

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7:30PM  
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

James Cornish (Chair)

Lisa Whitaker (Vice Chair)

Alison Berry

Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt

Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), Borough Councillor Flo Clucas, two members of the public.

**23/14 REPORT FROM CLLR. CLUCAS**

Numerous complaints had been made about the continuing roadworks in the area. Cllr. Clucas had taken these up with GCC's Area Highways Manager.

Cllr. Clucas had met with the Jockey Club to discuss arrangements for the Cheltenham Festival race meeting. More stewards and toilet facilities would be available. The issue of littering in the area of the shops was raised. It was noted that parking will be free in Cheltenham during the festival. Road closures may result in the re-routing of buses.

Cllr. Clucas left the meeting.

**23/15 APOLOGIES**

None.

**23/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**23/17 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION**

A member of the public was present to put the case for the conservation and, ultimately, restoration of the sundial mosaic in the park.

The history of the development of the sundial was outlined. A great deal of effort was put in by local people and it was intended to last for many years; it has only been 20 years since it was created.

The Clerk stated that the Council had not simply let the sundial fall into disrepair. Mr. Allen had been an active member of the development team and was Chairman of the Council when conservation actions had been considered. It had been concluded that the way the sundial mosaic was constructed made it vulnerable to the effects of the weather and to the use of grass cutting machinery in the park. No local firms could be identified that would be able to assist in its restoration, despite contacting the Borough Council to see if they could recommend specialists. The Council had concluded that full restoration and ongoing preservation was not economically practical.

Cllr. Cornish observed that it was not the Council's intention to remove the monument.

**NEW ACTION 23/17/1** – Cllr. Collicutt offered to produce a project plan to consider retaining at least parts of the monument.

The petitioner left the meeting.

A second member of the public was considering joining the Council and remained present for the duration of the meeting.

**23/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true record.

**23/19 MATTERS ARISING**

ACTION 22/95/1 – Cllr. Cornish to produce a business plan for the resolution of the issue of the purchase or rental of the village hall car park. Cllr. Cornish would present figures this evening. Action complete.

ACTION 22/171/1 – Cllr. Cornish to request a meeting with the Elms Park development team. Action complete.

ACTION 22/171/2 – Cllr. Wells to escalate our request for a meeting with the CBC planners to discuss Elms Park/Local Green Space. Action complete.

ACTION 22/173/2 – All members to provide a profile picture and a brief bio to Cllr. Berry. Action complete.

ACTION 22/191/2 – Task leaders to complete a Project Proposal for each of their tasks. Action continues.

ACTION 22/194/1 – Cllr. Berry to contact the local police regarding the problem of drug use within the parish. Action complete.

ACTION 22/195/1 – Cllr. Whitaker to draft a response to the Mini-Holland scheme. Action complete.

ACTION 22/196/1 – Cllr. Wells to draft a proposal for improved planning measures to C5. Action complete.

ACTION 22/205/1 – Clerk to contact Cllr. Fisher with regard to the deadline for a grant application and possible use of the money to upgrade the park. The grant application needs to be made by March. Action complete.

ACTION 23/8/1 – Clerk to communicate the four for two advertising offer to Karren and let the local Chamber of Commerce about what we offer. Action complete.

ACTION 23/8/2 – Cllr. Cornish to look at savings products that might offer better interest rates. Action continues.

ACTION 23/8/3 – Cllr. Blankie to ask the school whether they would like us to publicise the food bank in the Village News and also to ask if they would welcome a donation of £1,000 to support the initiative. Action continues.

ACTION 23/8/4 – Clerk to ask Ian Brown whether there are free plots and whether a community allotment might work. Mr. Brown had stated that there was a waiting list presently. The Clerk had asked that the Parish Council be added to the list. Action complete.

ACTION 23/6/5 – Clerk to communicate the precept requirement to the Borough Council. This had been done and acknowledged. Action complete.

ACTION 23/9/1 – Cllr. Whitaker to draft an advert for the Annual Parish Meeting for the Village News. Action complete.

**23/20 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments shown in Appendix 1.

**23/21 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

Since the decision had been made to purchase the car park the Borough Council had revised the rental options. Cllr. Cornish presented various options. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to purchase the car park from the Borough Council for a maximum consideration of £30,000, subject to the availability of grant money.

**23/22 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AT END OF THIRD QUARTER**

Members noted receipt of the statement of income and expenditure for the end of the third quarter. Our budget had shown us needing to draw £7,512.15 from reserves. However, we are currently predicting a need to draw only £3,571.74 from reserves.

**23/23 BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

Members were asked to note the bank reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**23/24 PLANNING AND LICENSING**

- 23/00142/CONDIT – Variation of planning condition Unit J3 Gallagher Retail Park. The Council **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.
- 23/00124/FUL – Single storey extension 7 The Firs. The application was reviewed in the meeting and area and impact explored via Google Maps. The Council **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

There were no licensing applications.

**23/25 CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PEER REVIEW OF PLANNING**

Cllr. Wells offered to attend the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**NEW ACTION 23/25/1** – Clerk to invite Peter Allen to share his views on CBC planning.

**23/26 MEETING WITH LAURENCE ROBERTSON MP**

Mr. Robertson had cancelled the proposed meeting.

**23/27 AMENITY AREA**

Cllr. Berry had been in contact with James of CBC. James would be planning flood mitigation works and would be working with Tom (volunteer).

The Parish Council had received a suggestion that kissing gates or alternative forms of barrier be installed on the path through the Amenity Area to discourage horse riders and motorcyclists. Members did not consider access by horses to be a problem and did not wish to restrict access to the area with pushchairs or mobility issues.

**23/28 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

It was agreed that we would offer free food (pizza) at the meeting.

**23/29 LOCAL GREEN SPACE**

Cllr. Wells had met with Paul Instone (CBC) and Cllr. Fisher. It had been suggested that our Local Green Space should be considered in conjunction with the green spaces that will be part of Elms Park.

**23/30 REPORTS**

Cllr. Collicutt asked what was happening about the trees in the Amenity Area that overhang properties in manor Court. The Clerk replied that it remained his intention to get planning permission to prune them.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

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| Signed: | Date: |
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**APPENDIX 1 – APPROVED PAYMENTS**

| <b>Description</b>   | <b>Amount</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Andrew Debtford (new defibrillator pads)<br>(ref 2223-080)<br><i>PAID IN ADVANCE OF MEETING (see note 2)</i> | £129.60       |
| Clerk salary and expenses for January<br>(ref 2223-066, 069, 070, 073)                                       | £522.26       |
| Cotswold District Council (printing of February Village News)<br>(ref 2223-088)                              | £261.59       |
| SLCC (Clerk's membership)<br>(ref 2223-079)  | £112.00       |
| GAPTC (four places on training course)<br>(ref 2223-077, 2223-081)   | £100.00       |
| Swindon Village Hall (hire of hall for meetings)<br>(ref 2223-082, 2223-086)                                 | £450.00       |
| Cheltenham Borough Council (contribution to inter-council networking event)<br>(ref 2223-078) (see note 3)   | £67.20        |

The Clerk had set up the payments to be made by bank transfer. Cllrs. Wells and Whitaker were delegated to approve the payments.

Note 1 – An expenses payment of £7.24 to Ian Brown was listed in the payments of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. At the time of the meeting Mr. Brown's bank details were not available. This payment was included in those actioned in February.

Note 2 – This payment was made in advance of the meeting as the terms of the invoice were payment on receipt.

Note 3 – The bank details supplied on CBC's invoice was not able to accept transfer payments from Lloyds. On the telephone CBC quoted a different account number to be used.