

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2014
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)	Glenn Simpson (Vice Chairman)
John Conmee	Arran Stibbe
Frances Hunter	Helen Wells
Shannon Kerr	

14/14 APOLOGIES

The Clerk was absent due to a personal matter. Cllr. Wells took the minutes.

14/15 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SESSION

A Wymans Lane resident shared some concerns on the recent lack of maintenance of the roads, gulleys and drains in Wymans Lane and Church Road. It is evident that the expected 3 monthly maintenance is not being carried out and where visits have been made to clear gullies the leaves and other items were left in such close proximity to the gullies that the debris was washed back in and the blockage recurred. The resident was of the opinion that only the top layer of leaves was being removed and that the gullies needed to be thoroughly cleaned out.

The resident identified a number of concerns regarding the park. Trees appeared to need attention, particularly the leaning tree located in close proximity to the electricity sub-station. Litter is not collected effectively and the litter collection agent drives over the park to empty the bins and leaves the gate open. The resident informed the Council that whilst living in Bishops Cleeve he had carried out minor tree works for that Parish Council and he suggested that Swindon Parish Council could either carry out some ground maintenance work themselves or use the services of a local volunteer who could obtain insurance on a daily basis. This would potentially be cheaper than employing a professional company. Any work involving higher tree branches would have to be done by a professional and checked by the tree officer. It was also thought that local volunteers could be asked to help to tidy the place up.

NEW ACTION 14/15/1 – Clerk to contact the Borough Council regarding park maintenance and clearance of drains.

Hannah Wright and Helen Down from Cheltenham Borough Council were present to discuss Neighborhood Co-ordination Groups (NCGs). The NCG boundaries have been redrawn and the Swindon NCG area now follows more closely the parish boundary. It was felt that as there was overlap between the agendas of the NCGs and the work of Parish Councils that, subject to the Parish Council being in agreement, it should be possible to include an NCG section within a Parish Council meeting, possibly every quarter. It was proposed that the PCSO should attend Parish Council

meetings every other month to cover the NCG topics within the public session. A clear agenda would be needed. The Borough Councillors and County Councillor should be asked to attend to make optimal use of the meeting. The Parish Council were in general agreement but accepted that as the organisation and administration of the extended meetings would be carried out by the Parish Clerk it would need to be discussed with the Clerk prior to a final decision being made.

14/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014 be accepted.

Matters Arising

Due to the absence of the Clerk the review of the actions from the previous meeting were held over.

14/18 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

There is still one vacancy on the Council.

14/19 ADMINISTRATION

Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated.

Other Administrative Matters

None.

14/20 REPORTS

Cllrs. Simpson and Iliffe attended the double taxation meeting. There may be scope for parish councils to obtain some funding towards allotment maintenance.

NEW ACTION 14/20/1 – Clerk to write to the Borough Council to clarify current work and costs as a requirement to be set against the double taxation.

Cllr Hunter reported that a lorry had once again been parked on the pavement in the Kingsditch Lane area and that she had not been in a position to take a photograph. Everyone was asked to continue to take photos and report similar incidences.

Cllr. Stibbe reported that no planning application for Elms Park had been made as yet. It is expected that it will follow the delays in the JCS. The JCS team are considering the valid arguments on the evidence base. It was noted that the comments received through the public consultation are not yet visible on the JCS website.

NEW ACTION 14/20/2 – Clerk to ask Tracey Crewes when this information will be available for all to view.

It was suggested that the topic of ridge and furrow fields can be checked at the next public consultation.

NEW ACTION 14/20/3 – Cllr. Simpson to contact the resident of Dark Lane for details of the ridge and furrow fields in our area and include any updates in the next JCS consultation (Cllr. Allen to provide details).

Cllr. Kerr had attended the last meeting of the Village Hall committee.

NEW ACTION 14/20/4 – Clerk to request informal 1 on 1 meeting to discuss improving our working relationship going forward in serving the community.

It was noted that the Village Hall does not appear on the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council database; this might help get bookings.

Photographic evidence required to record inappropriately sized lorries travelling along Hyde lane as they continue to cause problems when they reach the low bridge.

Cllr. Wells agreed to investigate the opportunity for the school to use car parking facilities morning and afternoon at Seasons. It is now owned Cheltenham Town Football Club. There used to be a walking bus in the village and parking at Seasons in the past.

NEW ACTION 14/20/5 – Cllr. Wells to approach head teacher Mr Dyer regarding parking for the school runs.

Cllr. Wells had received complaints about anti-social behaviour at the "Belmont" derelict property. Cllr. Wells is maintaining contact with architect to ensure the property is demolished asap and the squatters and illegal activities are stopped. Demolition is imminent and the police are involved.

Cllr. Wells reported that flooding continues to occur from the allotments onto her property. Cllr. Wells has already paid £300 towards ditch clearance and drainage to avoid further flooding of her property. More work is required to dig a ditch inside the allotments. The work as has already been discussed and accepted by Allotments Manager and the allotment holder.

NEW ACTION 14/20/6 – Clerk to approach Peter Langley (Borough Council) regarding funding towards ditch clearing in the allotments area.

NEW ACTION 14/20/7 – Cllr. Wells to write proposal for the further work needed on the allotments.

Cllr. Stibbe noted the need for a pelican crossing on Wymans Lane close to the mini roundabouts and Soho coffee.

Cllr. Allen also noted that the slippery slope by the gym is unsafe; there is a need for a footpath.

NEW ACTION 14/20/8 – Clerk to ask the County Council to review pedestrian crossing facilities in the area to see what is safe and feasible (and to include same in a discussion of wider traffic management issues with the County Council).

NEW ACTION 14/20/9 – Clerk to send a list of all these points to our councillors for action.

NEW ACTION 14/20/10 – Clerk to remind County Councillor Bernie Fisher regarding the £20k Highways Local allowance and ask for next steps.

It was noted that flooding and waterlogging continues to be an issue in the Park. The footpath is used instead of the narrow one along Wymans Lane. The team might need to consider widening and raising the footpath in the park (to be reviewed after major rain has ceased).

NEW ACTION 14/20/11 – Cllr. Allen to contact Hugh Evans to determine who is responsible for maintenance of the mosaic.

14/21 PLANNING AND LICENSING

Planning Applications Referred to the Council for Observations

None.

Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

Swindon Parish Council's submission had been made (see action 13/162/2 above).

Other Planning Matters

None.

Licensing Applications

None.

14/22 TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

The change in the Public Rights of Way (PROW) maintenance contract had

been raised at the Chartered Parishes meeting. The County Council are proposing a meeting with Amey, the new contractor on 25th February.

14/23 ALLOTMENTS

The tree had been felled the day before the meeting. The issues of flooding had already been discussed.

14/24 FINANCE

Accounts Approved for Payment

<u>Description</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>
Shaun Cullimore (see ref 0095)			
• Salary (January, see ref 0082 for pay slip)	£333.37		
• Expenses (January)	£32.00		
• Travel to Quedgeley for CiLCA course (31 miles at 45p per mile) (see ref 0099)	£13.95		
Purchase of laminator pouches (see ref 0094)	£0.99		
Total		£380.31	863
GAPTC			
• Budgeting course (see ref 0064)	£40.00		
• CiLCA course (see ref 0099)	£150.00		
Total		£190.00	864

Current Financial Position

The Clerk provided the details of the current financial position.

14/25 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The following items are noted for possible discussion at a future date:

- To consider the formation of a Green Space Working Group (including consideration of the extension of the footpath from the Amenity Area to Swindon Playing Fields, improvements to Swindon Playing Fields, widening and raising the footpath in Swindon Playing Fields)
- To consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan or an alternative
- To review of representation on external bodies
- To consider the repair and ongoing maintenance of the mosaic
- To consider traffic management and road safety
- To consider resurrecting the Village Sign
- To consider poppy planting in Amenity Area

14/26 OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS URGENT

None.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Signed:	Date:
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