

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
FULL COUNCIL
held on **Monday 24th July 2023 at 6.30 pm**
Meeting Room, Holy Trinity Church, Shaw

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali (Chair)
Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Mustafa Dayan
Cllr Mustafa Ertas
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Rose Llewellyn (Vice Chair)
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams
Cllr Sean Wilson

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Four

Meeting Start: 7.11pm

Public Questions:

Resident Mr Roger Ogle indicated that there was a fifty year anniversary of residents arriving in West Swindon. He suggested that there could be multiple ways to mark these key moments and invited the Parish Council to consider how it could be coordinated and what community participation could be generated. The Chair thanked Mr Ogle for his comments.

Resident queried the response in the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting to a public question about Councillors' declaration of Councillors allowances and expressed concern that the response in the Minutes did not answer the question and was a not a sufficient response. The Chair advised that the claiming of any allowances was a matter for individual Councillors. The Parish Manager advised that a written clarification on the original question would be circulated to the resident directly.

Resident commented on the state of vegetation in the roadsides that were not being actioned by the Parish Council team. The Chair advised that it was a Swindon Borough Council matter but would be taken up on behalf of the resident.

Resident thanked Councillors for holding a meeting in a community setting but noted that sound was not great and would be helped by the use of microphones. The Chair thanked the resident.

Cllr Richard Hailstone from Haydon Wick Parish Council delivered an introduction to the Swindon Area Forum, or previously known as the Swindon Branch of the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils. The Forum holds four meetings per annum and has a membership of 19 out of 21 eligible Parish Councils. The purpose was to share information and ideas as well as taking collective action on key national policy directives or proposals from Swindon Borough Council. Examples of joint working included creating a collective system for the collection of hazardous waste and lobbying for the distribution of the Council Tax Support Grant to Parishes. The Chair thanked Mr Hailstone for his presentation.

64. Welcome & Declarations of Interest/Applications for Dispensation

Declarations of interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 22 May 2023: None received.

65. Minutes of the previous meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 June 2023 be approved and adopted.

66. Minutes of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee held on Monday 17 July 2023 be approved and adopted.

67. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 34) that
a) 49 payments totalling £88,512.98 in April 2023 be approved
b) 45 Payments totalling £56,845.47 in May 2023 be approved

RESOLVED that Minutes from the Finance & Staffing Committee on 26 June 23 be approved and adopted.

68. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors

Cllr Wilson reported that Swindon Borough Council had a new interim CEO – Sam Mowbray. Great Western Way Blagrove to Mannington is set for resurfacing. Beaulieu Close backland area has had improvements with paving restored to grass.

Cllr Williams reported that Solar Together continues to be open for applications and landlords can apply. Replacement of the River Ray Parkway bridge is scheduled.

Cllr Ali reported that sites meetings were taking place for school safety zones at Brookfield school has flagged a review of parking on Roughmoor Way. Final deliberations will take place over the next few weeks. Mead Way traffic signalling is to be reviewed at the end of the year.

69. Update from Parish Councillors

- Cllr Singh reported that dogs not on leads around playing areas was potentially a problem during the summer holidays. Young people on e-scooters are also a concern to older residents and drivers.
- Cllr T Philpot reported ongoing issues with Wales and West with damage to private property and public footpaths.
- Cllr Bates reported a resident concerned about speed of traffic on Mead Way which has been passed to Swindon Borough Council.
- Cllr G Philpot reported that Shelfinch play area had outstanding work to be done on the fencing/gate.
- Cllr Sydney Smith reported that there were problems with the gas pipe work in Sudeley Way.
- Cllr Wilson reported that the school safety zone visit for Oliver Tomkins had been undertaken. Algae bloom at Lydiard Park has been mitigated by barley straw bales.
- Cllr Dayan reported that he was liaising with Cllr Gattapur regarding a commemorative bench for Shaw Ridge.
- Cllr Williams reported that there had been a flytipping and graffiti spike and the tree reduction on Roughmoor Way was greening over.
- Cllr Ertas reported that he had been dealing with a planning matter.
- Cllr Llewellyn reported that there ongoing potholes in Cartwright Drive and Bishopdale Close.
- Cllr Ali reported that he had been following up tree issues in Middlelease, problems with Swindon Borough Council drain covers and underpass lighting.

70. Investment Strategy

The Parish Manager circulated a draft Investment Strategy considered by the Finance & Staffing Committee. It was noted that other investment options should be investigated. A copy of appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Investment Strategy be approved and adopted.

71. Membership of the Swindon Area Forum/Committee

The Chair opened a discussion on future membership of the Swindon Area Forum. Councillors considered the value gained from membership. The first meeting will be 21st September at 7.00 pm, venue to be confirmed. The Chair proposed that membership be progressed. Cllrs Sydney Smith, Singh and G Philpot voted against, Cllr T Philpot abstained.

RESOLVED that West Swindon Parish Council will join the Swindon Area Forum.

72. Inequality Health Funding

Information on funding being advertised by Swindon Borough Council for targeted work addressing health inequalities. A copy appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the report and agreed that a project for West Swindon should be submitted.

73. Motor Vehicle Insurance Renewal

Councillors noted the renewal quote. A copy appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager was asked to seek further quotes.

RESOLVED that this Council approves the renewal quote provided by James Hallam with the provision to switch to an alternative provider if a like for like quote at a lower price is secured before the renewal date.

74. Asset Register

The Parish Manager circulated a revised Asset Register as recommended by the Internal Auditor, a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that this Council approves the Asset Register for 2023-24.

Meeting finished: 8.30 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 21 August 2023 6.00 pm.

Signed:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

Date: