

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

Alison Berry (Chair)
Lynne Allen
Natalie Blankley

Sharon Collicutt
James Cornish
Ruth Hudson

Also Present:

One member of the public.

25/156 APOLOGIES

Borough Councillor Flo Clucas, Shaun Cullimore (Clerk).

In the absence of the Clerk Cllr. Collicutt kindly agreed to take notes.

25/157 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

As a paper copy was not available for signature the approval of the September minutes was deferred to the November meeting.

25/158 MATTERS ARISING

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

ACTION 25/64/2 – Cllrs. Cornish and Blankley to discuss the Village Hall constitution and operation in a bid to assist the current officers. Action continues.

ACTION 25/117/2 – Clerk to look into repainting the lines in the Village Hall car park, The Clerk recommended that the quote from Uni Play be accepted. The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the quote, with a possible increase Of up to £180 as the Village Hall required some changes. Action continues.

ACTION 25/154/1 – Clerk to canvas local opinion regarding the best place a bench. Action continues.

25/159 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/160 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public (Terry) was present for a discussion of the provision of tools for use by parishioners in general, and the group maintaining the churchyard in particular.

The churchyard group do not believe Ubico will do very much general mowing and strimming when they take over maintaining the churchyard. There are a total of 11 volunteers who take turns and generally spend 16 hours each week getting the churchyard looking very tidy.

Terry gave a ballpark figure of £3k required for the highest quality lawnmowers x 2 and trimmers x 3 and for a leaf blower. Another quote for Stihl equipment was £2k. At present volunteers are using their own personal mowers and trimmers. Terry asked whether the Parish Council would pay and we thought that this may be possible but the £2k figure would be more in line as a secure building/shed would also need to be

paid for to house this equipment. The Village Hall Car Park might be an ideal place for such storage. The Church grounds were not considered safe enough. The volunteers are prepared to keep the new equipment at their own premises. However, the Parish Council did not think this was a good idea. It was suggested that a WhatsApp group be used to keep a log book record of who was using the equipment. This was agreed.

Terry enquired about Public Liability Insurance. Cllr. Cornish said that we have that in place.

Terry agreed to contact Cheltenham Borough Council (Steve Mason - Head of Green Space?) to ask:

- what hours would be allocated for Ubico to work at the Churchyard each month?
- what jobs are they intending be carried out (i.e. trees/walls)?
- could CBC help fund volunteers to do mowing and strimming ?

25/161 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Members **RESOLVED** to make the payments identified in Appendix 1.

In addition it was agreed that a grant of £130 be made to the Poppy Appeal.

25/162 REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR FIRST HALF OF YEAR

The Clerk's report was noted.

25/163 BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025 (HALF YEAR)

The Clerk's bank reconciliation was signed by Cllr. Berry.

25/164 PLANNING AND LICENSING

- 25/01568/FUL and 25/01568/ADV – Replacement of recycling bins at Sainsbury's with a "We Buy Any Car" pod. No objection.

Cllr. Hudson would contact CBC re recycling issue once Sainsbury's no longer have the bins in their car park. Cllr. Hudson is keen to ensure recycling bins are provided elsewhere. She will bring up the issue of possible increased fly-tipping.

25/165 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the soil and door to be cleared at a cost of £125, and for the base of the hedges to be cleared for space to allow leaves etc. to pass through at a further cost of £280. £195 has already been paid for work done so far. It was further agreed that Steve Lords quote for general ongoing maintenance of the car park - £650 p.a. be approved.

25/166 FACEBOOK ISSUES

The issues had been addressed.

25/167 ALLOTMENT RENTS

All bar one of the rents had been collected.

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the allotment rents by 4% in line with inflation.

25/168 RISK MANAGEMENT

Item deferred.

25/169 GRIT BINS AND ROAD SALT STORAGE

Item deferred.

25/170 BENCH AT WYMANS LANE BUS STOP

Item deferred.

25/171 UNITARY AUTHORITY

Item deferred.

25/172 REPORTS

Cllr. Cornish will forward all information to date on pathway through Seasons Car park to the school, creating a safe route, to Sharon to continue to pursue with a Cheltenham Town Football Club official, and also with the Headmaster, along with Cllr. Blankley's help.

Cllr. Blankley has been to two Village Hall meetings since our last parish council meeting. The VH committee would like the storage area for rock salt etc to be rebuilt and signs put up for "no parking in loading Bay Area" and "No Idling".

It was discussed whether the VH should be card payments only. At present Karren has to spend time collecting cash for the till float for the bar. When she steps down from her role as Treasurer, this will be one less task for the new Treasurer. A discussion on whether the role of running the Hall should be a paid role continues.

Alison has a C5 meeting to attend on Wednesday.

Apologies for November meeting from Lynne and James. As Tom has not been present for some time, Lynne will go to his home and enquire whether he is going to join our Xmas meal on 4th December and whether he intends to attend the next scheduled meetings of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

APPENDIX 1 – APPROVED PAYMENTS

Description	Amount
Clerk salary and expenses (ref 2426-056, 2526-038, 2526-046, 2526-052, 2526-053)	£597.93
Perpetua printing October Village News (ref 2526-057)	£293.00
Steve Lord cutting of Village Hall car park hedge (ref 2526-054)	£195.00
PKF Littlejohn external audit fee (ref 2526-058)	£378.00
Poppy Appeal	£130.00

The Clerk would set up the payments to be made by bank transfer. Cllrs. Allen and Berry to approve.

APPENDIX 2 – RECEIPTS

Description	Amount
Allotment rental	£1,484.50
Advertising in Village News	£18.00
Interest	£2.40