

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2015
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present:

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

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk)

15/1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Helen Wells.

15/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15/3 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

15/4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accuracy of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2014 be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

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.**

ACTION 14/122/1 – Clerk to ask Cheltenham Borough Council if they monitor the quality of the water in the brook. The Clerk has asked the Borough Council for an answer or an appropriate contact. Action complete.

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 14/134/1 – 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). Action complete.

ACTION 14/144/1 – Clerk to write to the owners of the land within the scope of the LGS proposal inviting their support. Letters were sent to Home Farm, Manor Farm, Swindon Farm and Cheltenham Town Football Club. Action complete.

ACTION 14/145/1 – Clerk to prepare the final draft of the budget for approval at the January meeting enabling the precept to be announced before the end of January. The action had been completed and the budget would be finalised in this meeting.

ACTION 14/146/1 – Clerk to prepare a plan with costs and timescales for achieving level 2 (initially). The action had been completed and the plan would be discussed in this meeting.

ACTION 14/147/1 – Clerk to distribute his Job Description to the Councillors for the Councillors to provide feedback to Cllr. Allen. Action complete.

ACTION 14/147/2 – Clerk to establish the effect on the Council of the revised pension arrangements. The Clerk had researched the matter. His understanding was that if he requested a pension the Council would be legally obliged to make one available but would not have to contribute to it. The Clerk did not intend to request a pension. Action complete.

ACTION 14/150/1 – Clerk to write to householders in Rivelands Road and Church Road requesting that hedges be cut back. **Action continues.**

ACTION 14/150/2 – Clerk to write to the Post Office asking if their delivery drivers could be asked to park considerately. Action complete.

15/5 LOCAL GREEN SPACE

Cllr. Iliffe had identified some issues. Cllr. Stibbe had made corrections to the document.

Cllr. Allen had attended a meeting with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) and the Borough Council together with representatives of other parishes. Other councils were only just embarking on the process.

It was noted that Swindon Village Playing Field is not part of the application. It had been assumed that it would already have protected status.

RESOLVED that the Local Green Space application be submitted to GRCC by the Thursday deadline.

NEW ACTION 15/5/1 – Cllr. Stibbe and the Clerk to submit the Local Green Space application.

Cllr. Allen thanked Cllr. Stibbe for the work he had done in readying the document.

15/6 FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk had prepared a statement showing the Council's financial position at the end of the third quarter (end of December). This was used to inform the discussion of the budget (see item 15/7 below).

15/7 BUDGET FOR 2015-2016

The Clerk had prepared a budget based on a 5% increase in the precept.

At present Central Government is not capping Parish Council precepts. The Council felt there was a danger that if we set a low precept future legislation might prevent us from increasing it in the future. The Borough and County Councils are reducing their services, increasing the burden on Parish Councils and volunteers.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED that the Parish Council set a precept of £10,694.85 for 2015-2016.**

NEW ACTION 15/7/1 – Clerk to notify Cheltenham Borough Council of the precept.

15/8 MEETING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC LAND USE TEAM

Cheltenham Borough Council wished to organise a meeting with the Parish Council and other local organisations. It was agreed that the school hall might be a better venue.

NEW ACTION 15/8/1 – Clerk to liaise with Cheltenham Borough Council and the School regarding a suitable date for the meeting with the Strategic Land Use team.

15/9 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Clerk had produced a plan. Much of the work that would be involved would either have to be done anyway (e.g. changing procedures to align with legislation, improve the web site) or would be covered by the work the Clerk was doing in seeking CiLCA. The only specific costs identified were the costs of applying for accreditation.

15/10 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

NEW ACTION 15/10/1 – Clerk to see if the school hall would be available for 26th May 2015 for the Annual Parish Meeting.

15/11 PARISH POLL CONSULTATION

After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not participate in this consultation.

15/12 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Council agreed the following payments.

Cheque 903 had been signed in advance of the meeting as it had fallen due.

The Council noted that the next loan repayment would be paid by direct debit in January.

Unconfirmed Minutes of Swindon Parish Council 13th January 2015

<u>Description</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>
Cotswold District Council (printing of December Village News, cheque signed in advance of meeting, ref 0057)		£215.06	903
Clerk (ref 0056)			
Salary	£468.01		
Expenses	£32.00		
		£500.01	904
Public Works Loan Board (payment of £789.58 capital and £132.13 interest due to be made on 14/01/2015 by direct debit)		£921.71	-

15/13 PLANNING AND LICENSING

There were no planning or licensing applications requiring comment.

15/14 REPORTS

Cllr. Fisher (Borough and County Councillor) was not able to be present and had provided a written report.

Cllr. Kerr had observed a near accident involving cruisers in Kingsditch Retail park late at night.

A street sign near the Cross Hands and another sign close to Sainsbury's car wash had been damaged.

The prospective developer of Manor Farm had suggested that the site was brown field. Given that the site had not been previously developed and was an ancient farm Cllr. Stibbe requested that the developer be contacted and asked why he thought this designation applied.

There is still one vacancy on the Council. Cllr. Kerr asked if this could be mentioned again in the Village News.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Signed:	Date:
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