

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2025 at 6.30pm

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

Present:

Cllr N Hopkins – Chair	Cllr S James
Cllr R Banwell-Moore – Vice-Chair	Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr S Allsopp	Cllr G Philpot
Cllr M Davies	Cllr T Philpot
Cllr D Dias	Cllr T Silberberg
Cllr J Firmin	Cllr D Vales
Cllr P Herring	Cllr N Watts

Apologies:

Cllr S Ahmed	Cllr J Howarth
Cllr J Ali	Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinney
Cllr D Griffiths	

Absent:

Cllr A Hamid	Cllr J Pereira
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Officers:

Matt Leather	Deputy CEO
Max Tanner	Committee Officer
Sam Victory	Communications Officer
Carol Clark	Assistant Clerk

Public:

4

Public Questions:

None

2425 – 299

Apologies

The council accepted apologies from Cllr Ahmed, Cllr Ali, Cllr D Griffiths, Cllr Howarth and Cllr Le Coyte-Grinney

2425 – 300

Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation

None

2425 – 301

Chair's Report

The dates for this year's blossom festival have been confirmed as the 5th to 20th of April. I've noticed that some trees are blossoming already.

Our series of outdoor events are due to start soon, which is really exciting.

Lots of development at Buckhurst with major investment to the field. It's been good to see recognition in the press and positive comments on social media. Great to see such exiting developments in a more deprived area of the parish.

The revamp of the Buckhurst skate park gets underway next week and will be a positive and social space for young people in the area to find activities.

The tree carving in GWR Park has recently been completed and looks great. The carving utilizes a dead tree and has turned it into something which proudly represents the railway heritage of the park.

The new Community Development Officer starts next week. This will hopefully open lots of opportunities to work more with community groups across the parish.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in attracting a suitable candidate for the Supervisor Role. We are going to await the results of the service review before resuming the search.

I'm sad to announce the resignation of Councillor Rose Leather. This has triggered a casual vacancy for the position which will either be filled by an election or cooption. As far as we are aware there has not been a demand for an election, which we are pleased about as this would have cost the council £14,000 which would have prevented us from doing other important work across the parish.

2425 – 302 Minutes – Full Council

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on the 18th February 2025 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 18th February 2025 are approved as a true record.

2425 – 303 Minutes – Planning

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Meeting held on the 25th February 2025 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 25th February 2025 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 304 Minutes – Planning

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Meeting held on the 4th March 2025 for approval, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 4th March 2025 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 305 Minutes – Leisure, Environment & Amenities

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Meeting held on the 4th March 2025 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 4th March 2025 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 306 Accounts – February 2025

The CEO submitted the Accounts for February 2025, a copy of which appears in the minute book as Appendix E.

RESOLVED: To defer this item to the next Full Council Meeting on the 22nd of April.

2425 – 307 Payment Schedule – February 2025

The CEO submitted the Payment Schedule for February 2025, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

RESOLVED: To approve the Payment Schedule for February 2025.

2325 – 308 **RESOLVED: Standing orders were suspended to allow for a presentation from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Police**

2425 – 309 Brighter Broadgreen Update

The council received an update from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Police regarding the Hold phase of the Brighter Broadgreen project.

2425 – 310 **RESOLVED:** To reinstate standing orders at the conclusion of the discussion and to note the contents of the report.

2425 – 311 Parish Council Newsletter

The council received a report from the Communications Officer regarding changes to the Parish Council Newsletter. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G.

Recommendations

3.1 Progress with Option 2 for Parish Council Newsletters using underspend from the 24/25 financial year as detailed in 2.4 and 2.8.

3.2 To delegate authority to the CEO to set advertising rates for the Parish Council newsletter in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 & 3.2.

2425 – 312 Committee, Working Party and Outside Body Membership

Councillors received a report from the Committee Officer regarding changes to the Council's committee, working party and outside body membership. A copy of which appears in the minute book as Appendix H.

Recommendations

3.1 To decide how to fill vacancies of Committees, Working Parties and Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED:

- I. To appoint Cllr S Allsop as the Chair of the Assets Working party.
- II. To appoint Cllr J Firmin as the Chair of the Health, Wellbeing and Community working party, South Swindon Parish Council representative for the Swindon Place Partnership and the Swindon Local Councils Forum.
- III. To appoint Cllr S James to the Health, Wellbeing & Community Working Party and the parish's representative on the Wiltshire Area of Local Councils.
- IV. To appoint Cllr D Dias to the Events Working party.
- V. To appoint Cllr P Herring to the Finance & Staffing Committee.

2425 – 313 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 – 314 Staffing

Councillors received a verbal update from the CEO regarding an update on staff contracts.

Recommendations

3.1 Council approve the draft contracts, training agreement and employee handbook subject to minor amendments as agreed with the council's HR advisor.

RESOLVED: To note the changes and defer this item to the next Full Council Meeting

Meeting Closes at 20:15

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council