

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2024 at 6.30pm

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

Present:	Cllr Neil Hopkins – Chair Cllr Rebecca Banwell-Moore – Vice-Chair Cllr Saleh Ahmed Cllr Junab Ali Cllr Steve Allsopp Cllr Mike Davies Cllr Domingos Dias Cllr John Firmin Cllr Dave Griffiths Cllr Abdul Hamid	Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Janine Howarth Cllr Linda Kasmaty Cllr Marianne Le Coyte-Grinney Cllr Rosie Leather Cllr Jamal Miah Cllr Joseph Pereira Cllr Tom Silberberg Cllr Danial Vales Cllr Nadine Watts
Apologies:	Cllr S James Cllr G Philpot	Cllr T Philpot
Absent:	None	
Officers:	Jake Mee Max Tanner Abigail Garside-Scutts	CEO Committee Officer Events Manager
Public:	None	
Public Questions:	None	

2425 - 139 Apologies

Cllr Sam James, Cllr Graham Philpot, Cllr Trish Philpot

2425 – 140 Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation

Cllr M Davies declared a conflict of interest for item 7 - Review of 2024 Summer Events Program as they work for the National Trust who sponsored 3 events.

2425 – 141 Chair's Report

Cllr R Leather entered the room during this item

The Chair would like to recognise all the hard work from Councillors and Staff during this busy period for the Parish Council. Buckhurst play area has received excellent comments from the local community and from mums on a mission for recognizing need to make play areas welcoming to children of all capabilities. Enchanted Garden Light Trail launched on the 25th of September and tickets are selling well. This year's trail is very different and better than in years prior. Brilliant achievement to win the gold award at South West In Bloom, it is a tremendous reflection of the outstanding work staff and volunteers do throughout the parish. The Mesothelioma Garden in Queen's Park has been opened and received many positive comments, thanks to Cllr John Firmin for speaking at the opening. The Train wheel has also been installed in Queen's Park and the council would like to thank Dr Michael Smith for sourcing and helping to restore the wheel.

2425 – 142 Minutes – Full Council

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on the 24th September 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 24th September 2024 are approved as a true record.

2425 – 143 Minutes – Leisure, Environment and Amenities

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Meeting held on the 1st October 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the minute book as appendix B.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Meeting held on the 1st October 2024 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 144 Old Town Festival in Town Gardens

RESOLVED: Councillors resolved to defer the item to a future Events Working Party as the Old Town Business Association were unable to attend.

2425 – 145 Review of 2024 Summer Events Programme

Cllr D Vales enters the room during this item

The Council received a written report from the Events Manager detailing the Parish Council's summer events programme 2024, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

Recommendations

3.1 To note the report.

RESOLVED: Councillors note the contents of the report.

2425 – 146 2025 Events Programme

RESOLVED: Councillors resolved to defer this meeting to a future meeting of the council.

2425 – 147 Enchanted Gardens Light Trail update

The Council received a presentation from the Events Manager with an update regarding this year's Enchanted Gardens Light Trail.

RESOLVED: Councillors note the contents of the report.

2425 – 148 Youth Strategy

The council considered a new Youth Strategy for the Parish Council. A copy of which appears in the minute book as Appendix D.

Recommendations

3.1 Agree and adopt the draft Youth Strategy.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

2425 – 149 Badbury Park Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Councillors received a report from the Deputy CEO regarding the Parish Council tendering for grounds maintenance work at Badbury Park, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

Recommendations

3.1 To progress with a tender for the Badbury Park grounds maintenance contract as outlined in Point 2.3 and 2.4.

2.3 The original contract specification includes bin emptying, street cleaning, play area maintenance, grass cutting, wildflower meadow maintenance, shrub/tree maintenance, maintenance of the banks of water courses and SUDS, maintenance of street furniture, weed growth of footpaths.

2.4 When Parish Officers visited site it was found that the Parish Council wouldn't be able to deliver the wildflower meadow maintenance and the maintenance of the banks of water courses and SUDS. This was communicated to Remus who have invited the Parish Council to tender for the remaining elements of the specification. Parish Officers are now reviewing whether the Council can deliver the contract specification with existing vehicles, mowers and equipment to keep the local authority's tender competitive. If it can, this contract could offer an improved service for Badbury Park with additional income for the Parish Council that could be invested in additional staff and contribute to vehicle/equipment renewal. Eventually Badbury Park will become adopted and the functions in the contract specification will be delivered as part of the council's core service so delivering this contract offers Badbury Park residents a continuity of service.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

2425 – 150

Buckhurst Field Improvement Plan Funding

The Councillors received a report from the Deputy CEO regarding funding for the Buckhurst Field Improvement Plan. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

Recommendations

3.1 Progress with Option 3 listed in Point 2.4 to meet the funding shortfall for the Shrewsbury Road Changing Rooms refurbishment.

1. The Parish Council contribute a further £48K from the Buildings Reserve towards the refurbishment as originally planned. This would leave the total Parish Council contribution towards the changing rooms refurbishment at £98K.
2. The Parish Council remove the installation of solar panels from the refurbishment leaving the shortfall at £18K and this be covered from the Buildings Reserve.
3. Progress with Option 1 but also pursue an early payment of £75K of S.106 funding from the Oakfield Development which is likely to be contributed to Buckhurst Field next year. This S.106 would more than cover the shortfall for the changing rooms refurbishment.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1

Meeting Closes at 19:04

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council