

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 7:30PM
IN SWINDON VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors Present:

Alison Berry (Chair)

Lynne Allen

Natalie Blankley

James Cornish

Tom Harcourt

Ruth Hudson

Also Present:

Shaun Cullimore (Clerk), Borough Councillor Flo Clucas, one member of the public.

25/183 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Sharon Collicutt.

25/184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Blankley had a planning application that would be considered and was not present when the matter was considered.

25/185 PLANNING

- 25/01922/FUL – Two storey side and front extensions and alterations, Cotteswold House Brockhampton Lane

The property belongs to Cllr. Blankley who was not present for the discussion of this item.

The Council **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

Cllr. Blankley joined the meeting.

25/186 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Borough Councillor Clucas stated that fly tipping was a huge problem following closure of the recycling centre.

Cllr. Clucas was opposed to the starting of the Home Farm development. The existing roads cannot support use by construction traffic and residents. The roads need to be built out in Elms Park first. Gloucestershire Highways and the Parish Council are of the same opinion.

Despite tracking the application, the Parish Council received no notification that new documents were available or that a new consultation period had commenced.

The traffic lights in Manor Road are again stuck on all red. The meeting wondered whether a roundabout or part time lights would be a better solution. At quiet times (when the lights are working) traffic is unnecessarily delayed.

Because of the traffic issues in the area, Highways had told National Grid that they could only carry out essential work. However, routine work had been done under an “essential” permit. Highways will take them to task.

25/187 PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public was present to represent the interests of the volunteers who maintain the churchyard.

The Borough Council had stated that it would only maintain the footpaths.

Ubico use Stihl equipment. Could we get a discount by bundling an order with theirs?

The Parish Council required :

- Three competitive quotes for tools
- Consideration to be given to the security of the shed in the churchyard

If the Parish Council agree to the purchase of tools they will remain the property of the Parish Council. To benefit from the Parish Council's insurance the people maintaining the churchyard would have to be volunteers acting on behalf of the Parish Council.

25/188 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 10th November 2025.

25/189 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 Parish Council had accepted a quote from Uniplay but the Village Hall had made significant changes to the spec which had resulted in the cost increasing from £2,017 to £2,858.40. After discussion the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the revised spec and quote. Action closed.

ACTION 25/154/1 – Clerk to canvas local opinion regarding the best place a bench. As GCC had offered to install a bench in the bus shelter the Clerk had taken up the offer. The Council may still pursue getting a bench at the bus stop itself. Action continues.

ACTION 25/179/1 – Cllr. Blankley (and others) to provide candidate risk items. Cllr. Blankley came up with some key risks during the meeting. Others were invited to contribute. Action complete.

25/190 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

25/191 BUDGET 2026-2027

The Clerk had distributed a draft budget. The following changes were agreed.

- The line item for Clerk's salary should be increased to £11,000 to allow for some overlap between the incumbent and the new clerk
- The training budget should be increased to £1,000 as new clerk may have training needs
- The GAPTC membership fee should be taken out (later in the meeting the decision was taken to not continue in membership)
- The precept should be increased by 10% against last year's figure to reduce the impact on reserves

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the budget with these changes and set a precept of £14,765.94.

25/192 FUTURE ROLE OF CLERK

The Clerk agreed to seek whatever information was available from GAPTC, including a model Contract of Employment. It was agreed that we should offer NJC terms rather than the statutory minimum.

It was agreed that we should offer 0.5 full time equivalent hours.

Depending on who is recruited, the incumbent Clerk could stay on as RFO.

It was agreed that we would advertise the role as soon as possible and aim to get applications by the end of January.

Cllr. Hudson left the meeting at this point.

25/193 MEMBERSHIP OF GAPTC

The Clerk advised the Council that they had to decide before the end of December whether to continue in membership with GAPTC for 2026-2027 (from 1st April 2026).

GAPTC had lost key experienced personnel and feedback from C5 made it clear that the current training was generally of poor quality.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would not renew its membership.

25/194 INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

Two fixed term investments (£40,000 and £20,000) had matured. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should invest in a one year fixed account whilst retaining a minimum of £10,000 instantly available.

25/195 REPORTS

Cllr. Cornish reported that our proposal for boundary changes had been carried forward.

The meeting closed at 9:52pm.

Signed:	Date:
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APPENDIX 1 – APPROVED PAYMENTS

Description	Amount
Clerk salary and expenses (ref 2526-064, 2526-066)	£586.44
Perpetua printing December/January Village News (ref 2526-065)	£293.00
Deposit for the hire of the skittle alley for the Allotment Holders' Skittles Evening, money to be returned via ticket sales (ref 2526-067)	£100.00

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	£46.75
Interest	£1132.87
Advertising in Village News	£54.00