

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the SWINDON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING held on 25th May 2017 at Swindon Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Peter Allen (Chairman of the Parish Council)
Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Parish Council)
7 members of the public

Pre-Meeting

Prior to opening the meeting Cllr. Allen asked that a minute's silence be observed in respect of the victims of the recent act of terrorism in Manchester.

Apologies:

None.

Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting:

The minutes of 11th May 2016 were accepted as a true record.

Presentation by Councillor Allen

Peter's presentation is attachment 1.

Presentation by Shaun Cullimore

In his role as Parish Clerk Mr. Cullimore ran through the Parish Council finances for the year ended 31st March 2017. The parish accounts appear as attachment 2.

Report from Borough Cllr. Flo Clucas

Cllr. Clucas reiterated her support for producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Whilst any such plan would have to be compliant with the JCS and the Cheltenham Local Plan it would enable the Parish Council to exert some influence over the character of local development. It would also mean that the Parish would be entitled to a higher proportion of any Community Infrastructure Levy monies (25% instead of 15%).

Cllr. Allen stated that the Parish Council had considered producing a Neighbourhood Plan but had decided against in view of the cost and commitment required. This could be reconsidered if there were sufficient reasons.

Cllr. Clucas was delighted that we had secured a Local Green Space area and congratulated Cllr. Wells and former Cllr. Stibbe for the work that had put into the project.

The transport figures that are required as part of the evidence base underpinning the JCS have still not appeared, indicating that the JCS is in some disarray.

Improvements to the Park

Mr. Cullimore distributed copies of a plan suggesting a number of initiatives to improve the

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park. Cllr. Allen said that he would like to see a garden area created in the trees in the north west corner of the park. Also it would be good to tidy the wooded area by the stream. Mr. Cullimore noted that the playgroup children were taken for walks through the area. Another bridge over the stream between the park and the industrial area would be useful. Perhaps local businesses could be asked to contribute.

Low level solar lighting along the path through the park was also suggested.

Cllr. Allen said that he would like to have firm proposals before engaging with Cheltenham Borough Council.

After some discussion it was agreed that the following might be suggested to the Parish Council as priorities.

1. Access gate in the north west corner of the park (near the Lodge)
2. Flowers in the Amenity Area
3. Low level solar lighting along the path through the park
4. An additional bridge over the stream
5. Use of the ex-Pitville Park play area equipment currently in storage

Regarding the stored play equipment, it was suggested that Mr. Cullimore ask Adam Reynolds (CBC) what equipment there is and what footprint it would require.

Cllr. Allen thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

*Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council*

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Attachment 1 – Presentation by the Chairman of the Parish Council

SWINDON VILLAGE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 25th May 2017 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As Chairman of the Swindon Parish Council I am pleased to welcome you to your Annual Parish Assembly.

I believe that we should commence the meeting with a minute's silence to remember those who have suffered as a result of the Tuesday's bombing in Manchester.

I should like to commence my report by expressing my gratitude to all of the parish councillors and to Shaun our Clerk for their dedication and support during the year.

The role of a parish councillor is unpaid and can seem at times to be more than an uphill struggle to promote the views and the interests of the community that we represent. The brief descriptions contained in the published minutes do not reflect the time, effort and self-motivation required.

Most of the questions and concerns that hung over the parish last year remain today.

The JCS

The Joint Core Strategy is still progressing despite lacking a complete evidence base and transport plan.

There was an interim consultation which we responded to. The results of this consultation were sent directly to the inspector who will decide whether there is any new or additional content that should be taken into account during the next stage.

We are now waiting for the next stage which is likely to be further reviews and public meetings with the Governments appointed inspector.

The Green Space

We are fortunate that at the initial launch of the Governments Green Space promotion that Councillors Arran Stibbe and Helen Wells put time, effort and their own resources into carrying out a public consultation, promoting and submitting a Green Space proposal for this parish. As a result of their efforts a full and robust proposal was available to be promoted during the JCS consultation with the inspector and as a result the Green Space proposal has been included within the emerging Local Plan and referenced in the Joint Core Strategy.

The Local Plan

Thanks to the input and contributions from the Councillors our comments on the emerging local plan were submitted for consideration. As is often the case we almost ran out of time but with Shaun cracking the whip and sending out reminders we did manage to make a

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submission.

The Conservation Area Statement

The Conservation Area Statement has now been reviewed and a draft version has been emailed to all councillors for comment.

I have looked through it and have noted a few errors which I shall forward to Shaun to submit.

The Car Supermarket

The car supermarket that was located in Manor Road has relocated itself and the site is now occupied by the VW car store. This has not stopped the problems of car transporters but has hopefully removed the cars that were being stored in the fields behind NEXT.

Boy Racers

This has been a topic of discussion and debate for a number of years. The weekend meetings seem to be centred on Dunelm Mills car park and now that the better weather is here there does appear to be an increase in the number of cars.

Reports to the Parish Council of noise and nuisance have dwindled. We do not know whether this is due to the reduction in nuisance being caused or because people now feel that there is little point in reporting it as nothing will get done and that there seems to be no interest in removing the problem.

Councillors have been down to observe some of the events and have noted that there has been a police presence.

Travellers

It is almost a year since travellers took up temporary residence on the recreation ground after cutting through the padlock chain. Despite residents of an adjoining property trying to be friendly towards them it did not prevent them becoming aggressive.

A tougher and protected lock has now been installed and we hope that there will not be a repeat of the incident this year.

Highway Repairs

Wymans Lane has been repaired and we now await the insertion of the cats eyes.

Elms Park Development

The development at Elms Park is reliant on the outcome of the Joint Core Strategy and the

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development should be influenced by the evidence base that supports the JCS. Neither the current version of the Joint Core Strategy or the recently issued consultation draft of the Local Plan contain robust details or sufficient information to indicate that the influence of the proposed developments on our Parish has been in any way considered.

In addition to Elms Park there is also the cumulative effects of traffic from the ever-growing community of Bishops Cleeve and from the development in Prestbury that are likely to impact on the roads around the Parish.

Our clerk Shaun is still trying to arrange for a meaningful meeting with the highways and planning officers to allow us to discuss the concerns of the community and the impact that the proposed Elms Park development will have on Swindon Parish.

Finances and Projects

The Parish Council's financial perspective remains in a sensible position with balanced books and a very small reserve.

The mosaic sundial needs repair. We are intending to involve members of the original mosaic committee to assist us in providing details that we can use to obtain quotations for carrying out the repair works.

The Council is intending that in addition to funding essential maintenance such as the tree works in the amenity area, repairs to bus shelters and notice boards that we should look towards using funds to provide additional amenities for the community and for this reason we have decided that the focus of this assembly should be to consider proposals for the recreation ground/playing field.

Allotments

I should like to thank Ian Brown for managing the allotments they are in very capable hands.

We currently do not have any vacant allotments.

Parish Communications

The world of communication is changing and although emails outnumber phone calls there are still many people who do not own or have any interest in computers and technology. The Parish Council are attempting to determine how best to structure our information and communication.

The editing, printing and distribution of the Village News relies heavily upon a team of committed volunteers.

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Attachment 2 – Parish Council Accounts for 2016-2017

	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	
INCOME					
Precept	£10,962.22	£10,694.85	£10,185.57	£9,431.82	
Other income					
Allotment rents	£903.00	£865.00	£607.00	£1,200.00	
Village News adverts	£412.50	£317.50	£580.00	£450.00	
Misc	£20.23	£20.23	£19.65	£329.93	
Interest	£1.92	£1.93	£1.92	£1.91	
Support grant	£618.18	£618.18	£618.18	£618.18	
Transparency grant	£0.00	£343.80	£0.00	£0.00	
Total income	<u>£12,918.05</u>	<u>£12,861.49</u>	<u>£12,012.32</u>	<u>£12,031.84</u>	
EXPENDITURE					
Staff costs	£5,109.66	£4,819.30	£4,619.11	£4,434.44	
Loan repayments	£1,843.42	£1,843.42	£1,843.42	£1,843.42	Note 1
Other costs					
Administration	£1,197.31	£1,607.14	£1,180.18	£1,525.63	
Communications	£2,018.07	£1,716.37	£2,135.94	£2,003.17	Note 2
Ground works	£0.00	£413.74	£14.95	£950.00	Note 3
Allotments	£330.87	£587.49	£406.93	£993.61	Note 4
Meeting room costs	£240.00	£295.50	£280.00	£300.00	
Misc	£80.00	£60.00	£50.00	£50.00	
Total expenditure	<u>£10,819.33</u>	<u>£11,342.96</u>	<u>£10,530.53</u>	<u>£12,100.27</u>	
Surplus (deficit) for year	£2,098.72	£1,518.53	£1,481.79	-£68.43	
Retained surplus b/f	<u>£13,652.38</u>	<u>£12,133.85</u>	<u>£10,652.06</u>	<u>£10,720.49</u>	
General fund c/f	<u>£15,751.10</u>	<u>£13,652.38</u>	<u>£12,133.85</u>	<u>£10,652.06</u>	
Represented by					
Cash at bank	£16,882.63	£14,090.67	£12,439.68	£11,114.59	
Debtors including reclaimable VAT	£107.74	£510.68	£762.49	£685.92	
	<u>£16,990.37</u>	<u>£14,601.35</u>	<u>£13,202.17</u>	<u>£11,800.51</u>	
Creditors	-£1,239.27	-£948.97	-£1,068.32	-£1,148.45	
	<u>£15,751.10</u>	<u>£13,652.38</u>	<u>£12,133.85</u>	<u>£10,652.06</u>	

Note 1 – Interest and capital payments. Loan will be paid off in January 2018.

Note 2 – Cost of Village News and web site.

Note 3 – Includes major tree works in 2013-2014, repair of bus shelter and repainting of bus shelters in 2014-2015.

Note 4 – Supply of water, repairs and improvements.