

South Swindon Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr Neil Hopkins (Chair) Cllr Meural Cardoso Cllr Domingos Dias Cllr John Firmin Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Janine Howarth Cllr Sam James	Cllr Rebecca Banwell-Moore (Vice-Chair) Cllr Linda Kasmaty Cllr Marianne Le Coyte-Grinney Cllr Jamal Miah Cllr Tom Silberberg Cllr Danial Vales Cllr Nadine Watts
Apologies:	Cllr Junab Ali Cllr Steve Allsopp Cllr Mike Davies	Cllr Dave Griffiths Cllr Graham Philpot Cllr Trish Philpot
Absent:	Cllr Saleh Ahmed Cllr Abdul Hamid	Cllr Joseph Pereira
Officers:	Jake Mee Max Tanner	CEO Governance & Support Lead
Public:	5	
Public Questions:	Kris Talikowski of the Old Town Business Association spoke gave an update on the various events which the Old Town Business Associated had organised throughout 2025	

2526 – 285 **Apologies**
The council accepted apologies from Cllr J Ali, Cllr S Allsopp, Cllr M Davies, Cllr D Griffiths, Cllr G Philpot & Cllr T Philpot.

2526 – 286 **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
None

2526 – 287 **Chair's Report**
We are pleased to announce that South Swindon Parish Council is leading on the joint procurement of thermal imaging cameras through the Borough, as part of a collaborative approach towards environmental sustainability. We invited all Swindon parish councils to participate, with the aim of achieving Borough-wide coverage and securing better value for money. The cameras will be available to borrow from the Parish Offices in Broadgreen, Badbury Park Library and the Old Town Library.

The council is proud to be opening Swindon's first new allotment site in 10 years. The site will open imminently at Badbury Park with a second site opening later this year.

Work on the Hot House is progressing well, and we are anticipating the first phase will be completed in March. Proposals on what to do with the new space will be considered in due course.

As you may be aware we have had difficulties with the heating at the Old Town Library which resulted in the library being closed during the recent cold weather. I'm pleased to report that this is now resolved and the library will be open as usual.

Finally, you may have noticed our new electric vehicles on the roads around the parish. We now have a number of fully electric vehicles which saves the council tens of thousands of pounds on fuel per year. This represents another step forward in our efforts to be as green and efficient as possible.

2526 – 288

Presentation From SBC

To receive a presentation from Fin Kearns, Town Centre Regeneration Programme Manager, regarding the Whalebridge Car Park roller-skating venue.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the presentation.

2526 – 289

Minutes – Full Council

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on 20 January 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 20 January 2025 are approved as a true record.

2526 – 290

Minutes – Planning

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2026 for adoption and approval. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2026 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2526 – 291

Minutes – Finance & Staffing

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on 27 January 2026 for adoption & approval. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Meeting held on 27 January 2026 are adopted & approved as a true record.

2526 – 292

Minutes – Leisure, Environment & Amenities

The Council were presented with the draft minutes for the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2026 for adoption and approval. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2026 are adopted and approved as a true record.

2526 – 293

RESOLVED: To suspend standing orders to allow Greenspace Eateries Ltd, the current tenants of the Town Gardens Café to speak on item 15. Town Gardens Café Lease.

2526 – 294

RESOLVED: To reinstate standing orders.

2526 – 295

Play Area Refurbishments

The CEO submitted a report regarding the play areas at Rushey Platt and Wills Avenue. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

Recommendations

3.1 To approve that the CEO proceed with both play area refurbishments noting the budget and scope of works proposed. Full costings and preliminary designs will be brought back to a council meeting for review.

3.2 That the CEO seek an extension of the Play Area as per the appended plan.

3.3 That the Comms Officer commence public consultations for both play areas.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3.

2526 – 296

Westlecot Ridge Major Open Space

The CEO submitted a report regarding the potential transfer of Westlecot Ridge Major Open Space and associated Section 106 funds. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

Recommendations

3.1 That Members note the contents of this report and the appended Letter of Intent regarding the proposed transfer of the Westlecot Ridge Major Open Space.

3.2 That the Environment Working Party be the appropriate body to receive any development relating to a proposed transfer and advise on what actions if any the council should take.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 & 3.2.

2526 – 297

Community Fund

RESOLVED: To defer this item to the Full Council Meeting on 17 March 2026.

2526 – 298

Bleed Kits

The Council received a verbal report from the Governance & Support Lead regarding bleed kit provision within the Parish.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the update.

2526 – 299

Dogs in Parks Review

The Governance & Support Lead submitted a written review of the Dogs in Parks re-education campaign. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G.

Recommendations

3.1 To note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

2526 – 300

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 – 301

Town Gardens Café Lease

The CEO submitted a report regarding an extension to the lease for Town Gardens Café. A copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute Book as Appendix A.

Recommendations

3.1 To consider and approve terms for a one-year Contracted-Out Lease of Town Gardens Café to be offered to Greenspace Eateries Ltd.

3.2 Delegate authority to the CEO to finalise the Contracted-Out Lease as agreed.

3.3 To give guidance on the preferred operating model should the current operators not accept the terms offered.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1

RESOLVED: Delegate authority to the CEO to finalise the Contracted-Out Lease as agreed.

RESOLVED: That if the current operators should not accept the terms offered the preferred operating model would be a the council assuming direct operation,

Meeting Closes at 20:36

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Parish Council