

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022 AT 7:45PM  
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

James Cornish (Chair)	Natalie Blankley
Lisa Whitaker (Vice Chair)	Sharon Collicutt
Alison Berry	Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk) and one member of the public.

**22/103 APOLOGIES**

County and Borough Councillor Bernard Fisher and Borough Councillor Flo Clucas.

**22/104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**22/105 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION**

A resident of Morris Hill Close raised the issue of the poor condition of the surface of the play area in the park. It had been ripped up by travellers and the repairs were inadequate. Several children are known to have suffered accidents and injury. The Parish Council would be discussing this matter later in the meeting and the resident agreed to stay for that item (22/110).

The resident also raised the issue of a hedge that runs between Morris Hill Close and Drayton Close. A resident of Drayton Close had decimated the hedge. The attendee felt that the occupier of the Drayton Close property had gone beyond cutting the hedge within the curtilage of his own property.

**NEW ACTION 22/105/1** – The Clerk was asked to raise the decimated hedge with the Cheltenham Borough Council Green Space team.

**NEW ACTION 22/105/2** – The Clerk was asked to include in the next Village News article a piece about the hedgerows.

**22/106 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as a true record.

**22/107 MATTERS ARISING**

**ACTION 22/88/1** – The Clerk to implement the change to Standing Order 18. Action continues.

**ACTION 22/91/1** – The Clerk to update the Asset Register to state that the Village Hall is owned by the charitable trust. Action complete. The modified document is on the website.

**ACTION 22/95/1** – Cllr. Cornish to produce a business plan for the resolution of the issue

of the purchase or rental of the village hall car park. Action continues.

ACTION 22/97/1 – Clerk to ask Cllr. Fisher why footpath CHS/16 remains closed. Cllr. Whitaker reported that she had discussed the matter with Hilary Grace (County Council). The closure order had been renewed until 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022. The signs should be changed to reflect this. Action complete.

ACTION 22/99/1 – The Clerk to investigate whether it would be possible to have the bar open during the Annual Parish Meeting. Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting the Clerk had informed the Chairman that Local Government Act 1972 prohibits this. Action complete.

#### **22/108 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Council **RESOLVED** to make the payments shown in appendix 1.

#### **22/109 PLANNING AND LICENSING**

- 22/00878/ADV – Revised signage at Next, Gallagher Retail Park. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would raise no objection.

There were no outstanding licensing applications.

#### **22/110 BUILD BACK BETTER FUNDING**

A total of £39k was available. The Parish Council were considering applying for funding to either:

1. Get the floor of the play area properly resurfaced, or
2. Assist in the purchase of the Village Hall car park from the Borough Council.

Regarding item 1, the Borough Council has a duty to maintain a safe environment and a number of children had already been injured. In discussion the Parish Council concluded that funding ongoing maintenance work would not be an appropriate use of the fund. It was felt that in the short term the Parish Council should press the Borough Council to get the play area repaired. Longer term the Parish Council would like to see more and better equipment installed, perhaps using the resources that had been removed from Pitville Park and placed in storage.

In conjunction with the concerned resident Cllrs. Berry, Blankley and Collicutt agreed to create a longer term improvement plan for the of the play area.

**NEW ACTION 22/110/1** – The Clerk to contact the Borough Council to state our position, to provide evidence that the play area is unsafe, to seek evidence of recent safety inspections and to request that the Parish Council has a presence at the next inspection.

**NEW ACTION 22/110/2** – The Clerk to ask in the Village News for evidence of children sustaining injuries in the play area.

The resident left the meeting.

#### **22/111 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

Cllr. Cornish had approached a number of property surveying companies to get an independent valuation of the car park. Only two companies had responded; the quotes received were for £2,500 and for £500. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would accept the lower quote with a limit of £750 on the expenditure.

Cllr. Cornish suggested that a survey be conducted of the number of users of the car park at various times and on various days.

It was **RESOLVED** that quotes for conveyancing be sought. It was agreed that a limit of £2,000 be set.

**ACTION 22/111/1** – The Clerk to seek quotes for conveyancing.

**22/112 ENGAGING WITH ELMS PARK**

Cllr. Wells had discussed the status of Elms Park with John Rowley (Cheltenham Borough Council). A revised outline application for Elms Park as a whole and a revised application for Swindon Farm are expected at any time. It was noted that unless the outline application is approved first the Swindon Farm application should not rely on references to it.

John Rowley had confirmed that our Local Green Space was secure even though work would be starting on the successor to the Joint Core Strategy.

**22/113 M5 JUNCTION 10**

**NEW ACTION 22/113/1** – The Clerk to ask representatives of the M5 Junction 10 team to attend a Parish Council meeting.

**22/114 MEMBERSHIP OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)**

It was **RESOLVED** that we would continue in membership and pay £40.

**22/115 IT EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT REMOTE ACCESS**

It was **RESOLVED** that we would purchase a lap top and a conference speaker to facilitate remote access to meetings with a total budget of £700.

**NEW ACTION 22/115/1** – Cllr. Cornish to source the lap top and conference speaker.

**22/116 TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND CHAIR/VICE CHAIR**

The Clerk had approached GAPTC seeking to arrange more training outside normal working hours. This had been successfully done for Cllrs. Cornish and Whitaker.

**NEW ACTION 22/116/1** – The Clerk to continue to progress “out of hours” training.

**22/117 REPORT FROM C5**

Cllr. Cornish had attended the last C5 meeting. There were a number of new Chairs amongst the five Cheltenham parishes.

A point raised by one of the other councils prompted Cllr. Cornish to suggest that we should look into who owns the various green spaces in the parish (e.g. the green areas around Pendil Close).

Cllr. Cornish suggested that a C5 networking event would be useful. This should involve members of the five Parish Councils, not just the Chairs.

**22/118 REVISED APPROACH TO AGENDA**

Cllr. Cornish had suggested that we adopt a revised approach to setting the agenda.

- 2.5 weeks before the meeting the Clerk will request suggestions for the agenda.
- 1.5 weeks before the meeting members will respond with their agenda suggestions and their reports of matters that do not need to be discussed in the meeting.
- 1 week before the meeting the agenda will be finalised.
- A minimum of three working days before the meeting the agenda will be published.

Members were happy to adopt this approach.

**22/119 REPORTS**

Cllr. Wells reported that access to the footpath into the field adjacent to her property was severely restricted due to the growth of the hedge.

**NEW ACTION 22/119/1** – Cllr. Wells to approach the farmer about reducing the hedge.

**NEW ACTION 22/119/2** – The Clerk to approach John Heathcott to ask him his view of our footpaths.

Cllr. Whitaker asked how we replenish the grit bins. The Clerk explained that the County Council used to supply us with road grit. Since we were unable to identify someone to act as snow warden the County Council seem to have stopped communicating with us on such matters.

**NEW ACTION 22/119/3** – The Clerk to press the County Council to refresh and replenish the grit bins.

Cllr. Collicutt volunteered to approach local companies to seek funding, e.g. for the play area. This idea was welcomed.

**NEW ACTION 22/119/4** – Cllr. Collicutt to pursue funding opportunities with local businesses.

Cllr. Cornish reported that the recycling bins at Sainsbury's were regularly overflowing again.

**NEW ACTION 22/119/5** – The Clerk to ask the Borough Council to get the recycling bins emptied more frequently.

Cllr. Wells suggested that, in view of its history, the Amenity Area be renamed Mill Green. It was unclear whether the current name is formally recorded anywhere.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Signed:	Date:
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**APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PAYMENTS**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk salary and expenses for May (ref 2223-012, 018, 007, 009)	1201	£485.24
Karen Evans collecting the May Village News (ref 2223-008)	1202	£17.55
James Cornish expenses (ref 2223-011)	1203	£47.00
Information Commissioner registration under Data Protection (ref 2223-015)	1204	£40.00
GAPTC subscription for 2022-2023 <i>previous cheque was invalid</i> (ref 2223-002)	1205	£451.41
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England subscription (ref 2223-014)	1206	£40.00