided a written response to Mr Bentley's questions and this had been circulated at the meeting.

Mr Bentley asked a supplementary question regarding Council targets to help combat climate change. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr Bill Janson asked a public question regarding the Council's work to become carbon neutral by 2030. The Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity responded at the meeting.

Ms Helen Harris asked a public question on the Council's plans to combat environmental issues and mental health problems arising from climate change. The Cabinet Member for Adults' responded at the meeting.

Mr Tika Dilly asked a public question regarding the Council's Emergency Planning in the event of social unrest arising from climate change. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Ms Jane Francis asked a public question regarding the funding of homelessness services and youth centres. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.

Mr Timothy Makofu asked a public question regarding the current status of Toothill Community Centre. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Ms Mavis Read asked a public question regarding the current status in the issue of a lease for Toothill Farmhouse. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Ms Read asked a supplementary question regarding the urgency in agreeing a lease in respect of Toothill Farmhouse. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Mr Dennis Yeoman asked a public question in respect of Council funding for works to the Health Hydro following the condition survey undertaken by the Council. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Mr Gerry Hannon requested a meeting of representatives of the Health Hydro Joint Steering Group, Swindon Borough Council and GLL to discuss the works to be

carried out at this site. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Mr Simon Smith asked a public question regarding the conservation of wildlife through the protection of green open spaces and wildflower grassland within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning responded at the meeting.

Ms Lucy Holmes asked a public questions seeking clarification on educational opportunities available within the Borough in respect of environmental issues and environmental friendly industry. The Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity responded at the meeting.

Ms Sam Corsham asked a public question regarding who was responsible for ensuring the protection of the Health Hydro's building's fabric during any works undertaken. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

69. Minutes for Confirmation

Councillor Vera Tomlinson moved and Councillor Brian Mattock seconded:

"That Minute 19 of the Licensing Committee (Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Principles) be confirmed and adopted".

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

Councillor Vera Tomlinson moved and Councillor Brian Mattock seconded:

"That Minute 25 of the Licensing Committee be confirmed (Introduction of a Local Policy in respect of Home Boarding Businesses with Additional Hosts) be confirmed and adopted".

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

Councillor Vera Tomlinson moved and Councillor Brian Mattock seconded:

"That Minute 26 of the Licensing Committee (Street Trading) be confirmed and adopted".

Councillor Bob Wright moved and Councillor Emma Faramarzi seconded:

"That Minute 51 of the Scrutiny Committee (Possible effects of leaving the EU) be noted".

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

70. Motion - Toothill Open Space

Councillor Steph Exell moved and Councillor Jim Robbins seconded:

"This Council:

- Notes the concerns of Toothill residents regarding the allocation of sites within Toothill that were on the Council's Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).
- Notes that a Cabinet Member Decision Note from the Deputy Leader of the Council had been consulted on proposing to dispose of four sites along Bodiam Drive to the private sector for housing through the Swindon Housing Company.
- Notes that a petition has been started both in paper copy and online that has obtained 573 signatures calling on the Council to protect the open spaces along Bodiam Drive and across Toothill and not to sell them off for development.
- Welcomes the announcement from the relevant Cabinet Member that sites along Bodiam Drive will be removed from the updated SHELAA, but is concerned that there are still sites in Toothill that are green spaces that have not been removed.
- Is concerned that there has been no announcement from the Deputy Leader of the Council that his proposal to sell-off parcels of land for development have been scrapped.

Requests the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning to remove all green spaces in Toothill from the SHELAA and requests the Deputy Leader of the Council to formally withdraw the Cabinet Member Decision Note proposing to dispose of four parcels of land along Bodiam Drive for development from the private sector and to give Ward Councillors all sites being considered for development through the Housing Company."

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor Gary Sumner seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

"This Council:

- Notes the concerns of Toothill residents regarding the allocation of sites within Toothill that were on the Council's Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).
- Notes that a Cabinet Member Decision Note from the Deputy Leader of the Council had been consulted on proposing to dispose of four sites along Bodiam Drive to the private sector for housing through the Swindon Housing Company.
- Notes that a petition has been started both in paper copy and online that has obtained 573 signatures calling on the Council to protect the open spaces along Bodiam Drive and across Toothill and not to sell them off for development.
- Welcomes the announcement from the relevant Cabinet Member that sites along Bodiam Drive will be removed from the updated SHELAA.

- Recognises that Swindon has a need for additional housing but respects the rights of Ward Councillors to make representations concerning any proposed development in their Ward.
- Requests that the petition is taken into account in respect of any decision making concerning the disposal of any site in Bodiam Drive together with any representations from Ward Councillors.”

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillors Kevin Parry and Chris Watts made personal and non-prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of this item in their capacity as Chairs of Parish Councils within the Borough.)

71. Motion - Land for Development

Councillor Chris Watts moved and Councillor Jane Milner-Barry seconded:

“This Council:

- Reaffirms its commitment to protecting allocated “Open Space” and “Strategic Green Corridor” parcels of land as defined and universally agreed upon within the Local Plan 2015.
- Reasserts, builds upon and prioritises the importance of adequate and strategic green and open space as a vital component part to delivering a framework to contribute to health and wellbeing when considering the next revision of the Local Plan.
- Notes Central Swindon South Parish Council’s, known as South Swindon Parish Council, request for the Council to transfer to the Parish Council the parcels of land set out below on 99 year leases to protect them from potential development.

Site description: Lakeside - shela id: S0388

site description: Land north of Coate roundabout - shela id: S0256
(Oldlands Walk)

site description: Land east of 261 Marlborough Road - shela id: S0288

Requests the Cabinet Members for Strategic Planning and Finance bring a report to Cabinet outlining how the Council could meet this request from Central Swindon South Parish Council.”

At the request of the mover and seconder and with the agreement of the Council the Motion was amended to read:

“This Council:

- Reaffirms its commitment to protecting allocated “Open Space” and “Strategic Green Corridor” parcels of land as defined and universally agreed upon within the Local Plan 2015.
- Reasserts, builds upon and prioritises the importance of adequate and strategic green and open space as a vital component part to delivering a framework to contribute to health and wellbeing when considering the next revision of the Local Plan.
- Notes Central Swindon South Parish Council’s, known as South Swindon Parish Council, request for the Council to transfer to the Parish Council the parcels of land set out below on 99 year leases to protect them from potential development.

Site description: Lakeside - shela id: S0388

Site description: Land north of Coate roundabout - shela id: S0256 (Oldlands Walk)

Site description: Land east of 261 Marlborough Road - shela id: S0288

- Request that the Leader of the Council brings forward a report to Cabinet outlining how this request, and similar Parish Council lease requests can be agreed through a transparent mechanism to protect open space.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillors Kevin Parry and Chris Watts made personal and non-prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of this item in their capacity as Chairs of Parish Councils within the Borough.)

72. Motion - Climate Change

Councillor Cathy Martyn moved and Councillor Oliver Donachie seconded:

This Council recognises that:

1. Climate change is a reality and a world-wide effort is essential to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 2 degrees.
2. The UK has a world-first Climate Change Act with a legally-binding target of an 80 per cent emissions cut by 2050, and shorter-term national carbon budgets ensuring year-on-year emissions cuts.
3. Local authorities have a big say in how we heat and power our homes and how we get around, and are vital to building low carbon communities and meeting our national climate commitments.
4. It makes good economic sense to continue to take action now to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions. If we delay acting on emissions, it will only mean

more radical intervention in the future at greater cost, and larger impacts on society.

Notes that:

1. The Government has made a commitment to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it and we welcome the Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill, the first in over twenty years, which will be an essential step towards this goal. The Government has pledged to support increased biodiversity and thriving plants and wildlife and to continue to clean up our air and our water, creating a healthier environment.
2. This Administration will continue to commit to cutting down unnecessary resource use and waste, reducing our impact on the world and shaping a more efficient, sustainable and competitive economy. Nothing is more important than demonstrating our responsibilities to the next generation. Tackling climate change is an essential to those responsibilities. We must rise to the challenge
3. Taking action now can also help to achieve long-term, sustainable economic growth from a low-carbon economy. Benefits of the development of green industries in the town include the potential for create well-paid, high-skilled employment locally, regionally and nationally

Requests that the Leader of the Council:

1. Calls on the Government to provide additional powers and resources to ensure Swindon Borough Council can help deliver on national targets limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C as per the Paris agreement.
2. Reinforces the Council's commitment to Pledge 2.
3. Request the Cabinet to consider adopting a policy where all future Key Decisions are considered for their alignment to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance.

Councillor Jane Milner-Barry moved and Councillor Stan Pajak seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

That this Council recognises:

1. Climate change is a reality and a worldwide effort is essential to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 1.5°. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1° from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million. This far exceeds the 350ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.
2. Local authorities have a big say in how we construct, heat and power our buildings, and how we get around, and are vital to building zero carbon

communities and meeting our climate commitments. Local governments around the world are taking action on climate change without waiting for direction from higher tiers of authority;

3. Delaying action on greenhouse gas emissions is not an option. But it also makes good economic sense to take action now to drastically cut emissions. Taking action now can help to achieve long-term, sustainable economic growth from a low-carbon economy. The benefits of the development of green industries in the town include the potential to create well-paid, high-skilled employment;
4. Swindon benefits from renewable energy on a large scale and is a hydrogen hub. Swindon is home to many high-tech companies involved in renewable energy, energy storage and waste reduction. Swindon is therefore well placed to be in the vanguard of the transition to a zero-carbon economy.
5. This Administration will continue to commit to cutting down unnecessary resource use and waste, reducing our impact on the world and shaping a more efficient, sustainable and competitive economy. Nothing is more important than demonstrating our responsibilities to the next generation. Tackling climate change is essential to those responsibilities. We must rise to the challenge.
6. Successive national governments, and the media, have not adequately informed people of the facts about climate change, the nature of the dangers it presents to their families, and the behaviour changes needed to mitigate it.

That this Council resolves:

1. To declare a Climate Emergency.
2. To request the Leader commission a report on how best to commit the council to achieving a carbon neutral Swindon by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
3. To call on the Government to provide additional powers and resources to ensure that local authorities such as Swindon Borough Council can help limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°.
4. To require that all future policy proposals are to be accompanied by a Climate Change Impact Assessment setting out their impact on Swindon's CO₂-equivalent emissions.
5. To set up a Working Party including representatives of Swindon Borough Council, Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Swindon Climate Action Network to develop an outline plan to reduce Swindon's CO₂-equivalent emissions to zero by 2030 and to submit the plan to Full Council by 31 July 2019; and thereafter to monitor progress and produce annual reports.
6. To work with other authorities from parish to international level to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°.

7. To work with partners across the town and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.
8. To develop our understanding of the likely impacts of climate change in Swindon and work to make the town more resilient to them;
9. To request the cabinet member to instruct the Planning Department to investigate the extent of SBC's planning powers and to bring forward proposals as to how to make full use of them through the revised Local Plan to bring the CO2 emissions of all new buildings both in construction and use as near zero as can be achieved;
10. To request the leader to ask the Communications Department to report on how best to disseminate, on an ongoing priority, the facts about climate change, the nature of the dangers it presents to Swindon families, and the practical behaviour changes needed to mitigate it;
11. To call on the Wiltshire Pension Fund to divest the 3% of its funds which are held in fossil fuel companies."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

At the request of the mover and seconder and with the agreement of the Council the Motion was amended to read:

This Council recognises that:

1. Climate change is a reality and a world-wide effort is essential to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 2 degrees.
2. The UK has a world-first Climate Change Act with a legally-binding target of an 80 per cent emissions cut by 2050, and shorter-term national carbon budgets ensuring year-on-year emissions cuts.
3. Local authorities have a big say in how we heat and power our homes and how we get around, and are vital to building low carbon communities and meeting our national climate commitments.
4. It makes good economic sense to continue to take action now to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions. If we delay acting on emissions, it will only mean more radical intervention in the future at greater cost, and larger impacts on society.

Notes that:

1. The Government has made a commitment to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it and we welcome the Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill, the first in over twenty years, which will be an essential step towards this goal. The Government has

pledged to support increased biodiversity and thriving plants and wildlife and to continue to clean up our air and our water, creating a healthier environment.

2. This Administration will continue to commit to cutting down unnecessary resource use and waste, reducing our impact on the world and shaping a more efficient, sustainable and competitive economy. Nothing is more important than demonstrating our responsibilities to the next generation. Tackling climate change is an essential to those responsibilities. We must rise to the challenge
3. Taking action now can also help to achieve long-term, sustainable economic growth from a low-carbon economy. Benefits of the development of green industries in the town include the potential for create well-paid, high-skilled employment locally, regionally and nationally

Requests that the Leader of the Council:

1. Calls on the Government to provide additional powers and resources to ensure Swindon Borough Council can help deliver on national targets limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C as per the Paris agreement.
2. Reinforces the Council's commitment to Pledge 2.
3. Request the Cabinet to consider adopting a policy where all future Key Decisions are considered for their alignment to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance.
4. To establish a cross party Climate Change Working Group to consider what additional measures the Council can take to combat climate change.

The Motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Jim Robbins made a prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was employed by a Member of the European Parliament.)

73. Motion - Domestic Abuse

Councillor Mary Martin moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded:

“This Council recognises that:

1. In 2017-18, there were more than 5,000 reported incidents of Domestic Abuse reported to the Police in Swindon, approximately 2,500 of which were recorded as crimes. There have been more than 300 high risk cases reported to Swindon MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Conference) which involved 680 children in those families. The cost to organisations across Swindon is approximately £19M per year.

It is understood that many incidents of Domestic Abuse go unreported and the figure for actual incidents of DA is higher than the reported figure.

2. Anyone can be a victim of Domestic Abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background.
3. Domestic Abuse can manifest itself in many ways including; emotional, physical, sexual, psychological and financial.

Notes that:

1. The Council is already engaged in awareness and education around Domestic Abuse including the work carried out through the Community Safety Partnership Board to increase the local communities and organisations understanding and awareness of the extent and impact of Domestic Abuse.
2. The Council places a lot of emphasis on prevention and early intervention and is committed to working with partners to seek resolutions to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and to provide support for children and young people whose lives are affected by domestic abuse.

Requests that the Cabinet Member for Public Safety:

1. Continues to robustly adopt a zero tolerance approach to any form of domestic violence and abuse, and strongly reaffirms our steadfast commitment to tackle domestic violence and abuse through taking a public health approach with our multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, supported by awareness campaigns.
2. Encourages anybody from any background who is suffering from the impact of domestic violence and abuse to come forward and get the help and support they need from the extensive range of partners working collaboratively with Swindon Borough Council including the police, health services, schools and other key partner organisations such as the 24 hour English National Domestic Violence Helpline, Swindon Women's Aid, Citizens Advice Bureau, Victim Support and Galop.
3. Resolves to continue to promote awareness across the Borough to ensure residents, both adults and children, understand what constitutes domestic violence and abuse and who they can go to locally to access support.
4. Welcomes the Final Report and Recommendations of the Domestic Abuse Task Group to the Adult's Health, Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HHAOSC) in April 2019 and ensures that the recommendations contained in the report receive the weight of consideration due to such an important subject.
5. Ensures that the Swindon and Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership (CPS) leads in continuing to deliver a high level of service to support those who experience Domestic Abuse, with a particular focus on early intervention, vulnerability and health connections.
6. Ensures that the CSP considers how best to promote engagement & work to include wider partnership, the private sector and the Ministry Of Defence (especially the Army).

7. Be asked through the CSP to work collaboratively with Wiltshire across the wider system building on the current successful provision of the Swindon based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service within both the primary care General Practitioner setting and the secondary care Great Western Hospital setting.
8. Ensure that the outcomes of the meeting between Swindon CSP, Wiltshire CSP and the Police, which will take place in the near future, be taken to the CSP to ensure that any request for relevant action is discussed and followed up.
9. Ask the Community Safety Partnership to consider asking education providers in Swindon to draw up a local education policy to address equality and respect, together with a means of measuring changes in behaviour & attitude and to consider whether the Community Safety Partnership would want anything added in to such a policy.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

74. Motion - Great Western Hospital Brighter Futures

Councillor Jim Robbins moved and Councillor Claire Ellis seconded:

“This Council:

- Notes the successful fundraising projects held in towns and cities around the country where sculptures are decorated and then installed for visitors to see as part of a trail, and then auctioned off for charity. Such projects include the Elephant Parade in London, the SuperLambBanana in Liverpool and the Wallace and Gromit trail in Bristol.
- Notes the outstanding efforts by the Great Western Hospital (GWH) Foundation Trust Brighter Futures Appeal and the people of Swindon to fundraise £2.7m for the planned Radiotherapy centre at the hospital.
- Further notes that there are a number of excellent artists in the town, such as David Bent, Ken White and all those who contribute to Swindon Open Studios.
- Asks the Leader of the Council present a report to Cabinet considering the options of how the Council can organise Swindon’s own trail with sculptures decorated by local artists and use it to raise money for the GWH Brighter Futures appeal.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

75. Appointment to Other Bodies

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“That Councillor Dale Heenan replace Councillor Garry Perkins as a Council representative serving on the Wiltshire Heritage Building Trust for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018/19.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

76. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th December 2018, (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received, and (c) Cabinet Member Decision Notices.

77. Minutes of other Council Bodies

The Council (a) received the minutes set out in the “Minutes of Other Council Bodies” circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs relating to the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

78. Councillors Question Time

The Interim Director of Law reported that Standing Order 15 Questions had been received from Councillors Steve Allsopp, Emma Bushell, Dale Heenan and Jim Robbins.

Councillor Jim Robbins asked a supplementary question in respect of progress made following the OFSTED Special Educational Needs Inspection in 2018. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked a supplementary question regarding future communications between the Housing Department and Councillors in respect of new Council support housing developments. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety responded at the meeting.