

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
FULL COUNCIL
held on **Monday 26 February 2024 at 6.45 pm**
Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramlease Dr.

Present:

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

Officers: Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)

Public: Four

Meeting Start: 6.56 pm

Presentation from Mr Philip Wilkinson, Wiltshire and Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner. Mr Wilkinson attended with two police colleagues to share information about prioritisation, projects and funding.

Public Questions:

To Mr Wilkinson: Councillors and members of the public asked questions about the turnover of police personnel, availability of data and statistics, car meets, obstructive parking, car racing, and noise of cars. Mr Wilkinson advised that recruitment and transfer of staff across roles and departments was not unusual but appreciated that this might impact on community relationships. He reported that enforcement action had been taken and would continue to be taken on local matters including the issuing of speeding tickets, hot spot policing, use of off road e-bikes, and victim support. Mr Wilkinson was asked to comment on the reduced use of Westpoint police point and he indicated that this was unlikely to change in the near future.

To the Council:

Resident asked how the Parish Council had derived a 20% increase in the annual budget. The Chair advised that the budget planning process had undertaken careful review of expenditure. The resident was invited to attend the office to go through the budget in detail.

Resident raised queries on the budget regarding the library grant, backlands and bleed kits.

A number of questions were raised about changes to the Clean and Green fund. The Chair advised these would be covered in the Agenda item.

Meeting start: 8.09 pm
Cllr Llewellyn and Cllr Makofu left the meeting.

233. Welcome & Declarations of Interest/Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllr Ertas, Cllr T Philpot, Cllr A Swinyard
Declarations of interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 22 May 2023: None.

234. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Cllr Williams asked for it to be noted that verbal comments were made about Cllr Williams' contribution during the last Full Council meeting in January that were incorrect. The Chair agreed note of this.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024 be approved and adopted.

235. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 199) that 48 payments for December 2023 totalling £85,958.56 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Minutes from the Finance & Staffing Committee held on Monday 22 January 2024 be approved and adopted.

236. Minutes of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 219) that the Parish Council's grant process review be approved.

RESOLVED that Recommendation (Minute 218) that the Parish Council's Clean and Green fund be reviewed and a reserve be set for the fund as at 31 March 2024 be approved.

RESOLVED that Minutes from the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee on Monday 05 February 2024 be approved and adopted.

237. Parish Council Grants Review

Councillors reviewed a report setting out a proposal for Parish Grants in 2024-25, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed the report. A schedule for the funds accrued in the Clean and Green Fund was circulated, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager advised that within the earmarked reserves, funds would be amalgamated to neighbourhood areas unless there was a group that had accumulated a specific amount. In the case of groups, these amounts would be detailed. Expenditure would continue with groups making requests via the Parish Office.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Parish Council adjusts the funding rounds to April and September during 2024 and the opportunity be promoted. Any applications that have already been submitted will be considered in April.
- b) Funds accumulated in the Clean and Green Fund will be noted within the Council's earmarked reserves and no new funds will be allocated during the current financial year.

238. Services Update Report

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out updates on the work of the team for the last month. A copy of the report appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the report.

8.20pm

239. Admission of Public and Press

Resolved in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: To discuss service transfer matters

Councillors noted the discussion undertaken in the Finance & Staffing Committee. No further comments to note.

Meeting ended: 8.24 pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 22 January 2024 6.45pm

Signed:

Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

Date: