

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2024 at 6.30pm

In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr Rebecca Banwell-Moore –Vice-Chair Cllr Steve Allsopp Cllr Mike Davies Cllr Domingos Dias Cllr John Firmin Cllr Dave Griffiths Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Sam James	Cllr Linda Kasmaty Cllr Rosie Leather Cllr Jamal Miah Cllr Joseph Pereira Cllr Graham Philpot Cllr Trish Philpot Cllr Tom Silberberg
Apologies:	Cllr Junab Ali Cllr Neil Hopkins - Chair	Cllr Janine Howarth Cllr Nadine Watts
Absent:	Cllr Saleh Ahmed Cllr Abdul Hamid	Cllr Marianne Le Coyte-Grinney Cllr Danial Vales
Officers:	Matt Leather Max Tanner	Deputy CEO Committee Officer
Public:	1	
Public Questions:	None	

2425 - 113 Apologies

Cllr Junab Ali, Cllr Neil Hopkins – Chair, Cllr Janine Howarth and Cllr Nadine Watts

2425 – 114 Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation

Cllr M Davies, Cllr D Dias, Cllr J Miah declare a conflict of interest for item 11 - Transfer of Services Update and did not participate in the debate as they serve as Borough Councillors.

2425 – 115 Chair's Report

This month has seen the use of the new amazon machine which is being used on "Rewilded" areas in the Parish. This machine "cuts and collects" the grass cuttings enabling them to be removed from the sites, thereby reducing the fertility of the soil to reduce grass growth and enable wildflowers to come through. In previous years this machine was hired at significant expense for a short period of time with little flexibility if weather conditions were not suitable during the period of hire. Now we have our own machine, this will pay for itself over a few years and give us greater flexibility on timing of the Autumn cut. The Parish would consider requests for the loan/hire of this machine/operator from other Parishes.

Work is progressing on the Mesothelioma Garden in Queens Park, with work likely to be finished by the end of this month. An opening event will be planned in due course.

It is encouraging to see how the tennis courts in Quarry Road are being well used during the summer period. Hopefully this will encourage more people, and especially young people, to play tennis regularly with the various access and coaching arrangements available which include some limited periods of free use.

We have come to the end of the summer events at the Bowl. A wide range of events have been held at the Bowl this year, including theatre, comedy, music, community, children's and charity events. I'd like to thank Abi, Nadia, Parish Staff and volunteers who have helped at the events this year. We look forward to planning another exciting programme for 2025. The Parish is working with New Elements to submit a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and other bodies, for funding to repair and improve the Bowl.

Plans have been developed for the most exciting Enchanted Gardens Light Trail we have had so far in Town Gardens starting around the end of November. This year's Enchanted Gardens Light Trail will have a new route and even more installations, with some that will be seen for the first time in this country. We are very excited to be partnering this year with the local NHS charity, Brighter Futures in a number of ways including car parking at Commonweal and sales of Light Trail merchandise and we have some new and exciting Food and Refreshment offerings for this year.

2425 – 116 Minutes – Full Council

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 23rd July 2024 are approved as a true record.

2425 – 117 Minutes – Planning

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Meeting held on the 30th July 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix B.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 30th July are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 118 Minutes – Finance & Staffing

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Finance & Staffing Meeting held on 30th July 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities meeting held on the 30th July 2024 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 119 Minutes – Leisure, Environment and Amenities

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Leisure, Environment and Amenities held on 6th August 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities meeting held on the 6th August 2024 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 120 Minutes – Leisure, Environment and Amenities

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Leisure, Environment and Amenities held on 3rd September 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities meeting held on the 3rd September 2024 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 121 Payment Schedule – July and August 2024

The CEO submitted the Payment Schedules for July and August 2024, a copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix F.

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule of July and August 2024 be approved.

2425 – 122 Accounts - July and August 2024

The CEO submitted the Accounts for July and August 2024, a copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix G.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts for July and August 2024 be approved.

2425 – 123 Transfer of Services Update

The Council received a written report from the CEO regarding Swindon Borough Council's proposals to transfer a number of its services to Parish Councils.

Recommendations

3.1 That the parish respond to Swindon Borough Council's proposed transfer of services as per the statement provided in 2.8.

RESOLVED:

- I. To approve recommendation 3.1
- II. If and when Swindon Borough Council make further contact regarding the transfer of services to Parish Councils, it will be reported back to Full Council to discuss strategy from that point onwards.

2425 – 124 Swindon Ward Boundary Proposals Response

The Council received a written report which included the Parish response to the Local Government Boundary Commission consultation for revised electoral wards in Swindon.

Recommendations

3.1 To note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1

2425 – 125 External Funding Report

The Council received an update from the Deputy CEO regarding funding the Parish Council has received.

Recommendations

3.1 To note the contents of the report.

3.2 To support the proposed virements from S.106 funding and earmarked reserves as proposed in Point 2.1.

RESOLVED:

- I. To approve recommendations 3.1 & 3.2
- II. To congratulate the Parish Officers on securing the additional funding detailed in the report.

Meeting Closes at 19:12

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council