

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

Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)
Glenn Simpson
David Iliffe

Shannon Kerr
Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk) and one member of the public

14/129 APOLOGIES

John Conmee, Frances Hunter, Arran Stibbe

14/130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14/131 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public was present to thank the Parish Council for their objection to planning application 14/01823/FUL (development at Manor Court) in support of the local residents.

14/132 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accuracy of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2014 be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

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 14/20/7 – Cllr. Wells to write a proposal for the further drainage work needed on the allotments. Cllr. Wells had monitored the situation during the recent rains and it looked as if further work was unnecessary. Action discontinued.

ACTION 14/107/2 – Clerk to ask for the sign outside Topps Tiles to be removed. The Clerk had confirmed that the sign had been removed.

ACTION 14/111/2 – Clerk to write to local food outlets requesting that they take action with regard to litter. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/116/2 – Clerk to establish whether the sign for the racecourse that had appeared at the Hyde Lane bridge was legitimate. **Action continues.**

ACTION14/122/1 – Clerk to ask Cheltenham Borough Council if they monitor the quality of the water in the brook. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/123/1 – The Clerk was asked to get three quotes for cutting back the trees and undergrowth in the Amenity Area. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/126/1 – Clerk to draft a statement of objection to planning application 14/01823/FUL for the Council to consider. Cllr. Allen had done this and the Clerk had submitted it to the Borough Council.

14/133 LOCAL GREEN SPACE

Molly Gallagher of GRCC would be meeting with Cllrs. Wells and Stibbe at Cllr. Wells' house on Monday next to continue the process of identifying spaces with potential for protection under the Local Green Spaces programme. The other councillors were invited to participate.

14/134 USE OF VOLUNTEERS

The Clerk had produced a paper to help the Council to consider areas where the use of volunteers might be appropriate. It was suggested that we group all activities under a title such as "Friends of Swindon Parish" though individuals might only be interested in assisting with particular tasks.

NEW ACTION 14/134/1 – The Clerk to liaise with Janice Peacey (Cheltenham Borough Council) to see what support the Borough Council might be able to offer (e.g. provision of tools and a skip).

There may be potential to use storage space at the Village Hall that was formerly used by the Brownies.

Cllr. Kerr said he would be happy to give safety briefings to volunteers whose task required the use of tools.

It was agreed that we should delay the launch of this initiative until the spring when the weather would be better.

NEW ACTION 14/134/2 – The Clerk to include a piece in the Village News giving advanced warning to parishioners that we would be looking for their assistance.

14/135 BUDGET FOR 2015-2016

The Clerk had prepared a draft budget for the next financial year. The Parish Council must notify the Borough Council of its precept by the end of January. The following suggestions were made:

1. That a reserve of £500 be set aside for legal advice (e.g. for the JCS)
2. That the expense allowed for maintaining the web site be increased
3. That a nominal £100 be allocated to support the use of volunteers (to be taken from the Ground Works budget)

NEW ACTION 14/135/1 – The Clerk to revise the budget and present it to the December meeting.

14/136 ALLOTMENT RENTS

The Clerk reminded the Council that the allotment rents had not been reviewed for a number of years. The rents charged by other local authorities had been recorded in the minutes of the C5 meeting and were much higher than Swindon's. It was suggested that an increase of £5 per year for a full plot be implemented from next year. This would allow the Council to allocate a small budget to the Allotment Manager.

14/137 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Council agreed the following payments.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>
Reimbursement of Karen Evans for collecting the Village News from the printer (ref 0046)		£17.55	899
Cotswold District Council printing of Village News November edition (ref 0048)		£232.56	900
Clerk			
Salary (ref 0040)	£333.37		
Expenses (ref 0040)	£32.00		
Purchase of CPALC subscription (ref 0042)	£22.50		
Purchase of files (ref 0043)	£11.98		
Purchase printer paper (ref 0041)	£6.00		
		£405.85	901

14/138 PLANNING AND LICENSING

The following planning applications were considered.

14/01852/FUL

Changes to the frontage of ATS Euromaster. No objection.

14/01891/CACN

Trees at Green Lodge, Church Road. No objection.

14/01916/FUL and 14/01914/CONDIT

Unit G Gallagher Retail Park. The combined effect of these applications was to increase sales floor space and to permit the sale of sports goods to accommodate Sports Direct. The Parish Council objected to the proposals, the main basis being that increasing the sales floor space would increase parking and traffic flow problems. Cllr. Allen had drafted a response.

14/01963/FUL

Solar panels at 96 Mandarin Way. No objection.

14/139 REPORTS

Cllr. Iliffe reported that leaves were blocking drains in Manor Road.

The pavement outside Swindon Lodge is in a dangerous state as a result of a lorry leaving deep indentations in the tarmac.

The trees along Stantons Drive need trimming. Cllr. Wells had reported the matter to Amey.

A parishioner had raised the issue of traffic management in the area of the retail parks with both the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury MPs. The MP for Tewkesbury did not think there was a problem; the MP for Cheltenham had been more sympathetic. Cllr. Kerr reported that his journey to work in Gloucester now takes an hour due in large part to the traffic congestion along Manor Road.

NEW ACTION 14/139/1 – The Clerk to write to Gloucestershire Highways, copied to Cllr. Fisher highlighting the increasing volumes of traffic.

Cllr. Simpson reported that inconsiderate car parking in Rivelands Road was making passage dangerous.

It was noted that no reports were being received from Cllrs. Fisher (Borough and County Councils) and Cllr. Clucas (Borough Council).

NEW ACTION 14/139/2 – The Clerk to request reports from our Borough and County Councillors.

Parking issues continue around the school at dropping off and picking up times. One possible approach might be to put notices on the windscreens of cars that transgress. No-one appears to be taking up the offer of the use of “Seasons” car park even though it is only a short walk.

Cllr. Wells noted that some of the JCS consultees had asked to be involved in the oral examination of the plan yet the JCS web site did not show this.

NEW ACTION 14/139/3 – The Clerk to check that Swindon Parish Council is registered as wishing to participate in the oral examination of the JCS.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Signed:	Date:
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