

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2025 at 6.30pm

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

Present:

Cllr N Hopkins – Chair	Cllr P Herring
Cllr R Banwell-Moore – Vice-Chair	Cllr J Howarth
Cllr J Ali	Cllr S James
Cllr S Ahmed	Cllr L Kasmaty
Cllr S Allsopp	Cllr J Miah
Cllr M Davies	Cllr T Silberberg
Cllr D Dias	Cllr N Watts
Cllr J Firmin	

Apologies:

Cllr D Griffiths	Cllr T Philpot
Cllr J Pereira	Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinney
Cllr G Philpot	Cllr D Vales

Absent:

Cllr A Hamid

Officers:

Jake Mee	CEO
Max Tanner	Committee Officer

Public:

3

Public Questions:

Queen's Park Lake

The duckweed is thriving because of the huge amounts of nutrients within the lake from bread and animal feces. There's work undergoing at the moment to clear the lake physically by the park gardeners and the maintenance team but every time you remove it the duckweed regenerates which is making clearing the lake difficult. This isn't a short-term solution but slowly the lake is getting clearer. Another thing the council has been doing is encouraging people not to feed the birds bread as this can contribute to the buildup of nutrients which the duckweed is feeding on. Going forward we will look to increase the plant and aquatic around the lake which should also remove nutrients from the lake. There's no simple solution, and it's not a quick solution either but the council is committed to tackling the duckweed issue in Queen's Park Lake.

Dogs in Queens Park

The byelaws in Queen's Park state that there are to be no dogs in the park. There's pros and cons in terms of having allowing dogs on leads there, because some people always think that their animal doesn't need to be on a lead, but this can cause issues with dogs attacking the local wildlife. One of the things that we've been discussing as councilors is the issue around bylaws, looking at the question of enforcement, because the council currently does not have the power to enforce the bylaws but with the new PSPO and community wardens this could be something to look into in the future.

2425 – 326

Apologies

The committee accepted apologies from Cllr D Griffiths, Cllr M Le Coyte-Grinney, Cllr J Pereira, Cllr G Philpot, Cllr T Philpot and Cllr D Vales.

2425 – 327

Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation

Cllr J Ali, Cllr D Dias, Cllr M Davies, Cllr N Hopkins, Cllr J Miah, Cllr J Howarth, Cllr N Watts

declare a conflict of interest for item 11. Fleming Way Toilets and 12. Membership of Get Swindon Moving Community Group as the councillors also sit as councillors for Swindon Borough Council.

2425 – 228 **RESOLVED:** The Chair requested that standing orders be suspended to allow for applicants to speak to council.

2425 – 229 **Casual Vacancy – Central Ward**
South Swindon Parish Council had received four options for co-option prior to the meeting and a member of the public nominated themselves at the meeting.

RESOLVED: To allow the member of the public to be eligible to speak for the casual vacancy co-option.

Three applicants that were present for the Central Ward casual vacancy were provided three minutes each to put forth the reasons that the Council should vote them into the vacancy.

2425 – 230 **Admission of Public and Press**
RESOLVED that 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: To comply with adopted Co-option process policy

Council discussed the candidates before admitting them back into the room.

2425 – 331 **RESOLVED:** That public and press be readmitted and standing orders be reinstated.

2425 – 332 **Casual Vacancy – Central Ward**
Each of the candidates sought a proposer and seconder to be eligible to be voted for. Meural Cardoso and Leroy Roberts both received the required nominations and were put forward for a vote.

RESOLVED: That Meural Cardoso be co-opted as councillor for Central Ward after winning a majority vote from councillors by a show of hands.

2425 – 333 **Chair's Report**

Cllr J Ali leaves the room during this item.

It is tremendous to see the coverage of the Town Gardens recently in the press regarding the blossom festival, with improved planting and better maintenance of the blossom trees noted. However, issues with people damaging trees and playing ball games in inappropriate areas persist.

The Buckhurst Field, Shrewsbury Road Pavilion is now complete, including changing rooms and solar panels. This is only the beginning with additional developments like an improved multi-use games area and skate park well on their way to being completed. This will be a great facility for the local community and Swindon Robins F.C.

Over the school holidays the parish council has organised and delivered over twenty events, such as the Blossom Festival, Fandango's Circus Skills Workshops at various locations across the parish and pond dipping at Shrewsbury Lake. We've also had a series of events in Queen's Park and GWR Park. These have been well-received, particularly by children and some days we've had two or three events happening across the parish which has been great.

We also have many exciting events coming up including a Buckhurst Field Fun day on the 24th of May and Comedy at the Bowl. There will be various private bookings for local events

including Prospect Hospice's Starlight Walk, the Swindon and Wiltshire Pride event and the Boishakhi Mela. We are excited to be partnering with some outstanding local organisations to deliver the My Dad's Bigger Than Your Dad Festival, the Signal Festival and the Old Town Festival 2025. We're welcoming back some fan favourites to the bowl this season, including Music for Miniatures, Old Time Sailors and Three Inch Fools, as well as introducing some new groups, such as On Thin Ice, Fearlessly Tame Taylor and Changeling Theater. Tickets are now available on our website. If councillors have availability, please contact the events team for the opportunity to volunteer at any of these events. I'd like to thank the Events Team for all their hard work in ensuring that the Parish Council is able to consistently put on outstanding events.

2425 – 334 Minutes – Full Council

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

2425 – 335 Minutes – Planning

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

2425 – 336 Minutes – Leisure, Environment & Amenities

The council were presented with the draft minutes for the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Meeting held on the 1st April 2025 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 1st April 2025 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2425 – 337 Accounts – February & March 2025

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

RESOLVED: To approve the Accounts for February & March 2025.

2425 – 338 Payment Schedule – March 2025

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

RESOLVED: To approve the Payment Schedule for March 2025.

2425 – 339 Youth Club Location

Cllr J Howarth leaves the room during this item

The council were presented with a report from the Deputy CEO regarding the location of a third Parish Council Youth Club. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

Recommendations

3.1 That the Badbury Park Community Hub be the site of the Parish Council's third youth club, to be opened later this year.

- RESOLVED:**
- I. To approve Badbury Park Community Hub as the site of the Parish Council's third youth club.
 - II. To ensure the parish council release an initial press release to communicate this decision.

2425 – 340 **Fleming Way Toilets**

The council received a request from Swindon Borough Council regarding Fleming Way toilets.

- RESOLVED:** To not enter discussions with Swindon Borough Council regarding the upkeep of Fleming Way Toilets.

2425 – 341 **Membership of Get Swindon Moving Community Group**

Councillors were invited to consider nominating a representative for the Get Swindon Moving Community Group.

- RESOLVED:** To nominate Cllr P Herring and Cllr M Davies as South Swindon Parish Council's representatives of the Get Swindon Moving Community Group.

2425 – 342 **Dogs in Parks**

The council received a report from the CEO regarding dogs in parks. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G.

Recommendations

3.1 Approve the implementation of the education and awareness programme regarding dog rules in the council's formal park as detailed in 2.2 and costs detailed in 2.3.

- RESOLVED:**
- I. To approve the implementation of the education and awareness programme regarding dog rules in the council's formal parks through signage.
 - II. To ask gardeners to report back to monitor success of the education and awareness programme.

Services Team Capital Vehicle Replacement Programme

2425 – 343

Councillors received a report from the CEO regarding vehicle replacement. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix H.

Recommendations

3.1 The Services Working Party recommends that the Council chooses to partially replace its fleet with electric and retain half the fleet as diesel for a short time to ensure suitability of the vehicle type and a robust infrastructure for charging is installed at Parish Council premises.

3.2 That the specification and official quotes thereon are brought to a future council meeting for approval.

- RESOLVED:** To approve recommendations 3.1 and 3.2.

2425 - 344 **The Broadgreen Hut**

Councillors received a report regarding a lease renewal for the Broadgreen Hut. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix I.

Recommendation

3.1 To secure a year extension of the Broadgreen Hut tenancy with Changing Suits under the existing terms outlined in Point 2.3.

- RESOLVED:** To approve recommendation 3.1

Meeting Closes at 19:49

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council