

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th APRIL 2023 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

James Cornish (Chair)

Lisa Whitaker (Vice Chair)

Alison Berry

Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt

Also Present:

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

23/45 APOLOGIES

Lynne Allen, Helen Wells, Borough Councillor Flo Clucas, Borough and County Councillor Bernard Fisher.

23/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/47 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public were present. They stated that trees had been planted in the public realm but, in their opinion, some of them obstructed visibility splays.

Cllr. Collicutt agreed to take photographs of the trees and the Clerk would forward them as appropriate.

The members of the public also raised the issue of potholes. Whilst those present shared the concern it was pointed out that the Parish Council had no power or responsibility in respect of highways. The matter should be reported to the County Council.

Cllr. Cornish undertook to write to Bernard Fisher, County Councillor, pointing out that, even when repairs to potholes were made, they did not last long.

The two members of the public left the meeting.

23/48 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 13th March 2023 as a true record.

23/49 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 23/17/1 – Cllr. Collicutt offered to produce a project plan to consider retaining at least parts of the sundial mosaic. Barry Simon had sent some information to Cllr. Collicutt. Action continues.

ACTION 23/34/1 – Cllr. Whittaker to draft a response in opposition to the proposed siting of a telecoms mast in a sensitive Conservation Area. Action complete and objection had been submitted by the Clerk.

ACTION 23/34/2 – Clerk to suggest that the matter of 5G telecommunications masts be discussed at C5. The Clerk had sent this to Helen Down. Action complete.

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

ACTION 23/41/2 – The Clerk to check the legality of the meeting proceeding in the absence of the Chair of the Council. In the absence of the Chair the Vice Chair is legally entitled to hold the meeting. Action complete.

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

ACTION 23/43/1 – Clerk to check availability of the Village Hall bar area on 12th April. Action complete.

23/50 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

23/51 PLANNING AND LICENSING

- 23/00354/OUT – Home Farm. The Clerk had submitted the Council's draft objections prior to the meeting as the consultation period closed today. The Council **RESOLVED** to confirm its objections as submitted. Cllr. Berry had been active in promoting awareness of the application in the local community.

It was anticipated that this application would go before the CBC planning committee.

NEW ACTION 23/51/1 – Clerk to advise the planning officer that the Parish Council would like to have a representative at the planning committee meeting to speak in objection to the proposal.

There were no licensing applications.

23/52 AMENITY AREA

Tom Harcourt (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust) and James Mogridge (Cheltenham Borough Council Drainage Engineer) will be asked to be involved. Spirax Sarco would also like to participate. It was agreed that Cllr. Collicutt would be the Parish Council's project lead.

23/53 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that we should emphasise in the efforts made to communicate with residents in respect of the Home Farm planning application (including printing and delivering leaflets).

23/54 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

We are awaiting news on our application for £30,000 to the "Build Back Better" fund.

Cllr. Cornish confirmed that CBC are aware that we can only proceed with the purchase if we get the grant.

NEW ACTION 23/54/1 – Cllr. Cornish to chase the Village Hall Committee for a response to the proposed rental agreement.

The Village Hall Committee would like the Parish Council to clear the growth on the fringes of the car park. It was agreed that would would seek volunteers to help with this or offer to split the cost of a contractor with the Village Hall Committee.

23/55 SUMMER EVENT

The Village Hall Committee are seeking volunteers to assist on 7th May.

23/56 ELMS PARK/GREEN SPACE

Cllr. Cornish said that he would set up another meeting with Darren Knight.

23/57 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk had supplied members with a revised Code of Conduct from the Borough Council. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council was not under any obligation to adopt it. However, complaints against Parish Councillors would be investigated by the Borough Council monitoring officer. It makes their job easier if all the parishes operate the same Code of Conduct.

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the new Code of Conduct.

23/58 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT

The Boundary Commission are proposing that the part of Swindon Parish south of the Tewkesbury Road will become part of Springbank Borough Council ward. Changes to parish boundaries were not within the scope of the review. However, the change will mean that the parish will be split into two parish wards; South (the part of the parish that will be in Springbank CBC ward) and North (the remainder of the parish).

The changes will come to effect from 2024 once approved by the government.

NEW ACTION 23/58/1 – Clerk to ask GAPTC about the effect of the boundary changes in terms of voting and also people standing as councillors.

23/59 REPORTS

Cllr. Berry distributed speed reduction wheelie bin stickers to members for onward distribution to residents.

The meeting closed at 9:27pm.

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

| Description | Amount |
|--|---------------|
| Clerk salary and expenses for March (ref 2223-093, 094, 097) | £523.46 |
| Karen Evans collecting March and April Village News also October 2022 (cheque 1224 destroyed) (ref 2223-048, 2223-096) | £52.65 |
| GAPTC membership for 2023-2024 (ref 2324-002) | £466.53 |
| P L Gauntlett Accounts Ltd running payroll (ref 2223-098) | £45.00 |
| Color Co printing of leaflets publicising Home Farm application (ref 2223-099) | £80.00 |
| James Cornish reimbursement (original cheque 1203 lost) (ref 2223-011) | £47.00 |

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