

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

Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)
John Conmee
David Iliffe

Shannon Kerr
Glenn Simpson
Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk)
Cllr. Bernard Fisher (Cheltenham Borough and Gloucestershire County Councillor)
Seven members of the public

15/115 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Cllrs. Frances Hunter and Arran Stibbe.

15/116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15/117 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SESSION

The residents explained that the hedge along Swindon Lane had been left to grow to a height that obscured the view of the fields from the bungalows. Some of the residents had reduced the height of the hedge. The landowner had responded by erecting pallets above the level of the hedge so that the view was still obscured. One resident had met with the landowner and reported that the landowner had suggested that the hedge could be cut if the residents paid a fee. In the end the pallets had been removed from in front of her house in exchange for a promise not to cut the hedge again.

The Chairman observed that in planning law no-one has a right to a view (though in some cases land can be "of visual amenity") and the residents should not cut the hedge themselves. That said, the landowner appeared to be adopting a harsh and unneighbourly position.

Cllr. Fisher had referred the matter to Cheltenham Borough Council planning enforcement department as the pallets do not represent a natural growth and on that basis may require planning permission.

Cllr. Fisher also agreed to take up the matter with the landowner.

NEW ACTION 15/117/1 – Provide Cllr. Fisher with the contact details of one of the residents.

15/118 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accuracy of Minutes

In the minutes of the meeting of 8th September 2015 the following corrections were noted. On page 3 “cara” should read “cars” and “...asking is...” should read “...asking if...”. With these changes it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

It was noted that actions were being marked as complete when the Clerk had completed his action but before the matter had been resolved. The Clerk stated that he did this as resolution of many matters take so long that the minutes would become unmanageably long. The Clerk agreed to maintain a list of issues that had not been resolved.

ACTION 15/41/1 – Clerk to enquire if the Cheltenham Town Football Club sign is permitted where it is currently situated. The Clerk had confirmed that the sign is not on Highways land. It was agreed that the matter should not be pursued. Action discontinued.

ACTION 15/114/1 – Clerk to write to Chris Riley asking if the white lines along the bend in Manor Road could be repainted. Mr. Riley had referred the matter to Amey, asking the contractor to inspect the area and refresh the lines as necessary. Action complete.

15/119 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Council agreed the payments shown in appendix 1.

The Clerk observed that the water bill for the allotments was much higher than anticipated. Ian Brown is investigating.

15/120 PLANNING AND LICENSING

The following planning applications were discussed.

- 15/01636/FUL – Marking of parking spaces at Simply Gym. No objection.
- 15/01631/ADV – Signage at Marks & Spencer. No objection.
- 15/01759/FUL – New compressor housing at Unit 4 Chosen View Road. Object on the grounds that insufficient information had been provided in respect of noise and fumes.
- 15/01615/FUL – Conversion of stables to dwelling on Hyde Lane. Object as proposal contravenes NPPF provision 55 (it is in Green Belt, the design is unexceptional and what is proposed does nothing to enhance its setting). A resident had also contacted the Chairman to object.
- 15/01738/CACN – Tree work at 3 Swindon Hall. The Chairman had not received the paperwork so the application was not discussed.

There were no licensing applications to be considered.

15/121 COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk had provided members with a statement of the Council's financial position as at 30th September 2015 (the half year). This showed that the Council was underspent against its budget by £987.66. It was noted that further tree work would be needed on the two chestnut trees in the Amenity Area at some point.

15/122 JOINT CORE STRATEGY

The "omission sites" are currently being discussed at the enquiry. Cllr. Fisher had attended today, Cllr. Wells will attend tomorrow.

The Parish Council remained concerned at the lack of information available regarding the transport infrastructure. This could affect the viability of sites.

NEW ACTION 15/121/1 – The Clerk to write to Ian Kemp expressing this concern.

Apparently the developers are working with Leckhampton Parish Council on their Local Green Space application. We have heard nothing.

NEW ACTION 15/121/2 – The Clerk to write to Phillip Stephenson (CBC) asking what is happening with regard to our Local Green Space application.

15/123 NOTICEBOARD IN HAYDEN ROAD

Swindon Parish Council used to have a noticeboard in Hayden Road. It is no longer there.

NEW ACTION 15/122/1 – The Clerk to make enquiries about possible sightings for a noticeboard and to obtain quotes.

15/124 BOROUGH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT STRATEGY DOCUMENT

The Council could not see any benefit in participating in this activity.

15/125 DOUBLE TAXATION

The matter of double taxation was being discussed at C5 meetings. Charlton Kings Parish Council was keen to pursue compensation from the Borough Council. It runs allotments in the parish yet residents are charged by the Borough Council as if the Borough Council was responsible.

The allotments in Swindon are run to break even so there is no net cost to council tax payers. On this basis the council did not think it was worth spending time on this issue.

NEW ACTION 15/124/1 – The Clerk to respond to Cllr. Steve Jordan regarding double taxation.

Cllr. Conmee left the meeting at this point.

15/126 REPORTS

Cllr. Fisher reported that the fix that had been made to the pot hole in the Village Hall car park was totally inadequate and he would complain.

Cllr. Fisher reported that "Active Together" funding was available. At the moment he favoured supporting a proposal for a play area for disabled children in Pitville Park but would be pleased to consider any proposals from Swindon. Councillors suggested that the play area in Swindon Village Park could be augmented (e.g. larger area, play equipment for older children, enhanced access more suitable for wheelchairs).

A tenant farmer farming along Quat Goose Lane had enquired about closing a track to vehicular traffic. The Clerk had contacted Chris Riley who had confirmed that the track in question was a class 6 highway. The farmer had promised both the Clerk and Cllr. Wells an email giving more information but nothing had been received. In the absence of further information the matter would not be pursued.

Cllr. Wells asked if anyone would take a look at Gloucestershire's draft Local Transport Plan (2015-2031). The consultation starts on 20th November. Cllr. Allen said that he would review it.

The Clerk reported that funding was available to support parish councils in making their web sites compliant with the requirements of Data Transparency for Smaller Authorities.

NEW ACTION 15/125/1 – The Clerk to apply for a grant from the Transparency Fund.

Cllr. Wells noted that a new free social web site for communities called Streetlife (www.streetlife.com) might be worth promoting and suggested that members take a look.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Appendix 1 – List of Payments

<u>Description</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>
Severn Trent Water Ltd (ref 1516-036) (water supply to allotments, cheque signed in advance of meeting)		£465.27	938
Clerk			
• Salary (ref 1516-041)	£353.35		
• Expenses (ref 1516-041)	£32.00		
• Web site hosting (ref 1516-035)	£3.30		
• Membership of CPALC (ref 1516-042)	£18.00		
• Purchase of filing pockets (ref 1516-033)	£2.90		
• Purchase of 12 x first class stamps (ref 1516-037)	£7.56		
		£417.11	939
Cotswold District Council (ref 1516-040) (printing September Village News)		£137.67	940
Society of Local Council Clerks (ref 1516-031) (clerk's attendance at course on trusts)		£114.00	941