

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the  
**FULL COUNCIL**  
held on **Monday 21 August 2023 at 6.00 pm**  
**West Swindon Parish Council Offices, Unit 25 Westmead Ind Estate**

### **Present:**

Cllr Peter Bates  
Cllr Suresh Gattapur  
Cllr Leon Grother  
Cllr Rose Llewellyn (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Graham Philpot  
Cllr Trish Philpot  
Cllr Nandini Singh  
Cllr Andrew Swinyard  
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith  
Cllr Keith Williams

**Officers:** Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

**Public:** Two

**Meeting Start:** 6.22 pm

### **Public Questions:**

Resident asked that checks would be undertaken to ensure that the Acorn Community Bank is fully registered with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.  
*Resident was advised that this was the case.*

Resident asked what progress if any had been made with the allotments extension proposal at Blagrove.  
*Resident was advised that this was for discussion at the next Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee.*

Resident asked if there was any further information about the oxygen issues at Peatmoor lake before any more investment was put into it.  
*Cllr Gattapur advised that this was being fully investigated and he had pledged a month of his Swindon Borough Council Councillors allowance to the Go Fund Me page for the lake.*

Resident asked if a future meeting of the income working party would consider the creation of post lockers as there appeared to be greater demand than supply for residents in West Swindon.  
*Resident advised that this could be looked into.*

Resident advised that the roundabout from Easleaze Road to Whitehill Way had been left in a mess with broken and missing paving.

*Resident advised that this was a Swindon Borough Council matter but would be looked into.*

Resident reported that there was damage to the bollard at the end of Freshbrook Way.  
*Resident advised that this was a Swindon Borough Council matter but would be looked into.*

Resident asked if the Parish Council was going to look at alternative options from relying on Lister Wilder as there may be more cost effective companies.  
Residents points were noted.

Questions Raised for Residents:

Resident had queried speed calming measures on Rivenhall Road/Westlea Drive. Cllr Gattapur to liaise with Swindon Borough Council.

Resident complaints about height and volume of weeds along the roadsides.  
To be updated in Councillor updates.

Resident concerns about scooters and mobility scooters in the road.  
It was noted that some mobility scooters may be road legal.

The Parish Council on it's website and static Notice Boards, state that **graffiti is a low priority.**

- (1) When was this determined by the Parish Councillors at that time and where is it recorded.

*The Parish Council has debated options for tackling a number of times. The practice for the last six years has been the same as that delivered by Swindon Borough Council prior to the parish. Offensive graffiti is covered within one working day of reporting – other graffiti is dealt with on an adhoc basis depending on time, weather and resources. Private properties can ask for graffiti removal from SBC.*

*The process of overpainting needs a period of dry conditions – particularly for subways. Last year 12 of the 18 subways were repainted) at a cost of 5 days labour and £1000 paint*

- (2) Was the public consulted on this decision before it was agreed.

*No – no specific decision although the discussions on graffiti have taken place as part of public meetings.*

- (3) Do the current Parish Members still support this decision.

*Refer to the next Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee*

- (4) Do the current Parish Councillors consider that graffiti enhances the area.

*Refer to the next Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee*

- (5) Do the current Parish Councillors agree that leaving graffiti in situ does attract more.

*Refer to the next Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee*

Meeting start 6.22 pm. Cllr Llewellyn chaired the meeting.

**80. 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.

**81. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 July 2023 be approved and adopted.

**82. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee**

**RESOLVED** that Recommendation (Minute 66) that **35** payments totalling £75,193.77 in June 2023 be approved

**RESOLVED** that Minutes from the Finance & Staffing Committee on 24 July 23 be approved and adopted.

**83. Update from Swindon Borough Councillors**

Cllr Gattapur reported that work to support Peatmoor Angling Club was ongoing. Roadsweeper requests to Swindon Borough Council had been submitted for Shaw ward.

Swindon Borough Council officers were investigating the clock tower at Shaw Village Centre and will report on condition.

Power cuts in Westlea/Mead Way were due to SSE faults but should be rectified now.

Post office at the West Swindon District Centre should be open mid September.

Work on the pathways and pond at Asda should be commencing.

The Clear Waters to the Sea project would be getting underway from 16 September.

Cllr Williams reported that the missed safety barrier at Westlea Rise had been replaced.

20 miles per hour zone for Old Shaw Lane had closed for feedback but no date given yet. Brookfield School results were not back yet.

Riverway parkway bridge needed replacing and should be completed soon.

**84. Update from Parish Councillors**

- Cllr G Philpot reported that he was looking into the Horsham DC street warden scheme.
- Cllr Gattapur reported that drug dealing around Mannington Lane was reported to 101 but the response was very poor. 16 fruit trees had been replanted in Westlea.
- Cllr Williams reported that there complaints about overgrown shrubber.
- Cllr Sydney Smith reported that British Gas had cleared up well after work in Mulcaster Avenue.

- Cllr Grother reported requests for woodchip from volunteer groups had been noted.
- Cllr Singh reported that she had reported overgrown shrubbery, problems with lampposts and street signs.
- Cllr Philpot reported that Freshbrook Church had been happy to receive produce from the Blagrove community allotment.
- Cllr Llewellyn reported that there overgrown shrubbery issues being raised.

**85. Peatmoor Lake as requested by Cllr Llewellyn.**

The Chair noted Cllr Gattapur's input to Peatmoor Lake. Councillors noted that support had been offered to the Peatmoor Angling Club in terms of help with setting up a charitable/fundraising arm.

**RESOLVED** that the Investment Strategy be approved and adopted.

**86. Approval of Bank Statements, Reconciliation and Payments**

Council received the July current account bank statement and reconciliation and a schedule of payments for July 2023, copies of which appear as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** that Bank Statement and reconciliation for July 2023 be noted and approved.

Council received a schedule of payments for July 2023 as follows:

Fuel Genie	£69.04	FUEL
Lex Autolease	£2,522.92	VEHICLE LEASE COSTS
Abax UK Ltd	£211.50	VEHICLE TRACKERS
Barclays Mixed Payments	£28.50	COMMISSION CHARGES
Barclaycard Credit Card	£432.67	BCARD JULY 23
Fuel Genie	£262.68	FUEL
Michaels Work Wear	£528.65	UNIFORMS
Swindon Borough Council	£48.00	SBC VEHICLE WASH
Swindon Borough Council	£63.00	FUEL
Spaldings	£430.80	BIN LINERS
Truston Security Services	£37.20	SECURITY
Kinch Fuel Oils Ltd	£2,719.10	FUEL
Michaels Work Wear	£24.18	UNIFORM
Garage Equipmt Ltd	£1,130.40	TYRE MACHINE
Landscape Supply Co	£124.23	GARDEN CONSUMABLES
Amazon.Co.Uk	£19.98	MAGNETS
GHS (UK) Ltd	£52.80	BROADBAND
Screwfix	£52.77	BLADES
Mid Solutions 4 Documents	£149.00	PRINTER SERVICE
Imperial Tyres	£555.00	TYRE REPLACEMENT
Wessex Fleet	£157.20	VEHICLE FLEET MAINTENANCE
Octopus Energy	£323.23	ENERGY

Fuel Genie	£94.00	FUEL TANK
Everflow Water	£56.11	WATER
HMRC Cumberland	£8,358.93	HMRC JULY PAYROLL
Viking Direct.co.uk	£71.11	STATIONERY
Swindon Borough Council	£22,584.10	ELECTIONS RECHARGE
Tree 2u Woodcrafts	£70.00	COMMUNITY GROWING
Screwfix	£91.47	CONSUMABLES
Wiltshire Pension Fund	£5,442.73	PENSIONS JULY PAYROLL
Staff Team Salaries	£26,501.71	SALARIES JULY PAYROLL
Mobilize Financial Services	£240.25	KANGAROO VEHICLE
Fuel Genie	£87.88	FUEL
Lister Wilder Ltd	£1,566.17	MOWER SERVICE
Lister Wilder Ltd	£862.61	MOWER SERVICE
Auditing Solutions	£576.00	INTERNAL AUDIT
Lister Wilder Ltd	£807.88	MOWER SERVICE
Lister Wilder Ltd	£573.03	CHIPPER SERVICE
Screwfix	£29.88	GLOVES
Greatfield Nurseries	£170.94	BENCHES
Screwfix	£28.88	BLADES
O2 Telefonica	£298.42	MOBILES
Nest Pension Scheme	£771.22	PENSION JULY PAYROLL
<b>TOTAL 43 PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£79,226.17</b>	

**RESOLVED** that 43 payments totalling £79,226.17 for July 2023 be approved.

**87. Acorn Community Bank**

Councillors received a report setting out details of the Acorn Community Bank. A copy appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the report and agreed that investing funds into the community bank would give additional protection to the Parish Council's reserves through the Financial Services Compensation Scheme guarantee and also would make a difference locally. Withdrawals could be made at any time and would require a two signature process.

**RESOLVED** that £57,000 be deposited for the West Swindon Parish Council.

**88. Changes to Swindon Borough Council Waste & Recycling**

The Parish Manager advised Councillors that Swindon Borough Council were introducing changes to the waste and recycling doorstep collection scheme. In addition to people on the food waste recycling trial, this will be extended to all residents. Food recycling bins are being distributed alongside a new blue sack for the collection of both tin and plastics. Households will be receiving them with an explanatory leaflet. A further letter would be issued in the Autumn specifying a start date. Councillors noted the changes and agreed this is likely to have some issues in the beginning.-

**RESOLVED** that a visit to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre be requested.

**Meeting finished: 8.30 pm**

**Date of next meeting: Monday 18 September 2023 6.45 pm, Freshbrook Community Centre.**

Signed: .....

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

Date: .....