

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)
Natalie Blankley
Sharon Collicutt

James Cornish
Helen Wells
Lisa Whitaker

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), Borough Councillor Flo Clucas and one member of the public.

22/22 APOLOGIES

Yolande Booyse, County and Borough Councillor Bernard Fisher.

22/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22/24 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

Hugh Evans (Churchwarden) was present. Mr. Evans explained that the churchyard at St. Lawrence Church no longer had space available for new coffin burials. The Parochial Church Council wanted to close the churchyard to burials other than the interment of ashes, and coffins in family graves and reserved plots. To action the closure the Church needs to apply to the Ministry of Justice and requires a resolution from the Parish Council either declaring that it has no objection, or declaring what its objections are. The Church could then pass responsibility for the churchyard to either the Parish or Borough Council, though this was not its intention.

22/25 CLOSURE OF CHURCHYARD

The formal meeting was resumed.

The Council **RESOLVED** to raise no objection to the closure of the churchyard to coffin burials in new plots.

Mr. Evans left the meeting.

22/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 11th January 2022 as a true record.

22/27 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION 21/152/1 – Clerk and Cllr. Booyse to look into CEE Bill and the attendance of a representative at a Parish Council meeting. It was decided to discontinue the action. This could be revisited later if appropriate.

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

ACTION 22/9/1 – Clerk to notify CBC of the precept requirement and to publish the

budget on the website. Action complete.

22/28 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

22/29 COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk had given members a report of the Council's finances for the third quarter (ending 31st December 2021). The Council was underspent against its budget by £4,405, though there were major items of expenditure to come.

22/30 PLANNING AND LICENSING

The following planning applications were considered.

- 20/00759/FUL – Swindon Farm (“first tranche” of Elms Park along Manor Road). The planning officer understands that the late submission of documents by the developer has made things difficult for the Council. Comments can be submitted up to the date of the relevant planning committee meeting. This would be 24th March at the earliest and probably later. The earlier the comments are submitted the more likely it is that the planning officer will be able to address them with the developer. Members agreed to meet on 17th February to collate comments.
- 22/00025/ADV and 22/00026/ADV – Advertising at the former Jaguar dealership. The proposed signage was thought to be unattractive and the totem sign was very tall. Members would submit their observations to the Clerk.

There were no licensing applications to be considered.

22/31 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Deferred.

22/32 VILLAGE HALL

A meeting had been held with the Borough Council to discuss the Village Hall car park rental/purchase. The Borough Council's offer for the freehold had been reduced from £120,000 to £60,000. Alternatively, the figure for the annual rental had been reduced from £2,000 to £500. The rental agreement would be for 25 years with rent reviews every 5 years. Negotiations continue.

The insulation has not been installed. The contractor employed to do it has again let the Hall Committee down.

Three new members have been co-opted onto the Village Hall Committee.

The hall heating system appears to be suffering from water leaks underground. Fixing it could potentially incur large costs (£15k - £20k).

22/33 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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

The floor of the play area was causing problems and would shortly be inspected.

The extensive gas main renewal works had not been notified in advance to affected residents.

Parking in Stanwyk Gardens creating problems for local residents.

The pavement in Dark Lane is in a dangerously poor condition.

The Environment Agency had been contacted regarding continuing pollution in the brook.

The Borough Council is funding youth work in the town. The Parish Council might like to consider whether use could be made of the service in the parish.

It was agreed that the Flare app would be advertised in the Village News and on Facebook.

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

Cllr. Clucas left the meeting.

22/34 FOOTPATH BY THE GYM

Western Power and the County Council will meet to discuss the power cable under the grass.

22/35 FOOTPATH BY NEXT

No progress.

22/36 CLIMATE CHANGE

Cllrs. Whitaker and Booyse had both been ill. Some of the momentum had been lost.

22/37 M5 JUNCTION 10

Members had collated comments. It was RESOLVED that the comments be submitted.

NEW ACTION 22/37/1 – Clerk to submit comments on M5 J10.

It was agreed that a representative of Atkins be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in late March/early April.

NEW ACTION 22/37/2 – Clerk to invite a representative of Atkins to the Annual Parish Meeting.

22/38 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

See above.

22/39 CIL/SECTION 106 MONIES

It was agreed that the Parish Council should prepare a list of priorities for money coming from the Elms Park development.

22/40 KEEP BRITAIN TIDY

It was agreed that the Parish Council should organise a litter pick on 26th March as part

of this initiative.

In light of local interest it was agreed that a litter pick be organised for this Saturday. The Council has Hi-Viz vests. The Council **RESOLVED** to spend up to £100 on litter pickers.

22/41 REPORTS

The Save the Countryside Walk will be on 22nd May.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Signed:	Date:
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APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PAYMENTS

Description	Cheque	Amount
Clerk salary and expenses for January (ref 2122-065, 067, 070)	1183	£477.49
Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (ref 2122-066)	1184	£112.00