

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JULY 2015
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)
Shannon Kerr
David Iliffe

Glenn Simpson
Arran Stibbe
Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk)
Christopher Finch (Senior Estates Surveyor, Cheltenham Borough Council)
Peter Piff (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee)

15/77 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Cllr. John Conmee and Cllr. Frances Hunter.

15/78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15/79 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Finch stated that dealing with travellers was one of his responsibilities within the Borough Council. Mr. Finch and Mr. Piff became involved in dealing with the incursion into the park by travellers on the 1st July. Initially four travellers' vehicles had entered the park, the locks on the two gates having disappeared. More vehicles joined them later.

The Borough Council have a duty to perform welfare checks prior to taking any action to move the travellers on. Mr. Finch and Mr. Honeybourne of the Borough Council had met with the travellers. The travellers had stated that they intended to move on at midday on Friday. If they had not moved on as agreed the Borough Council could then apply for a court order under Section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. However, the travellers were aware that the Borough Council would not be able to take any action until after the weekend as the courts and council offices would be closed.

There was some confusion over the how the matter was subsequently dealt with. It was thought that the police wanted to evict the travellers on Friday but could not do so because the Borough Council who, as landowners, would have to be present, could not support the action at that time. Mr. Finch stated that this was not the case.

At some point police were called to an attempted break in at the Village Hall. Cars had also been driven recklessly around the park and people had

been verbally threatened. The Church Fete took place on Saturday 4th July. Some disruption was caused by children from the travellers' encampment. Two police officers attended in the afternoon. In the end it is understood that the police served an eviction order under Section 61 of the above Act and the travellers moved on during the course of Saturday afternoon.

The Parish Council was concerned that there was some confusion about what actions were being taken, when and by whom. Mr. Finch stated that he was the point of contact for travellers at the Borough Council. There is an out of hours number if required. However, there is no single point of contact for these matters as the police must be notified separately in the event of criminal activity (telephone 101).

The Clerk had emailed the police to inform them that this matter was going to be discussed but had received no response.

Mr. Finch is working on a policy for the Borough Council that he is hoping will be adopted and made available to the public.

15/80 REPORT ON THE JCS ENQUIRY

Save the Countryside and the Cheltenham Alliance had attended sessions on Wednesday and Thursday addressing the Green Belt. They were given an opportunity to speak and the inspector appeared to be fair.

A session on Tuesday 21st July would address the proposed North West Urban Extension. Cllr. Allen planned to attend.

The session on transport issues would not now take place until October.

Cllr. Stibbe left the meeting at this point.

15/81 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accuracy of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

ACTION 15/17/1 – Clerk to raise the matter of the Village Hall connection to the sewer system with Severn Trent in support of the Village Hall committee. The Clerk had spoken to the Chairman of the Village Hall committee. The hall had not experienced a problem for a few months but might do so again when there is heavy rain. Action complete.

ACTION 15/41/1 – Clerk to enquire if the Cheltenham Town Football Club sign is permitted where it is currently situated. **Action continues.**

ACTION 15/58/1 – Clerk to advise Barry Simon of the Parish Council's

decision to support the objectives of the Cheltenham Alliance. The Clerk had written a letter to Mr. Simon. Action complete.

ACTION 15/67/1 – Clerk to report the loose hand rails on the bridge in the Amenity Area to GCC as a safety issue. The Clerk had reported the matter to Amey. Ian Soule had responded saying that the issue would be addressed. Action complete.

ACTION 15/67/2 – Clerk to ask Cheltenham Town FC to have a word with their young car drivers. **Action continues.**

15/82 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Clerk provided a statement of the Council's expenditure versus budget for the first quarter of the year (April through June). The only major variance was that cost of printing the Village News appeared to have fallen again. A surplus of £197.94 was currently predicted for the full year.

15/83 CHELTENHAM LOCAL PLAN

The Borough Council is consulting on the Cheltenham Local Plan. The consultation ends on 3rd August. The Borough Council is only soliciting comments from individuals, not the Parish Councils.

15/84 PAINTING BUS SHELTERS AND NOTICEBOARDS

The Clerk had obtained a quote from Martin Gautrey to paint the two bus shelters and the two noticeboards in the churchyard. The church had agreed to pay the £25 cost of painting their noticeboard so the amount due from the Parish Council would be £250. It was **RESOLVED** that Mr. Gautrey be asked to proceed with the works.

NEW ACTION 15/84/1 – Clerk to ask Mr. Gautrey to proceed with the painting of the bus shelters and noticeboards.

15/85 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Council agreed the following payments.

Description	Sub-Total	Total	Cheque Number
Cotswold District Council for printing the June edition of the Village News (1516-017) <i>Cheque signed in advance of the meeting</i>		£168.47	926
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England subscription (1516-014)		£38.00	927
Clerk			
• Web site hosting (ref 1516-015)	£3.30		
• Purchase of printer toner cartridge (ref 1516-018)	£7.98		
• Purchase of envelopes (ref 1516-019)	£8.07		
• Salary (ref 1516-021)	£353.35		
• Expenses (ref 1516-021)	£32.00		
		£404.70	928
Karen Evans travel costs in picking up June Village News printed copies (ref 1516-020)		£17.55	929
Cotswold District Council for printing the July/August edition of the Village News (1516-023)		£200.67	930
Public Works Loan Board repayment (1516-016)		£921.71	Direct Debit

15/86 PLANNING AND LICENSING

The following planning applications were discussed.

- 15/01006/ADV – Advertising signs at Unit L Runnings Road. No objection provided illumination is extinguished when the business is closed.
- 15/01094/CACN – Tree works at “Aberdare” Swindon Hall Grounds. No objection.
- 15/01122/ADV – Advertising banner at “Wholefoods”. No objection.
- 15/01132/COU – Change of use from light industrial to a dance studio, Unit U Kingsville Road. Object based on loss of industrial capacity and inadequate parking.

There were no licensing applications to be considered.

15/87 REVIEW OF INSURANCE

The Council's insurance falls due on the 29th August 2015. Came & Company had provided three quotes from Aviva, Hiscox and Ecclesiastical.

The quote from Hiscox was the lowest price and also appeared to offer the best terms. However, it was noted that the Council's current insurance (with Zurich) does not cover any assets and the three quotes had been prepared on the same basis.

NEW ACTION 15/87/1 – Clerk to ask Came & Company to re-quote including cover for the Council's assets.

15/88 COUNTY COUNCIL'S WINTER PREPARATIONS

The Clerk had received a questionnaire regarding the above. The Council does not have a snow warden or a snow plough operator and only limited storage facilities.

NEW ACTION 15/88/1 – Clerk to return the County Council's winter preparations questionnaire asking for enough bags of road salt to fill the Village Hall outside cupboard.

Cllr. Wells had to leave the meeting at this point.

15/89 STANDING ORDERS

A recent change to the law (Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014) gives members of the public the right to record council meetings regardless of the Council's position on the matter. It was **RESOLVED** that Standing Order 3L (giving the Council discretion regarding the recording of proceedings) should be deleted.

15/90 TRAVELLERS

The matter of the incursion by travellers into the park had been covered in the public session.

15/91 REPORTS

Evans Halshaw are now selling cars from the land on Manor Road where the trees were felled. The Council was not aware of the company having obtained consent to do this.

NEW ACTION 15/91/1 – Clerk to ask Borough Council Enforcement to investigate the matter.

Some of the councillors had attended a meeting called by Alex Chalk (new MP for Cheltenham) to discuss potholes. The County Council's position was that it was doing all it could with limited resources; no concessions were made.

The meeting closed at 10:05pm.