

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024 at 7.15pm
In the Council Chamber, Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, Swindon.

Present:	Cllr N Hopkins (Chair) Cllr S Ahmed Cllr S Allsopp Cllr R Banwell-Moore Cllr M Davies Cllr D Dias Cllr J Firmin Cllr D Griffiths Cllr A Hamid	Cllr P Herring Cllr S James Cllr L Kasmaty Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinny Cllr R Leather Cllr J Miah Cllr J Pereira Cllr T Silberberg Cllr N Watts
Officers:	Jake Mee Carol Clark	Chief Executive Officer Administration Assistant
Public:	Four	
Apologies:	Cllr J Howarth (Vice-Chair) Cllr J Ali Cllr A Hamid	Cllr G Philpot Cllr T Philpot
Absences:	Cllr D Vales	

2324 – 308 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr J Firmin declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14, Local Government Boundary Review of Swindon.

Cllr M Davies declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12, 2024 Events Programme.

2324 - 309 Public Questions

Question: Is there any update regarding the refurbished train wheels and chair in GWR Park. Will the chair be replaced and when will they be replaced?

Answer: The wheels are not going to be replaced, they are historic to the park and will remain. We are in the process of sourcing GWR chairs and will provide an update when they have been sourced.

Question: When will the Mesothelioma Garden in Queens Park be open? Currently it is closed, why is it closed and could a sign be provided to state the reasons for closure to inform residents?

Answer: For safety reasons the Mesothelioma Garden has been closed. The Parish will put up signage explaining this. Regarding the refurbishment of the Mesothelioma Garden, we are currently calculating a bill of quantities and finding a ground worker to commit to the works. The project is on-going.

Question: When will the temporary gate located at Drove Road be replaced?

Answer: The work to the gates is fitted in with the scheduled and reactionary work across the parish by the Council's maintenance team.

Question: Regarding item 11, Enchanted Gardens Light Trail 2023 Review, its hard to evaluate the 2023/2024 financial figures without previous years data. Is this available to review?

Answer: Please refer to Full Council reports published on the 25th January 2022 and the 24th January 2023 to cross reference with item 11 on the agenda. For ease the following is a summary of the Profit/ Loss:

2021, – £19,405.51
2022, – £19,448.36
2023, - £37,252.83

Question: Can additional bins be installed in the area around Windsor Road, Lawn Manor Academy and New College? Ideally by the bus stop.

Answer: The Parish Council will investigate the practicalities of putting in additional bins in the area in question.

2324 – 310

Chair's Report

£2,800 was raised for Prospect Hospice from the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail car park through use of the Commonweal School car park. The Rotary Club boosted this amount making the final donation £3,000. A Cheque has now been presented to the hospice.

The recent Libraries Report presented at the January 2024 Leisure, Environment and Amenities committee demonstrates the ongoing success of our parish libraries. There is an increase in footfall and an increase in books being borrowed. Badbury Park library has been welcomed by residents and there is ongoing work with the local school to increase the number of children registered at the library.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer continues to successfully work at bringing together improvements to Buckhurst Field with potential funding streams providing a new play area, MUGA and skate park. The play area has been reviewed by Mums on a Mission and they've commented that the new proposal is the best accessible play area they have seen so far. Well done to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the great work.

2324 – 311

Information from Borough Councillors

None present.

2324 – 312

Presentation – SBC Director of Operations

The presentation from Swindon Borough Council's Director of Operations and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Joint Working regarding the Borough Council's proposed transfer of services to Parish Councils was rescheduled to the February 2024 Full Council meeting.

2324 – 313 Minutes – Finance & Staffing

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 12th December 2023 be adopted and approved as a correct record.

2324 – 314 Minutes – Full Council

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12th December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

2324 – 315 Minutes – Leisure, Environment & Amenities

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 10th January 2024 be adopted and approved as a correct record.

2324 – 316 Minutes – Planning

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 16th January 2024 be adopted and approved as a correct record.

2324 – 317 Budget 2024-25

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the draft budget and precept demand for 2024-25. A copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 That the draft budget for 2024/25 as detailed in the attached report is approved.

3.2 That the draft Precept demand for 2024/25 of £3,275,350 is approved.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2

2324 – 318 Sweeper Replacement

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding replacement of the parish sweepers. A copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 To approve the direct award under Halton Housing Framework Contract reference number 2020/S 110-268523 for the procurement of fleet vehicles to Hako Housing for £187,905.56 as per 2.5.

3.2 To approve the Repairs & Maintenance contract for a period of three years as per 2.6.

3.3 Council should decide what to do with the old sweepers.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2.

RESOLVED: To retain one of the existing road sweepers.

2324 – 319 Enchanted Gardens Light Trail 2023 Review

The Events Manager submitted a report reviewing last year's Enchanted Gardens Light Trail. A copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.27pm to allow Public Questions.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 8.34pm.

Recommendations

3.1 To consider whether the Parish Council would like to continue organising an event in the Town Gardens in December 2024.

RESOLVED: To continue organising an event in the Town Gardens in December 2024.

2324 – 320 2024 Events Programme

The Events Manager submitted a report to consider the proposed Events Programme for 2024. A copy of this report appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 To approve the programme of events as laid out in 2.1.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1

2324 – 321 The Bowl Refurbishment – Survey Costs

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding quotes to provide refurbishment surveys for the Bowl. A copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 To appoint supplier 2 to provide the surveys required.

3.2 To appoint Tree Maintenance Ltd to carry out the arboriculture survey as per 2.3.

RESOLVED: To delegate the Chief Executive Officer, expenditure of up to £7,000 from the Earmarked Buildings Reserve, to appoint a supplier to complete necessary surveys for the Bowl refurbishment.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.2.

2324 – 322 Local Government Boundary Review of Swindon

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report regarding the consultation reviewing the Borough Council's Ward Boundaries. A copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

3.1 Authorise the Parish Council CEO to make a submission to the LGBC's review of Swindon's Ward Boundaries advocating that all of Wichelstowe and Badbury Park remain in the same Borough Council Wards for the reasons outlined in Point 2.2.

RESOLVED: To authorise the Parish Council CEO to make a submission to the LGBC's review of Swindon's Ward Boundaries with respect to known anomalies within the current boundary.

2324 – 323 Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive explained to Parish Council there had been a nomination for a Parish Councillor to represent the Council on an Outside Body. A copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.

Recommendations

Whole Systems Approach to Obesity Steering Group: Nomination for Cllr Rosie Leather to act as Council representative for the rest of the 2023/24 municipal year.

RESOLVED: To nominate Cllr Rosie Leather to act as Council representative on the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity Steering Group.

2324 – 324 Precept Information Leaflet

The Chief Executive Officer submitted a draft precept information leaflet for 2024-25. A copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED: To request that a revised draft be submitted for approval at the February Full Council meeting.

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Chair of the Parish Council