

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Lisa Whitaker (Chair)

Alison Berry

Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt

James Cornish

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), County Cllr. Bernard Fisher, Borough Cllr. Frank Allen and 17 members of the public

24/120 APOLOGIES

Lynne Allen, Borough Cllr. Flo Clucas

24/121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/122 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting had attracted members of the public concerned about the traffic issues that will be made worse by the Home Farm and Elms Park developments and the relationships between them.

Cllr. Fisher explained that presently no more than 1,100 homes can be built in the area before M5 Junction 10 is operating as a four way junction. The developers are pushing to increase this limit to 2,100. Gloucestershire Highways object to this. A decision will not be made on M5 Junction 10 before October.

The Elms Park outline planning application won't go before the Borough Council Planning Committee before October.

The original plan for the Home Farm development would have seen traffic routed through Elms Park. Elms Park is delayed and the Home Farm developer wishes to proceed. Residents were very concerned that both construction traffic and new residential traffic would be routed through the narrow roads of the Village (Quat Goose Lane, Brockhampton Lane, Dark Lane, etc.). A resident also pointed out that there is a bridge over the stream in Brockhampton that would be unsuitable for construction traffic.

The closure of Manor Road was also discussed. The date of the closure had been extended into October, allegedly on the discovery of a gas main that must be rerouted. The end date of the closure had subsequently been brought back to 6th September, but traffic lights will be in operation until October.

24/123 REPORT FROM BOROUGH CLLR. ALLEN

Cllr. Allen had prepared a petition for submission to the County Council complaining at the way in which road closures in the area were poorly coordinated. He asked that the petition be widely publicised and supported.

Cllr. Allen was thanked and left the meeting.

24/124 CO-OPTION

Tom Harcourt was present and asked to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council. The members unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept Mr. Harcourt as a member.

24/125 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

Karren Parsons was present representing the Village Hall Committee.

The following table represents the status of the quotes the Clerk had pursued for the works.

	Sewer across front of hall	Sewer from corner of hall across car park
Drain Defenders ¹	£6,200 + VAT (lining)	
Cotswold Drains ²	Quote awaited	£8,620 + VAT (excavation)
Lanes Drains	Failed to make meeting	
First Drainage ³	£9,800 + VAT (excavation)	£8,500 + VAT (excavation)
	£10,000 + VAT (lining both runs)	
CM Trade Solutions	Quote not received	
HS Drain Services	Said they were interested but didn't follow up	

Note 1 – Company says excavation and replacement is unnecessary but that the sewer is in danger of collapsing.

Note 2 – Company says excavation and replacement is necessary and that the sewer could collapse.

Note 3 – Company says excavation and replacement is unnecessary as the sewer is not in danger of collapsing. Work could not be done in August, recommends Autumn half term. If we accept their quote they will clear any blockages in the interim free of charge.

The sewer across the front of the hall is in the ownership of, and therefore the responsibility of, the Village Hall. The sewer across the car park is the responsibility of the Parish Council as lessor of the car park from the Borough Council.

It was agreed that it would make more sense to have the sewers excavated and replaced rather than lined. It would also make sense for a single company to do all of the work.

It was **RESOLVED** that First Drainage be offered the job.

Cllr. Fisher had some “Build Back Better” funding available. It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee should apply for this. Cllr. Fisher also offered to see if the Borough Council would be prepared to reduce the price of the car park.

24/126 CLOSURE OF THE CHURCHYARD

The formal notice announcing the Parochial Church Council’s intention to close the churchyard to new burials has been posted. After the consultation period and the completion of the formal process the Parish Council must decide whether to accept responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the churchyard in perpetuity or to pass

the responsibility to the Borough Council.

It was noted that, aside from the maintenance activity itself, there would be a considerable administrative overhead in managing the churchyard and organising the necessary works.

NEW ACTION 24/126/1 – Clerk to establish the date by which the Parish Council must make its decision.

24/127 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2024 as a true record.

24/128 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION 23/149/1 – Cllr. Cornish to approach Bishops Cleeve, Uckington and Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Councils to consider a joint plan for the use of CIL/Section 106 monies. 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. Cllr. Whitaker had raised the matter at the last C5 meeting. Other parishes experienced similar problems but it was recognised that developers could lodge planning applications whenever they wished. There would then be the statutory period of three weeks for comments. There is nothing we can do to change that. Action complete.

ACTION 24/61/1 – Clerk to commission a tree inspection in the summer. Action continues.

24/129 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

The invoice from Cotswold Drains for the sewer investigation had not been received, so the payment would be made separately.

24/130 INSURANCE

The Council had entered into a three year insurance arrangement with Hiscox. The Council cannot consider other suppliers until the expiration of the three years (28th August 2025). The Council could change the scope of its insurance cover if its needs had changed. The Council did not consider that its circumstances had changed and **RESOLVED** to make payment.

24/131 PLANNING AND LICENSING

The following planning applications were considered:

- 16/02000/OUT – Members objected to the latest developer proposals and would prepare a document for submission by the Clerk.

There were no licensing applications to be considered.

24/132 WINTER PLAN

We have a supply of road grit and Cllr. Berry had reported the grit bins that require replacement. It was felt that no further action would be required.

24/133 MASTER PLAN FOR THE PARK

Item deferred.

24/134 PARISH COUNCILS JOINT EVENT

The Council **RESOLVED** to participate in the event scheduled for 5th October and to pay its share of the catering costs for the event.

24/135 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Clerk provided members with a report on the Council's finances to the end of the first quarter (30th June 2024) and a bank reconciliation for the same date.

24/136 MAINTENANCE OF OLD MILL WAY (FORMERLY "THE AMENITY AREA")

Cllr. Harcourt has a supply of hedging trees that, with members agreement, could be planted in Old Mill Way. The Council **RESOLVED** to Give Cllr. Harcourt discretion to plant the trees where he thought they would be of most benefit.

24/137 NOTICEBOARDS

Cllr. Collicutt knew a local tradesman who might be interested in the work.

NEW ACTION 24/137/1 – Cllr. Collicutt to get a quote for refurbishing the noticeboard in the churchyard.

NEW ACTION 24/137/2 – Clerk to get a quote for a new noticeboard.

24/138 REPORTS

It was noted that a number of thefts had occurred in the area.

Graffiti has been appearing in the parish. It has been reported.

Cllr. Berry led the litter pick on 11th August, which had been a success.

Cllr. Whitaker had attended C5 on 17th July and the police liaison meeting on 18th July.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

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

APPENDIX 1 – APPROVED PAYMENTS

Description	Amount
Clerk salary and expenses <i>(ref 2425-028, 030, 032)</i>	£561.68
Cotswold Drains for survey of car park drain <i>(ref 2425-020) Invoice not available – payment delayed</i>	£270.00
Chris Arnold for tree works in Old Mill Way <i>(ref 2425-029) Paid in advance of meeting</i>	£300.00
Gallagher annual insurance premium <i>(ref 2425-031)</i>	£418.37

The Clerk would set up the payments to be made by bank transfer.

APPENDIX 2 – RECEIPTS

Description	Amount
None	