

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th APRIL 2022 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

Peter Allen (Chairman)
Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt
Lisa Whitaker

Also Present:

Borough Councillor Flo Clucas.

22/61 APOLOGIES

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), Yolande Booyse, James Cornish, Helen Wells.

22/62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22/63 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

22/64 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 8th March 2022 as a true record.

22/65 MATTERS ARISING

The Council agreed that, as the Clerk was not present for the meeting, reports on matters arising from the meeting held on the 8th March 2022 would be delayed until the next meeting to be held on the 9th May 2022.

22/66 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

22/67 PLANNING AND LICENSING

There were no outstanding planning applications or planning matters that needed to be discussed or resolved at this meeting.

There were no licensing applications to be considered at this meeting.

22/68 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR CLUCAS

- **Lock to gate providing access to the recreation ground** – Councillor Clucas confirmed that the issue of the gate not being locked on one occasion was due to a new employee of the Parks Department not being familiar with the procedure. Councillor Clucas confirmed that the employee had been made aware of the importance of locking the gate and there should not be a recurrence.
- **Floor Surface in the Play Area** – Councillor Clucas confirmed that the issue had been taken up with the officers concerned and that the officers informed her that the cost of replacing the surface was likely to be between £18,000 and £20,000. Councillor Clucas said that she and Councillor Fisher had found a way to fund the

repair works and that it was now out to tender. Councillor Clucas said that she had kept the Clerk informed of the progress that was being made. Councillor Clucas also informed the meeting of an issue that she had been made aware of by a small child who had told her of the problems that he experiences when attempting to use play areas because he is very allergic to peanuts.

- **Cross Hands Drain** – Councillor Clucas said that the recent recurrence of the flooding around the drain adjacent to the Cross Hands was the result of the contractor who had carried out the works installing replacement pipes that were too small.
- **Kingsditch Lane Footpath Link in Front of the Gym and Tops Tiles** – Councillor Clucas said that due to the level of the services within the verge it had been decided that it would not be possible to install the footpath link. The decision was made to install a crossing point on either side of Kingsditch Lane.

22/69 REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET FOR 2021 – 2022

The Council agreed that this agenda item should be raised at the next meeting to be held on 9th May 2022.

22/70 VILLAGE HALL

Nothing to report.

22/71 FOOTPATH BY NEXT

No progress.

22/72 CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussion deferred.

22/73 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should invite Martin Horwood and John Rowley.

22/74 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As a prelude to the Annual Parish Meeting the subject of Neighbourhood Plans was discussed.

Councillor Allen confirmed that the Council had previously resolved not to progress with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan because the Council had been informed that it was unlikely that there would be any funding for the Parish resulting from a CIL levy imposed on the Elms Park development because it was thought to have been the subject of a Section 106 agreement. Recent discussions have indicated that this may not be true for all developments on and around Elms Park and as a result it was suggested that the Council might like to reconsider the previous decision.

Councillor Allen said that in meetings that he had attended with Councillor Wells those Councils who had undertaken the production of a Neighbourhood Plan had found it time consuming and hard work taking between 3 and 5 years and requiring a lot of support from other people which had, for some Councils, sadly dwindled over the extended period that the process took. A number of Councillors had said that they were uncertain that they would want to undertake the task again.

Councillor Whitaker and Councillor Collicutt said that the Council had nothing to lose by listening to the advice of Councillor Horwood who was currently producing a Neighbourhood Plan and that it may also be beneficial to employ the services of an external organisation to assist in the production of the plan.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to talk to Martin Horwood and that, should he be unavailable for the Parish Meeting, the Clerk should invite him to talk to the Council about the details and processes for commencing and producing Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the subject of the production of a Neighbourhood Plan should be included in the Agenda of the meeting for the 9th May 2022 and that more information should be obtained regarding the production of Neighbourhood Plans and it should be established what grants were available.

22/75 REPORTS

Cllr. Collicutt reported that a resident had approached her to say that they were of the opinion that the parking of vehicles in Church Road opposite the end of Smythe Road was dangerous. The Council did not agree with the point raised and were not aware of anyone else who had expressed a similar opinion. Church Road is wider at the point opposite the end of Smythe Road and it was thought that vehicles parking there were not likely to cause an obstruction.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to pursue the matter but to reconsider the issue if more complaints were received.

Cllr. Blankley reported that, following the approval of the provision of a Bus Stop library, she thought that there may be an online link to other areas that have set up bus stop libraries and that she would find out more information.

Cllr. Allen said that it might be a good idea for the Council to provide information and links on its web page and Facebook page regarding the arrangements, if any, required to be made for road closures for the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Signed:	Date:
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APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PAYMENTS

Description	Cheque	Amount
Cotswold District Council printing of the Village News for March and April <i>(ref 2122-078, 085, signed in advance of the meeting)</i>	1189	£387.31
Karen Evans reimbursement of travel to pick up April Village News print run from Cirencester <i>(ref 2122-083, 086)</i>	1190	£35.10
Clerk salary and expenses for February <i>(ref 2122-079, 080, 081, 087)</i>	1191	£572.13
Swindon Village Hall for room hire in Jan, Feb and Mar <i>(ref 2122-084)</i>	1192	£60.00