

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:

Cllr Neil Hopkins (Chair)	Cllr Rebecca Banwell-Moore (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Steve Allsopp	Cllr Sam James
Cllr John Firmin	Cllr Linda Kasmaty
Cllr Patrick Herring	Cllr Tom Silberberg

Apologies:

Cllr Mike Davies	Cllr Dave Griffiths
Cllr Domingos Dias	Cllr Nadine Watts

Absent:

Cllr Saleh Ahmed	Cllr Joseph Pereira
Cllr Junab Ali	Cllr Marianne Le Coyte-Grinney
Cllr Meural Cardoso	Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Abdul Hamid	Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Janine Howarth	Cllr Danial Vales
Cllr Jamal Miah	

Officers:

Jake Mee	CEO
Max Tanner	Governance & Support Lead

Public: 6

Public Questions: A resident attended and asked the following question:

The paths around Queen's Park are deteriorating and needs repair, are their current plans to repair the paths in Queen's Park?

The council will organise a survey of what repairs are needed across all of the parks which are managed by the Parish Council. In the meantime, this particular observation will be passed to the maintenance team who will investigate and carryout remedial repairs where necessary.

2526 – 227 **Apologies**
The council accepted apologies from Cllr D Griffiths, Cllr D Dias, Cllr M Davies & Cllr N Watts.

2526 – 228 **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
None

2526 – 229 **Chair's Report**
I am very pleased to report the commencement of the Swindon Robins' Community Café at the Shrewsbury Road pavilion last week. It was a good start and was well attended.

We put in some dog waste bag dispensers in the Town Gardens and we had a request to do something similar in Lawns which we will explore.

Work is going on to secure a larger depot which is important as we need a larger facility for the additional work that we have been doing.

Old Town library is now reopened but is awaiting a boiler replacement, if the temperature drops and the library needs to close again this will be communicated to residents.

Our Working Parties have had a busy to start the new year. The Events Working Party have

been working hard on the events programme for 2026. We can't wait to share the plans for this year's events. The Assets Working Party has been discussing the procurement of electric vehicles which will save the council a lot of money in the long run, and help to make the council more environmentally friendly.

2526 – 230 Minutes – Planning

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2025 for adoption and approval. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2025 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2526 – 231 Minutes – Full Council

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on 25 November for approval. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16 December 2025 are approved as a true record.

2526 – 232 Presentation From Change Lives No To Knives

The Council received a presentation from Jordan Turner of Change Lives No To Knives regarding knife crime prevention in South Swindon.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the presentation.

2526 – 233 Budget 2026-27

Councillors received and were asked to approve the budget for 2026-27. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

Recommendations

3.1 That the Precept demand for 2026/27 of £3,752,904 is recommended for approval at Full Council in January 2026.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

2526 – 234 Assets Report

The Council received the minutes of the Assets Working Party Meeting held on 6 January 2026. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

RESOLVED: To note the minutes of the Assets Working Party Meeting on 6 January.

2526 – 235 Executive Sub-Committee

The Council were presented with the draft terms of reference for a sub-committee to oversee executive officers and asked to consider the creation of this sub-committee. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

RESOLVED: To create the sub-committee with the proposed terms of reference.

RESOLVED: To appoint the following Cllrs to the Executive Sub-Committee Cllr N Hopkins, Cllr R Banwell-Moore, Cllr J Firmin, Cllr L Kasmaty & Cllr S Allsopp.

2526 – 236 GWR Park Green Flag

The Council were presented with a draft management plan and action plan for GWR Park as part of the park's Green Flag Submission. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

RESOLVED: To adopt the GWR Park management plan.

2526 – 237 Parks Improvement Plan

The Council received a draft improvement plan for Parish Council Parks. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Parks Improvement Plan.

2526 – 238

Old Town Library Update

The Council received a verbal update from the CEO regarding the Old Town Library.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

2526 – 239

Youth Club Update

The Council received a verbal update from the CEO regarding the Parish Youth Clubs.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

2526 – 240

The Bowl Update

The Council were presented with a report detailing the latest updates on the Bowl Refurbishment programme. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix H.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

2526 – 241

New Depot

The Council received and were asked to consider a business case for a potential new Parish Depot. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix I.

Recommendations

1. That the South Swindon Parish Council approves the submission of an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) for approval to borrow the sum of £4,000,000 over a borrowing term of 30 years for the purpose of acquiring a new depot.
2. That the annual loan repayments are estimated to be £366,573 in the first year and average of £252,893 for the entire term.
3. That the Council does not intend to increase the council tax precept in the coming 2026/27 year for the purpose of the loan repayments.
4. That the Council authorises the Chair and Chief Executive Officer to complete all necessary documents and to sign the loan agreement.
5. That the council commission a public survey to gauge support for taking out a loan for this purpose.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

2526 – 242

Project Progress Report

The Council received a report detailing the progress of projects undertaken by the Parish Council. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix J

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Project Progress Report.

2526 – 243

Delegated Decision

Councillors received a report regarding an emergency decision to submit a response to a planning application made under delegated authority by the CEO. A copy of which appears in the minute book as Appendix K.

Recommendations

3.1 To note the report and decision made.

RESOLVED: To note the report and decision made.

2526 – 244

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: Commercial Sensitivity.

2526 – 245

Catering Facilities Update

The Council were asked to consider a report from the CEO regarding catering in South Swindon. A copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute Book as Appendix A.

RESOLVED: To approve the terms of reference for the scope of works, as detailed in Appendix A in the Confidential Minute Book.

RESOLVED: To bring the outcome of the exercise to the February Meeting of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee.

Meeting Closes at 19:41

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council