

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT 7:30PM  
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)  
Natalie Blankley  
Yolande Booyse

James Cornish  
Helen Wells  
Lisa Whitaker

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), Borough Councillor Flo Clucas.

**22/1 APOLOGIES**

Sharon Collicutt, County and Borough Councillor Bernard Fisher.

**22/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**22/3 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

**22/4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

In section 21/224 of the minutes (page 3) the action reference should be 21/224/1 (not 224/1/1). With this change the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 as a true record.

**22/5 MATTERS ARISING**

ACTION 21/49/1 – The Clerk to enquire about getting the two rights of way onto the definitive map. The Clerk had written John Heathcott seeking his advice. Mr. Heathcott agreed that the status of the tracks was ill defined and advised the Clerk to GCC Rights of Way, which he did. Action complete.

ACTION 21/152/1 – Clerk and Cllr. Booyse to look into CEE Bill and the attendance of a representative at a Parish Council meeting. **Action continues.**

ACTION 21/210/2 – The Clerk to ask Ian Brown about the fires taking place on the allotments. The Clerk had discussed the matter with Mr. Brown. No complaints had been received after Bonfire Night. Mr. Brown agreed to ask plot holders to reduce bonfires to a minimum. Mr. Brown would not be averse to banning bonfires during the summer months and, ultimately, incorporating this provision into the tenancy agreement. It was agreed that later in the year we should put a public notice in the Village News asking for people to minimise bonfires. Action complete.

ACTION 21/218/1 – Clerk to write to the Planning Officer regarding the implication for any trees under planning application 21/02668/FUL. The Clerk had written to the planning officer requesting that it be confirmed that, as stated in the planning application, no significant tree works would be undertaken. Action complete.

ACTION 21/220/1 – Clerk to draft a letter to the Borough Council outlining the Parish Council's position in respect of the proposed commercial arrangements regarding the Village Hall car park. After the meeting Cllr. Clucas had put the arguments to CBC officers. CBC had since revised its position (but not disclosed any figures) and were proposing a meeting. It was suggested that the meeting involve Jana Bridger, Karren Parsons and Cllr Cornish (of the Village Hall Management Committee) together with Cllr. Clucas and the Clerk. Action discontinued.

ACTION 224/1/1 – Cllr. Wells to write to Sainsbury's and Tesco asking them to improve the facilities for recycling flexible plastic and to Lidl, Aldi and Iceland asking them to introduce similar facilities. Action complete.

ACTION 21/227/1 – Clerk to set up a Zoom meeting to discuss the GCC speed limit consultation. Due to the limited time available it had not been possible to organise a meeting. Members had submitted their thoughts to Cllr. Whitaker who had responded to the consultation on behalf of the Council. Action complete.

ACTION 21/228/1 – Cllr. Cornish to contact Atkins with a view to them attending a Parish Council meeting regarding the M5 Junction 10 changes. Cllr. Cornish had been in touch and was awaiting a response.

ACTION 21/231/1 – The Clerk and Cllr. Collicutt to write to the headmaster of the school asking him to remind parents to turn off their car engines when waiting. Cllr. Collicutt had emailed her concerns to the Clerk. The Clerk had written to the headmaster. Action complete.

**22/6 RESIGNATION**

The Council noted with regret the resignation of Cllr. Deakin.

**22/7 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The Council **RESOLVED** to make the payments shown in appendix 1.

**22/8 PLANNING AND LICENSING**

Planning application 20/00759/FUL (the "first tranche" of Elms Park along Manor Road) was discussed. 36 revised documents had been lodged by the developer on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. The Council had received no notification of this and a closing date for comments had been set at 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The Clerk had written to CBC Planning and received an apology and an extension to the consultation period to 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**NEW ACTION 22/8/1** – Clerk to advise Cllr. Clucas of failures of CBC Planning to provide appropriate notifications.

Members agreed to review different aspects of the planning application.

It was noted that no revised Archaeological Assessment had been submitted though it was understood that further investigations had taken place.

There were no licensing applications to be considered.

**22/9 BUDGET**

It was agreed that the line items related to Zoom licensing and Google

Workspace/Microsoft Teams be combined into a single line titled "Digital Services". The Council would continue to pay for a Zoom licence.

In the previous year's budget £2000 had been allocated for the purchase of a tablet for the Clerk. The Clerk was not keen to pursue this. It was agreed that the line item should become "IT equipment and upgrades".

The Parish Council's tax base had increased from 680.2 to 701.4. The Parish Council's precept divided by the tax base gives the amount of council tax payable by a band D household. If the Council kept its precept at the same level as 2021-2022 this would mean that households would see a decrease of 3% in that part of their council tax bill attributable to the Parish Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** to leave the precept unchanged for 2022-2023 and to make up any shortfall from reserves.

**NEW ACTION** 22/9/1 – Clerk to notify CBC of the precept requirement and to publish the budget on the website.

#### **22/10 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Clucas outlined the activities in which she had been engaged on behalf of the parish.

Cllr. Clucas stated that some money would be coming from the developer of Elms Park under the Community Infrastructure Levy/Section 106 arrangements. Martin Horwood (CBC) would be willing to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss this and Cllr. Clucas would be happy to set this up.

Cllr. Fisher was not in attendance but had submitted a written report.

#### **22/11 EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Deferred.

#### **22/12 VILLAGE HALL**

Jana Bridger has been elected as Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

Members were sorry to hear that the Wednesday Club is closing.

The insulation has been delivered but the contractor who will be installing it has failed turn up to appointments.

The hall may need another boiler (or alternative heating solution) in the next 2 years. Grant funding may be available.

There are four potential new recruits for the committee.

The Village Hall Committee is planning to hold celebratory events for the Queen's platinum jubilee (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June). The Annual Parish Meeting cannot be combined with this event as it must (by law) be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June.

The playgroup pays a very low rate for its hire of the hall. It was the opinion of the Parish

Council that, to meet its charitable objectives, the hall could not subsidise a private business. The hall would have to at least break even on the hire.

**22/13 WAR MEMORIAL**

The Clerk has agreed with the stonemason that (subject to the weather) the work will take place in week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The church is happy with the date and the availability of electricity and water supplies has been confirmed.

**22/14 FOOTPATH BY THE GYM**

Investigative work has identified the presence of a high voltage cable under the proposed route of the footpath. Western Power have agreed to move the cable lower in the ground but there is, as yet, no date for this.

**22/15 FOOTPATH BY NEXT**

No progress.

**22/16 CLIMATE CHANGE**

Cllrs. Whitaker and Booyse will be meeting with the volunteers who came forward at the public meeting.

Cllr. Whitaker is investigating apps that allow users to request or offer particular skills and facilitate the sharing of resources.

Leckhampton and Warden Hill Parish Council is undertaking a cycling survey. We have been asked if we wish to participate.

**22/17 TRAVELLERS**

No progress. Cllr. Booyse agreed to assist the Clerk in preparing recommendations.

To date, reduction of the width of the entrance through the use of boulders appears to be the most practical solution. It is felt that injunctions would not be feasible.

**22/18 AMENITY AREA TREES**

No progress.

**22/19 20MPH SPEED LIMITS**

Cllr. Whitaker had amalgamated the responses she had received from members and had responded to the County Council survey.

**22/20 M5 JUNCTION 10**

Members agreed to meet on 31<sup>st</sup> January to discuss the proposals.

It was noted that a public presentation was taking place at Hesters Way on Saturday. Members were disappointed that no presentation was being made in the parish (but see action 21/228/1 above).

**22/21 REPORTS**

Fibre optic cables are being laid throughout Cheltenham. Members noted that several footpaths had been closed while the work was being done. Cllr. Allen felt that the work

would be the subject of a single, overall permit.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

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| Signed: | Date: |
|---------|-------|

**APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PAYMENTS**

| <b>Description</b>  | <b>Cheque</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Clerk salary and expenses for December<br>(ref 2122-059, 060, 062, 064) | 1180          | £507.49       |
| Village Hall room hire<br>(ref 2122-013, 033)                           | 1181          | £180.00       |
| Yolande Boyse reimbursement of printing costs<br>(ref 2122-063)         | 1182          | £54.00        |