

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

Alison Berry
Sharon Collicutt

Helen Wells

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk).

Cllrs. Whitaker and Borough Cllr. Flo Clucas attended the meeting by video link.

24/12 ELECTION OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Cllr. Wells was elected to Chair the meeting.

24/13 APOLOGIES

James Cornish, Lisa Whitaker, Lynne Allen, Natalie Blankley.

24/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/15 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

24/16 REPORT FROM CLLR. CLUCAS

Repairs to roads are being sought. A recent repair to Swindon Road immediately failed again.

There are plans to build houses on The Folly, the former University playing fields. This is being opposed due to the loss of green space, the impact on local residents and the increase in traffic.

The consultation on the Strategic and Local Plan is underway. Cllr. Clucas reported that Cheltenham Borough Council is supportive of the retention of our Local Green Space but, as it is a joint plan, we will need to persuade Tewkesbury Borough and Gloucester City Councils.

Regarding the application for temporary access to Swindon Farm off Manor Road, Cllr. Clucas confirmed that it was not intended that construction traffic would go through the Village. We agreed to make this comment anyway, see item 24/22.

The possibility of pedestrian access to the Swindon Road recycling centre (currently prohibited) is being investigated.

Cllr. Clucas left the Zoom session.

24/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 8th January 2024 as a true record.

24/18 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION 23/149/1 – Cllr. Cornish to approach Bishops Cleeve, Uckington and

Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Councils to consider a joint plan to the use of CIL/Section 106 monies. Action continues.

ACTION 23/155/1 – Matters arising from the Internal Audit to be progressed. Action continues.

ACTION 23/188/2 – Cllr. Cornish to produce an article for the Village News discussing the budget. Action complete.

ACTION 23/190/2 – Cllr. Cornish to decide on a process by which we would come up with a new and better name for the Amenity Area. Action continues.

ACTION 23/193/1 – Clerk to chase solicitor regarding the Village Hall car park. The Clerk had written to Mr. Crooknorth on 20th December but had not received a reply. The Borough Council is concerned that their solicitor had not received anything from Mr. Crooknorth. Action complete. See item 24/27 below.

ACTION 24/7/1 – Cllrs. Cornish and Wells to contact the members of CBC's planning committee to express their concerns about the Home Farm planning application. Action continues.

ACTION 24/7/2 – Cllr. Wells agreed to contact Anne Griffiths regarding the Elms Park outline planning application. Action continues.

ACTION 24/11/1 – Cllr. Cornish to ask the other Parish Councils via C5 if they also suffer from planning documents being made public at times when in depth review is difficult to accommodate. Action continues.

ACTION 24/11/2 – Cllr. Wells to ask CBC/Ubico (i) whether pedestrian access to the recycling centre could be provided at some point, and (ii) what arrangements will be put in place to accommodate the temporary closure of Wingmoor Farm recycling centre. Action continues (though item (i) above has been mentioned under item 24/16).

24/19 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Members **RESOLVED** to make the payments identified in Appendix 1. Cllrs. Berry and Wells were assigned to approve.

24/20 FINANCIAL POSITION

Members acknowledged receipt of the statement of the Council's financial position at the end of the third quarter.

24/21 BANK RECONCILIATION

Members acknowledged receipt of the bank reconciliation as of the end of the third quarter.

24/22 PLANNING AND LICENSING

The following planning applications were due for consideration.

- 24/00073/FUL - Temporary vehicular construction access from Manor Road in order to construct Phase 1 of the Swindon Farm. The Council **RESOLVED** to request that construction traffic be excluded from the Village (i.e. vehicles would be prevented from turning left if passing from Manor Road at its junction with Runnings Road).

- 24/00197/FUL - Erection of a new mezzanine floor of 401 sqm in unit 1B Centrum Park. The Council **RESOLVED** to make no objection.

There were no active licensing applications to be considered.

24/23 ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

The present agreement only permits two hives on the allotment garden. Beekeeping best practice recommends that a beekeeper maintains at least two hives to mitigate against the loss of a queen. There is currently one allotment holder with two hives. A second allotment holder would also like to keep bees. The Council **RESOLVED** to change the number of hives allowed on the allotment garden to four.

24/24 STRATEGIC AND LOCAL PLAN

Cllr. Wells attended two meetings on the Strategic and Local Plan. The current consultation is on the process by which the new plan will be developed. This phase ends on 13th March.

24/25 AMENITY AREA

The Clerk had requested that a Borough Council tree officer come out to discuss the trees in the Amenity Area prior to the Clerk submitting a planning application. They have declined to do this. The Clerk will proceed with a planning application.

24/26 HI-VIS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Clerk had been asked to obtain more Hi-Vis vests but Cllr. Wells stated that we had a sufficient number. Some people appear to think that our litter picking teams are paid; it was suggested that when we next purchase Hi-Vis vests we include the word "Volunteer".

24/27 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

Tayntons Solicitors had suffered a cyber attack. A new solicitor, Claire Burrow, had been assigned and was now progressing the case.

The Clerk stated that, with the grant money, our current account balance had been in excess of £40,000. He had moved £20,000 into the savings account. We were now earning approximately £25 interest per month.

24/28 MASTER PLAN FOR THE PARK

The Clerk had been asked to defer this item from the November meeting to this meeting.

NEW ACTION 24/28/1 - The Clerk to circulate the map of the park and suggested initiatives that had been prepared previously.

NEW ACTION 24/28/2 - The Clerk to ask CBC to clarify what will happen to the pavilion in the park.

24/29 REPORTS

Cllr. Berry had attended the licensing of the new vicar.

Cllr. Berry highlighted a new business in the area and suggested that businesses advertising in the Village News be offered the opportunity to submit an article about themselves.

NEW ACTION 24/29/1 - The Clerk to suggest this to the editor.

It was agreed that we should start planning for the Annual Parish Meeting.

NEW ACTION 24/29/2 - The Clerk to check the availability of the Village Hall on the 14th, 15th or 16th May.

Litter picking volunteers are thin on the ground, particularly when the pick starts from the Cross Hands. It was agreed that, in his article in the Village News, the Clerk should try to encourage more participation.

The meeting closed at 9:01pm.

Signed:	Date:
---------	-------

APPENDIX 1 – APPROVED PAYMENTS

Description	Amount
Perpetua printing December/January edition of the Village News (ref 2324-075)	£259.90
Clerk salary and expenses (ref 2324-069, 072, 073, 074)	£904.82

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