

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr N Hopkins – Chair Cllr R Banwell-Moore – Vice-Chair Cllr J Ali Cllr S Allsopp Cllr S Ahmed Cllr M Davies Cllr D Dias Cllr J Firmin Cllr D Griffiths	Cllr P Herring Cllr S James Cllr L Kasmaty Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinney Cllr J Pereira Cllr T Philpot Cllr T Silberberg Cllr N Watts
Apologies:	Cllr J Howarth Cllr J Miah	Cllr R Leather Cllr G Philpot
Absent:	Cllr A Hamid	Cllr D Vales
Officers:	Jake Mee Max Tanner Abigail Garside-Scutts	CEO Committee Officer Events Manager
Public:	3	
Public Questions:	None	

2425 - 217

Apologies

The committee accepted apologies from Cllr J Howarth, Cllr J Miah, Cllr R Leather, Cllr G Philpot.

2425 – 218

Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation

Cllr M Davies declares a personal interest for item 10 2025 Events Programme as they work for the National Trust, who are involved with one of the events.

2425 – 219

Chair's Report

The 2024 Light Trail was the best so far in terms of installations and attendance. I would like to thank staff, volunteers and councillors for all their hard work putting on this fantastic event.

The Christmas Tree Light Switch On events at Broadgreen, Badbury Park and Cavendish Square as well as the Old Town Christmas Lights were well received despite issues surrounding power and installation.

There are lots of exciting projects for residents to look forward to at the start of 2025. Including the National Heritage Bowl Restoration Project which will enhance Town Gardens, and the events held at the Bowl.

Work has started on the Shrewsbury Road pavilion which will see the building transformed into a clubhouse for Swindon Robins and a new mini depot for the Parish Council's ground staff. This comes as part of a series of improvements to Buckhurst field, including the MUGA play zone with football foundation, football pitch and Buckhurst skatepark.

The new Parish Youth Club has opened in the Eastcott Community Centre and the uptake has been promising.

Consultations have begun on where to plant new trees across the parish. The project is funded externally by Trees For Climate and we look forward to hearing from residents.

2425 – 220 Minutes – Planning

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Meeting held on the 17th December 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 17th December 2024 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 221 Minutes – Leisure, Environment and Amenities

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Meeting held on the 7th January 2025 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 7th January 2025 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 222 Minutes – Full Council

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on the 17th December 2024 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 17th December 2024 are approved as a true record.

2425 – 223 Old Town Festival in Town Gardens

The council received a presentation from the Old Town Business Association regarding an Old Town Festival event in the Town Gardens.

RESOLVED: To consider the proposal by Old Town Festival at a meeting of the Events WP and bring back to the next Full Council meeting for a decision.

2425 – 224 Budget 2025-26

The councillors received the proposal for the Parish Council's budget for 2025-26. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

Recommendations

3.1 That the budget for 2025/26 as detailed in the attached report is approved.

3.2 That the Precept demand for 2025/26 of £3,525,585 is approved.

RESOLVED:

- I. To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2.
- II. To thank the CEO and all the finance staff for their hard work in keeping the budget down, compared to other councils of a similar size, whilst still being able to deliver lots of projects for parishioners.

2425 – 225 Enchanted Gardens Light Trail

The council received a report from the Events Manager regarding the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail 2024. A copy of which appears in the minute book as Appendix E.

Recommendations

3.1 To note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

2425 – 226 2025 Events Programme

The council received a report from the Events Manager regarding the Events Programme for 2025. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

Recommendation

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

RESOLVED:

- I. To approve recommendation 3.1.
- II. To allow councillors the opportunity to suggest additions to the programme before it is finalised.

2425 – 227 Solar Installations

The council received a report from the CEO regarding solar installations at Parish Facilities. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G

Cllr J Ali leaves the room during this item.

Recommendations

3.1 To approve the procurement and installation of the three specified systems detailed in points 2.3, 2.4 & 2.5 with contractor 1.

3.2 To approve the total cost of £101,636, pending any potential funds awarded to The Harbour Project and this to be funded from the Buildings Earmarked Reserve.

RESOLVED:

- I. To approve recommendations 3.1 & 3.2.
- II. That the CEO will investigate the possibility of adding additional battery storage along with ensuring 'Island Mode' will be available.

2425 – 228 Broadgreen Community Centre Improvements

Councillors received a written report from the Community Facilities Officer regarding capital improvements to Broadgreen Community Centre. A copy of which appears in the minute book as Appendix H.

Recommendations

3.1 Note the contents of this report.

3.2 Provide feedback on the proposal for the Broadgreen Hub as outlined in Point 2.1. and point 2.2

RESOLVED:

- I. To note the contents of the report and the changes in the quote.
- II. To approve the installation as outlined.

2425 – 229 Town Gardens Green Flag Entry

To receive a written report from the Assistant Clerk regarding the Parish Council's Town Gardens Green Flag entry. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix I.

Recommendations

3.1 That the Parish Council support the Management Plan and the Action Plan, Green Flag Award, stage 1 submission.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1

2425 – 230 Admission of Public and Press

RESOLVED: To resolve in accordance with standing order 3(d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and

public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw'. Reason: **Commercial Sensitivity**

2425 – 231 Parish Depot

The council received a report from the CEO regarding the Parish Depot. A copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute Book as Appendix A.

Recommendations

3.1 That a license to occupy the two units at Station Industrial Estate is progressed.

3.2 That a list of required improvement works and costings are brought to the Assets Working Party for review before the February Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: To approve the CEO to negotiate a 3-year lease at the current depot facility and update the council at the next Full Council Meeting.

2425 – 232 Staffing Report

The councillors received a report from the CEO regarding staffing changes. A copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute Book as Appendix B.

Recommendation

3.1 The council offers permanent contracts to the four retained agency seasonal staff on NJC Scale Points 7-12 starting at SCP 7 from 1st April 2025.

3.2 The council creates a fixed term contract role of 31 weeks for one seasonal worker on NJC Scale Points 7-12 starting at SCP 7 from 1st April 2025.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 and 3.2.

Meeting Closes at 20:00

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council