

Minutes of Swindon Parish Council Meeting held at 7:15pm on Thursday 13th January 2022 at Swindon Community Centre

Present: Cllr Mr S Massey (Chairman), Cllr Mrs V Boote (Vice Chair), Cllr Mrs P Halford, Cllr Dr R Painter, Cllr Miss C Pratt, Cllr Mrs D Chandler, Cllr Mr D Piper, Cllr Mrs B Wood, Cllr Mr G Fanthom

Also, present Miss J Cree—Locum Clerk

1/22. To receive apologies for Absence.

All members were present.

2/22. To receive declarations of Councillors' Interest.

None were declared.

3/22. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8th December 2021.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th December 2021 were proposed by Cllr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Boote, on a majority vote they were agreed.

4/22. Public Participation – 15 minutes for members of the Parish to raise matters with Councillors

There were no members of the public present.

5/22. County / District Councillors to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

This matter was deferred as County Councillor Mrs V Wilson was not present.

6/22. To receive a report on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

The report from the PCSO was circulated by the Chairman prior to the meeting. This was noted.

An email has been received from Maggie Quinn with further details on a new forum being set up for Community Safety Partnership (as reported at the last meeting). It was proposed by Councillor Mr S Massey and seconded by Councillor Mrs Pat Halford that Councillor Mrs V Boote will be the Parish representative as a Police liaison. On a vote this was carried.

7/22. To discuss Development Applications received.

The following comments were made on each application and the Clerk will submit them on behalf of the Council:-

21/01304/FUL 21/01304/FUL Proposal: Two storey side and single storey rear extension Location: 2 Smestow Road Swindon - Proposal: Two storey side and single storey rear extension Location: 2 Smestow Road, Swindon - No Objection.

21/01330/FUL Location: Chasepool Lodge Farm Chasepool Road Swindon - Proposal: Additional enclosed outside caravan storage and associated landscaping

Recommend refusal on the grounds that the proposed development is intrusive in the greenbelt it is inappropriate development in the greenbelt and country to GB!

8/22. To receive an update on the cricket, bowls, and allotment leases

Councillor Mr D Piper obtained a 3rd quote for the proposed leases, the Chairman has obtained 2 quotes to comply with the Financial regulations. It was agreed that the two members will meet and discuss the proposed solicitors' costs and report back with a recommendation for who to use to draw up the new leases.

The Chairman will speak directly to the cricket club to ascertain their requirements of renewing the lease before it expires at in 2026.

9/22. To receive an update and discuss grounds maintenance / repairs at the playing fields and around the village

Councillor Mr G Fanthom is still struggling to get costs for the bespoke loop style fencing, It was agreed that the Chairman will get 3 quotes to purchase off the shelf fencing, and will report back with costs for the next meeting.

Councillor Mrs P Halford reported that the floodlight on the car park has been looked at by the electrician, he is going to add a pir sensor to make the light come on as required. He has cleared the debris around the light. Councillor Mrs P Halford will progress the installation as soon as possible.

The height barrier for entering the car park is not at the correct height, they also noted that the locking of the barrier is also difficult. It was agreed it would benefit from being replaced, Councillor Mr G Fanthom to get costs to replace the barrier and the Clerk will also contact Andy Aston at SSDC to ask for them to price a replacement barrier, the Chairman to get a third quote.

The Chairman referred to the Open Space Scheme information that was circulated to all members. The Chairman will complete the form and suggest the following items - Land at Hinksford, outdoor Gym Equipment, the overflow car park towards the canal.

Councillor Mr D Piper reported that the drains by the Green Man to No 6 as they have found an issue with these drains in early April, in addition Swallow Barns will be looked at, at the same time.

The gate security at the playing field is maintained by the Cricket / Bowling Club, they are paid a donation of £250 per group per annum. It was proposed by Councillor Dr R Painter provide a grant on confirmation that they request the grant from the Parish Council, this was seconded by Councillor Mr S Massey, on a vote this was agreed. The Clerk to draft a grant form for the Parish Council.

10/22. To receive an update on the Community Centre

The items that need attention are detailed below:-

- The conifer trees need to be cut back on the right hand side of the car park, back to the boundary – 3 quotes are required, the Clerk will request a quote from Street Scene, and Councillors Mr D Piper and Miss D Chandler will also get a quote each. The costs to be brought back to the next meeting.

- The area by the flagpole needs to be tidied up – and plant a Christmas tree in the place for future years, and this could be tied in with the Platinum Jubilee commemoration. This was agreed to be included in the tree work quote.

11/22. To receive an update on the Community Centre Management Committee

No update was received. It was noted that the Terms of Reference / constitution is still to be circulated to all members of the Council.

12/22. To receive an update on High Street Fund

A third quote has not been able to be received. The Chairman will speak with Harvinder Bains to ask if it is possible to continue with the project based on 2 formal quotes and show we have strived to get a further quote to satisfy the grant criteria. The signs required we have only got 2 quotes also. This will also be raised with SSDC.

The quotes for the signs are:-

Full Range Print Solutions they have quoted for 2 signs x 2 styles

Style 1 – lockable poster frame to be mounted 1189mm x 841mm £65 for the medium and £200 for the artwork – total cost £745 for the 2 signs.

Style 2 - lockable poster frame to be mounted 1189mm x 841mm, 2m high to be installed into concrete £685 for the medium and £200 for the artwork – total cost £1635 for the 2 signs.

Allen Signs

Style 1 – Wooden lectern style with steel 1000mm 500mm - £1577.50 + Carriage £237.50 + fitting £836.96

Style 2 – noticeboard style upright 1000 x 750mm x 3000mm high - £1827.50 + Carriage £237.50 + fitting £836.96.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr Richard Painter and seconded by Councillor Mr S Massey to purchase the lectern style sign and artwork, once agreement from the Canals and Rivers Trust to relocate the sign back in its original area on the Canal and SSDC have agreed that the order is ok to be processed based on the quotes received. On a vote this was carried.

The area around the shops which is to also be tidied up and replanted, the Council have received 2 quotes and a third quote was requested but the supplier did not send a quote, the quotes received are Wednesbury Garden Centre £2916.67 and Street Scene £2047.25. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs V Boote and seconded by Councillor Miss D Chandler to proceed with the quote from Wednesbury Garden services subject to confirmation that SSDC have agreed that the order is ok to be processed based on the quotes received, the vote was carried, with Councillor Mr G Fanthom abstained from the vote.

13/22. To receive an update on Smartwater (presentation)

A presentation will be organised for the next meeting and will be on the agenda before public participation.

14/22. To agree accounts for payment.

The accounts for payment were detailed below:-

British Telecom Bill £137.41 with a credit reduction of circa £40.00

Newsletter printer £120.49 from Wombourne Printing

It was proposed to accept the accounts by Councillor Mr S Massey and seconded by Councillor Mrs V Boote, and on a vote was agreed.

15/22. To receive an update on AED provision for Swindon Community centre.

The quotes received to replace the AED are £888 or £1050 the higher priced item is a slightly higher spec, and it was noted that the lower priced unit is currently out of stock. It was proposed by Councillor Dr R Painter and seconded by Councillor Mr S Massey to purchase the AED at a cost of £1050, on a vote this was carried. Councillor Dr R Painter will order the AED as soon as possible.

16/22. To receive an update on recent problems experienced at Hinksford Park.

Councillor Mrs V Boote reported that over the Christmas period there had been issues with sewage backing up into the units at Hinksford Park. Action Drains came out 3-4 times to resolve the issue, they have looked at the problem with a CCTV, and the first issue was wet wipes and a second issue has been concrete in the pipe which has to be removed. It was noted with concern that the emergency number that was given through the SSDC website, was an answering service, and members of the public were informed they would have to resolve the issue themselves and pay for the drains to be cleared. However, both Councillors Mrs V Boote and Dr R Painter had been contacted by the local residents and the issue had been successfully resolved. If there any further emergencies in the future, the emergency number for this problem has been circulated to all people involved. This was noted.

17/22. To discuss options for Christmas lights in the village for 2022.

Under item 10/22 a planting of a permanent Christmas Tree was discussed on the area that is to be tidied by the Flagpole. A small group will look into further ideas and report back to the Council with recommendations for the Christmas Light display 2022.

Councillor Dr R Painter will look at the rules and regulations re mounting / using the lampposts.

18/22. To discuss options for Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, 2nd June to 5th June

Ideas put forward to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee were detailed below :-

- Festival
- Picnic in the park
- Possibly a beacon.
- The big lunch picnic on the Sunday
- Saturday celebration at the Community centre i.e hog roast? Similar to the Diamond Jubilee
- Church URC / St Johns has no plans – Church would support the Parish as would the school as they have no plans.
- Mugs / medals / spoons commemorative.

The bowling / Cricket Club have been approached and there is a cricket match on the Saturday 4th June.

Councillors Mr G Fanthom and Dr R Painter will look at some ideas and report back to the Council with their findings / ideas.

Also a donation for flowers has been offered from a local business and the Parish Council accepted this kind request.

19/22. To discuss Church Liaison.

Councillor G Fanthom suggested that we have a Councillor appointed as a Church Liaison person, Councillor Mrs P Halford was suggested as a suitable candidate. Members felt that this was not required as the churches do communicate between themselves.

20/22. To discuss Banking arrangements / Authorisation of payments.

The Parish Council needs to agree the current arrangements. Councillor Mrs V Boote proposed to use online banking, with the security arrangements that are in place using the second signature system. The approved signatures for the electronic banking are Councillors Mr S Massey, Mrs V Boote and Mrs P Halford. On a vote this was agreed.

21/22. To discuss future Newsletters

Councillors Mr D Piper and Mr G Fanthom produced a Christmas news-letter which was circulated to all parishioners. They are happy to continue to do this for the Council and will prepare a quarterly news-letter.

Councillors expressed concerns over the minor errors in the last news-letter, the next edition will be proof read by members before it goes to print. Due to the timescales for the last edition this was not possible.

It was noted that it had generated a response from members of the public as a result of the news-letter been sent out.

22/22. To agree continuing Employment of locum Clerk.

It was agreed retrospectively to employ a self employed Locum Clerk, this was proposed by Councillor Mr S Massey and seconded by Councillor Mrs V Boote and on a vote this was carried.

23/22. Items for future agendas

Civility and decorum, code of conduct.

24/22. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7.15pm