

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Lisa Whitaker (Chair)

Lynne Allen (following co-option)

Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt

Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), three members of the public.

**23/31 APOLOGIES**

Alison Berry, James Cornish, Borough Councillor Flo Clucas, Borough and County Councillor Bernard Fisher.

**23/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**23/33 CO-OPTION TO PARISH COUNCIL**

The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Lynne Allen on to the Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of office was signed and witnessed.

**23/34 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION**

Three members of the public were present to discuss the issue of the proposed telecommunications mast in Rivelands Road (23/00381/PRIOR).

There were strong feelings that the siting of the mast in a Conservation Area and a residential area was inappropriate.

It was noted that permission for a mast in Charlton Kings had been refused.

The meeting was keen to understand why that particular location was being suggested, given that there are many industrial sites in close proximity. It was suggested that the Parish Council could assist the applicant in identifying a more suitable site if the technical constraints were better understood.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would object to the proposed siting of the mast in a sensitive Conservation Area.

**NEW ACTION 23/34/1** – Cllr. Whittaker to draft a response.

It was agreed that the matter of 5G telecommunications masts be put on the agenda for C5.

**NEW ACTION 23/34/2** – Clerk to suggest that the matter of 5G telecommunications masts be discussed at C5.

Two of the three members of the public left the meeting at this point.

**23/35 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 as a true record.

**23/36 MATTERS ARISING**

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

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. The school had accepted the offer of publicity. The school had received many donations; financial support was not required at present. Action complete.

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

ACTION 23/25/1 – Clerk to invite Peter Allen to share his views on CBC planning. The Clerk had invited Mr. Allen to share his thoughts and he had done so via email. Action complete.

**23/37 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

**23/38 PLANNING AND LICENSING**

- 23/00381/PRIOR – Telecommunications mast, Rivelands Road. Discussion of this item had taken place during the public session of the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to object on the basis that such an installation would be entirely out of place in the Conservation Area.
- 23/00214/CONDIT – Alterations to Unit K Chosen View Road. The Council **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

The Council noted that the planning application for Home Farm was about to go onto the planning portal.

There were no licensing applications.

Cllr. Wells reported on the peer review that had been conducted by the CBC Planning Department. Up Hatherley and Prestbury parishes were also represented. Key issues that were identified included:

- That we tended to be talked to rather than listened to
- That the planning officers were stretched thin
- It was difficult to get a “joined up view” of planned developments, including issues such as highways
- Lack of visibility of how much CIL money we might received
- Inadequate attention given to green issues (e.g. car charging points)
- Suspicion that the parishes have very little influence
- Attention had been given to cycle paths but what about buses, pedestrians?
- Concern that social housing gets cut from schemes
- Lack of enforcement action when planning conditions are broken

Cheltenham Borough Council will produce a written report of the conclusions.

Cllr. Cornish will set up another meeting with Paul Instone (CBC planning lead for Elms Park).

**23/39 AMENITY AREA**

Cllr. Berry would be rearranging the planned walk around the Amenity Area.

**23/40 INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Clerk stated that the Council was required to commission an annual Internal Audit. He recommended that the Council continue to use GAPTC's Internal Audit service. The Council **RESOLVED** to do so.

**23/41 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The date is 26<sup>th</sup> April. We will offer free pizza. The meeting will be advertised in the Village News and on Facebook. Cllr. Cornish will need to prepare a review of the year. Other topics suggested include:

- Planning matters (Cllr. Wells?)
- Local Green Space
- Home Farm development
- The Park
- 5G

**NEW ACTION 23/41/1** – The Clerk to ask Cllr. Fisher whether play equipment removed and replaced at Pitville Park is still available.

**NEW ACTION 23/41/2** – The Clerk to check the legality of the meeting proceeding in the absence of the Chair of the Council.

**NEW ACTION 23/41/3** – Cllr. Whittaker to produce an agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**23/42 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

The application for £30,000 to the "Build Back Better" fund had been submitted.

Mandeep is preparing paperwork on behalf of CBC.

The Village Hall Committee have not yet responded to our proposal.

Cllr. Whittaker had identified a company that installs car charging points and pays rent to the landowner. Might be worth investigating.

**23/43 MAY COUNCIL MEETING**

It had been noticed that the "regular" meeting date of 10<sup>th</sup> April will be a Bank Holiday.

**NEW ACTION 23/43/1** – Clerk to check availability of the Village Hall bar area on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**23/44 SUMMER EVENT**

Planning will take place in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee.

**23/45 REPORTS**

Cllr. Wells reported that litter picks starting at the Cross Hands were poorly attended. Consideration should be given to a new meeting place (other than the Village Hall).

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.

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

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk salary and expenses for February (ref 2223-087, 089, 091, 092)	£551.04
Karen Evans collecting March Village News (ref 2223-090)	£17.55

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