

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th AUGUST 2014
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)	Shannon Kerr
Glenn Simpson	Arran Stibbe
David Iliffe	Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk)
Bernard Fisher (County and Borough Councillor) and one member of the public

14/94 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from John Conmee and Frances Hunter.

14/95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/96 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SESSION

It was reported that the service track that runs behind the "Seasons" complex was overgrown. Following a fire a gate had been opened to allow access for fire engines and the gate remained open.

The manure pile in the field opposite the Amenity Area had been moved.

There was concern that the wall of Swindon Lodge had still not been rebuilt. The Clerk had been in touch with the Borough Council. Permission for the demolition and rebuilding of the wall had been given in 2008 (application number 08/01363/LBC). The applicant had up to three years to commence the works (and had done so by demolishing the existing wall). However, unfortunately there was no time limit on completion of the works.

NEW ACTION 14/96/1 – Clerk to approach the Borough Council enforcement officer regarding the situation.

14/97 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accuracy of Minutes

In minute 14/84 the statement "The Clerk said he keep..." should read "The Clerk said he will keep...".

RESOLVED that, with this correction, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2014 be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

ACTION 13/161/4 – Clerk to request the Borough Council to considering helping with the provision and maintenance of a fence between "Larkfield"

and the park as the fence erected by the householder gets vandalised. The Borough Council had responded that the fence was solely the responsibility of the home owner. Cllr. Fisher agreed to take up the matter.

ACTION 14/7/6 – Clerk to enquire about the apparent change of use of the “Seasons” site. The Clerk had written to the enforcement team. He had received an acknowledgement but the answer would be delayed. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/15/1 – Clerk to contact the Borough Council (Ubico) regarding park maintenance and clearance of drains. **Action continues.**

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). It was agreed that this matter should be dealt with in the response to the JCS. Action discontinued.

ACTION 14/20/6 – Clerk to approach Peter Langley (Borough Council) regarding funding towards ditch clearing in the allotments area. Peter actually works for Chris Riley at the County Council. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/20/7 – Cllr. Wells to write a proposal for the further drainage work needed on the allotments. It was suggested that when the report is available it should be forwarded to the Borough Council. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/33/3 – Clerk to write again to the Gloscol principal regarding litter in the area of the college site. The Clerk and one of the councillors had looked at the area recently and there was not a problem at that time. Action discontinued.

ACTION 14/46/2 – Clerk to ask PC Robertson if a PCSO could visit the school at the start of a school day. The Clerk had been in touch with PC Amy Limbrick who now has responsibility for our area. PC Limbrick had agreed to task PCSOs to look at the road safety issues when school resumes in September. Action complete.

ACTION 14/46/5 – Clerk to ask if the Sainsburys lorries could be prevented from churning up the grassed area. The Clerk had written a letter. Action complete.

ACTION 14/67/1 – Clerk to ask GCC whether the areas in Quat Goose Lane and at the entrance to The Firs are GCC owned. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/67/2 – Clerk to write to Borough Council regarding the fence post in the brook. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/67/3 – Clerk to write to Highways requesting a new footpath in Manor Road. The Clerk had written to Chris Riley. Action complete.

ACTION 14/67/4 – Clerk to write to Borough Council enforcement regarding the cars parked behind Next. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/67/5 – Clerk to write to Highways requesting that yellow lines be painted on both sides of the road at the junction of Quat Goose Lane and Church Road. It was felt that in the absence of effective enforcement yellow lines were not the answer. The action was discontinued.

ACTION 14/92/1 – Clerk to lodge objection to planning application 14/01043/FUL. This had been done.

14/98 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk had attended a meeting with the Borough Council Monitoring Officer on 28th July and raised the Council's concern regarding the publication of Declarations of Interest. The position of the Monitoring Officer is that if an individual wishes to see a Councillor's Declaration of Interest the Clerk should co-operate. However, the Monitoring Officer believes that the publication on the Internet of declarations (which include details of the interests of spouses) is disproportionate. She is arguing her case with the government. In the meantime she will not openly publish members' Declarations of Interest.

The Monitoring Officer hoped that all the parishes in Cheltenham Borough would adopt a standard Code of Conduct to make the investigation of any complaints easier and more consistent. Swindon was the only parish that had not yet adopted it.

RESOLVED that Swindon Parish Council adopt the Code of Conduct suggested by the Borough Council Monitoring Officer.

14/99 JCS PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

Cllr. Iliffe had made a start on a response. Cllr. Wells had circulated the Save the Countryside response. It was noted that due to IT problems the email address to which responses should be directed had been changed and that responses sent before that change may have been lost. Cllr. Allen offered to build on Cllr. Iliffe's contribution and circulate it to members. This was agreed.

14/100 ARRANGEMENTS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-ORDINATION GROUP (NCG) MEETING

It had previously been agreed that the September meeting of the Parish Council would include NCG attendees. It was agreed that the meeting should start at 7:00pm. It was noted that Cllr. Fisher will be away. It was agreed that the meeting should address highways and traffic issues including parking at the school and general traffic management issues with a focus on Manor Road and the retail parks.

14/101 WINTER PREPARATIONS

The County Council had provided a questionnaire regarding road salt bags, snow wardens, etc. The grit bins are currently full.

NEW ACTION 14/101/1 – Clerk to request that the County Council supply two bags of road salt.

It was understood that the County Council would deal with the School independently of the Parish Council.

14/102 INSURANCE

The Council was in the final year of a multi-year agreement so the only consideration was whether any changes should be made to the cover provided under the current policy. The population of the parish was higher than the figure quoted on the policy. The Clerk had approached the underwriter who had increased the figure to 5000 at no additional cost.

RESOLVED that the insurance should be renewed with no other change to the terms.

14/103 LOCAL GREEN SPACE

The Local Green Space proposal had been submitted and receipt acknowledged by the Borough Council. The Borough Council are producing a toolkit which we will need to complete.

14/104 WALL OF SWINDON LODGE

The matter had been dealt with during the public session (see above).

14/105 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The following payments were authorised.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>
Broker Network (insurance, see [0026])		£281.14	889
Cotswold District Council (printing of Village News July/August edition, see [0028])		£260.32	890
Grant Thornton (external audit fee, see [0027])		£120.00	891
Shaun Cullimore (salary and expenses, see [0029])		£367.87	892

14/106 PLANNING AND LICENSING

It was noted that the license application for the “Seasons” complex made by Cheltenham Town Football Club had been approved but with modified/additional conditions following representations by the Parish Council and residents.

The following planning applications were considered.

- 14/01366/CACN – Tree work at Fortune Cottage. No objection.
- 14/01313/FUL – Gallagher Retail Park remodelling. There was concern that with the increasing use of mezzanines the ratio of car parking provision to sales floor area might no longer meet the recommended figure. There appeared to be no staff parking provision for the disabled or for cyclists. The application stated that its aim was to increase footway widths for the benefit of pedestrians but some of the food outlets had alfresco dining areas that encroached on the footways. It was agreed that we would not raise an objection but would note the above points.

NEW ACTION 14/106/1 – Clerk to respond to the above applications.

14/107 REPORTS

Cllr. Fisher stated that Highways had promised him a plan for resolving the Hayden Road/Manor Road issues within two weeks. The plan might include provision of a vehicle unloading bay outside the Volkswagen dealer in Manor Road. A more appropriate speed limit would be placed on Manor Road under the Traffic Regulation Orders being prepared for the rest of the town. This financial year Windyridge Road and Swindon Road will have “keep clear” areas to stop traffic being blocked. By December Hyde Lane will be resurfaced between the dairy and Church Road. Works had been done to improve drainage under the bridge on Hyde Lane. Morris Hill Close and Wymans Lane will be resurfaced. Some Highways Local money will be spent on the pavement outside the church and at the entrance to Dog Bark Lane. The Kingsditch Lane/Twekesbury Road roundabout will have the potholes patched. Disabled bays and yellow lines will be introduced in Hayden Road. A height barrier will be installed at the entrance to the park.

Cllr. Fisher reported that £40,000 was available under the “Healthy Together” initiative. He welcomed suggestions about how the money should be used. This could include recreational equipment for older youngsters in the park.

Cllr. Fisher is allocated £20,000 under the “Highways Local” scheme. He stated that this would not be spent on pothole repairs since the County Council have a duty to do this anyway.

Cllr. Fisher stated that junction 10 on the M5 is unlikely to become a two way junction in the next 10 years.

It seems the “fix in one visit” policy for addressing potholes is still in place.

NEW ACTION 14/107/1 – Clerk to ask Cllr. Vernon Smith about progress on pothole repairs.

Cllr. Wells noted that there were trees overhanging the pavement at the entrance to the Amenity Area.

There was an advertising sign on the grass verge outside Topps Tiles.

NEW ACTION 14/107/2 – Clerk to ask for the sign outside Topps Tiles to be removed.

14/108 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL
No candidates had been identified.

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.

Signed:	Date:
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