

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 15th MAY 2023 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

James Cornish (Chair)

Lisa Whitaker (Vice Chair)

Lynne Allen

Alison Berry

Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), Borough Councillor Flo Clucas.

23/60 APOLOGIES

Helen Wells, Borough and County Councillor Bernard Fisher.

23/61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/62 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr. Cornish was proposed by Cllr. Berry, seconded by Cllr. Allen. Cllr. Cornish was unanimously elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

23/63 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Cllr. Whitaker was proposed by Cllr. Cornish, seconded by Cllr. Berry. Cllr. Whitaker was unanimously elected.

Cllr. Blankley joined the meeting.

23/64 REPORT BY CLLR. CLUCAS

Cllr. Clucas had received an assurance from Borough Council officers that our Local Green Space should be protected until 2031, when the replacement for the JCS is put in place.

The problems with CityFibre continue to be pursued.

Issues with potholes and hedges are also being pursued.

There have been complaints about the lack of grass cutting, but as a matter of policy areas are being left uncut to encourage biodiversity.

Cllr. Clucas left the meeting.

23/65 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

23/66 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 12th April 2023 as a true record.

23/67 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION 22/191/2 – Task leaders to complete a Project Proposal for each of their tasks. The Clerk was asked to re-send the list and offered to create the project descriptions from hand written notes if it would help. 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 23/41/1 – The Clerk to ask Cllr. Fisher whether play equipment removed and replaced at Pitville Park is still available. Action continues.

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

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. The Clerk had done this and the information had been passed to the organiser of the planning committee meetings. Action complete.

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

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. GAPTC had stated that candidates could stand in any ward, voters could only vote for candidates in their ward. Action complete.

23/68 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

23/69 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Clerk explained the General Power of Competence. The Council had adopted it previously and continued to meet the criteria. The Clerk recommended that the Council adopt the General Power of Competence and the Council **RESOLVED** to do so.

23/70 ASSET REGISTER

The Clerk had added the recently purchased laptop to the Asset Register. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the revised Asset Register.

23/71 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

Cllr. Allen agreed to perform financial checks.

23/72 EXEMPTION FROM LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW

The Clerk confirmed that the Council meets the criteria to exempt itself from Limited Assurance Review. The Clerk recommended that the Council exempt itself and the Council **RESOLVED** to do so.

23/73 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements.

23/74 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk confirmed that the Standing Orders were in accordance with the most recent Model Text and was not aware of any reason to change them. The Council **RESOLVED** to leave the Standing Orders unchanged.

23/75 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk confirmed that the Financial Regulations were in accordance with the most recent Model Text and was not aware of any reason to change them. The Council **RESOLVED** to leave the Financial Regulations unchanged.

23/76 PLANNING AND LICENSING

- 23/00642/FUL – Erection of a front porch and pitched roof above existing garage, 30 Riverview Way. The Council **RESOLVED** to make no objection.

Cllr. Cornish congratulated members on the work that had been done in connection with planning applications 23/00381/PRIOR (the telecoms mast) and 23/00354/OUT (Home Farm).

Regarding the former, it was understood (from C5) that Painswick Parish Council had successfully engaged with the developer.

NEW ACTION 23/76/1 – Cllr. Cornish to liaise with the Clerk to Painswick PC to see what we can learn about engaging with the telecommunications company.

NEW ACTION 23/76/2 – Cllr. Cornish to engage with the telecommunications company with a view discussing the type and location of aerials.

In respect of the latter it was noted that a letter from Gloucestershire Highways had been added to the planning portal. It was supportive of our point of view.

It was also noted that the planning officer had told the applicant that an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be required.

There were no licensing applications.

23/77 AMENITY AREA

Tom Harcourt (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust) has not responded to emails. Cllr. Collicutt agreed to follow this up. James Mogridge (Cheltenham Borough Council Drainage Engineer) has stated that the stream is classed as a “main river” and comes under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency rather than Cheltenham Borough Council.

23/78 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

The Clerk has been asked to confirm the Parish Council’s bank details, suggesting that our bid for “Build Back Better” grant funding will be approved.

NEW ACTION 23/78/1 – The Clerk to get new/revalidated quotes for conveyancing.

NEW ACTION 23/78/2 – Cllr. Cornish to engage with the Village Hall Committee with a view to getting an agreement on rent, etc.

23/79 REPORTS

Cllr. Whitaker reported on the C5 meeting. The networking event may be repeated.

Unconfirmed Minutes of Swindon Parish Council 15th May 2023

In the absence of Cllr. Wells it was agreed that we should set more dates for litter picks. It was noted that no residents had attended the latest litter pick starting from the Cross Hands. We should try to encourage more residents to participate. Also, the disposal of the rubbish bags had not gone according to plan.

The following dates were agreed.

- Sunday 28th May starting at the Village Hall at 10:30am
- Sunday 25th June starting at the Village Hall at 10:30am
- Sunday 30th July starting at the Cross Hands at 10:30am

The meeting closed at 9:13pm.

Signed:	Date:
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APPENDIX 1 – APPROVED PAYMENTS

Description	Amount
Clerk salary and expenses (ref 2324-003, 004, 007, 008)	£563.46
Karen Evans collecting May Village News (ref 2324-006)	£17.55
Cotswold District Council printing April and May Village News (ref 2223-100, 2324-009)	£526.83
Alison Berry expenses (ref 2324-005)	£42.48

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