

Present: Cllrs Mr S Massey (Chairman), Mrs P Halford, Dr R Painter, Mr S Hewitt, Mr G Fanthom, also present Mrs J Cree –Clerk.

Cllr Mrs L Page joined the meeting after item 92/23.

91/23. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Mrs V Boote (Vice Chair), Ms D Chandler, Mr K Pincher and County Cllr Mrs V Wilson.

92/23. To discuss and agree to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor by Co-Option.

There has been 1 candidate that has come forward, Mrs L Page, it was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford to accept Mrs Page onto the Council. On a vote this was carried.

She signed her declaration of office and joined the meeting.

93/23. To receive a report on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

The reports were circulated to members from the PCSO's and were noted. It was noted that in the surrounding areas, crime seems to be reported every day, but Swindon appear to have a much lower rate.

Cllr Mr S Hewitt received an email, from Neighbourhood Watch to get volunteers to be leaders in certain areas, like health and wellbeing, etc.

94/23. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

Cllrs Mr G Fanthom, Mrs P Halford, Mrs L Page and Mr S Massey re affirmed that having previously declared an interest as they are serving members of Swindon Community Centre.

95/23. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2023 were agreed with the agreed amendments.

This was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford and on a vote was carried.

96/23. To agree updated standing orders and Financial Regulations for Swindon Parish Council (copies of documents circulated with the agenda papers)

The above documents were circulated to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Massey and seconded Cllr Mrs P Halford by to accept the standard NALC Standing orders and Financial regulations, on a vote this motion was carried.

97/23. County / District Councillors to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

This matter was deferred as Cllr Mrs V Wilson was not in attendance.

98/23. To discuss Development Applications received.

None were received for this meeting.

99/23. To receive an update on the cricket, bowls, and allotment leases

Draft leases have been collected by the Cricket club and are currently being reviewed, the Chairman has raised one concern regarding the length of the leases and the cricket club have raised a couple of issues regarding wording. The groups have met and are discussing the costs. This was noted.

100/23. To receive an update and discuss grounds maintenance / repairs at the playing fields and the village

The tender documents have been sent out to approx. 9 contractors and the job was advertised on www.mybuilder.com.

Brooklands – a site meeting has been arranged, with Housing Plus (x 2 Directors), the District Cllr and Severn Trent Water have been invited.

The grass verge on Hinksford Lane still has not been cut, the Chairman has raised this with the Highways Officer, and is waiting for a response.

The overgrowth of the verges around the signs, no longer seem to be cut by Highways. It was asked to see if the Parish Councillors could purchase some equipment for use to clear the signs. Cllr Dr R Painter expressed concerns over doing some of the signs due to the location with no safe verges, several Councillors do clear where they can and use their own equipment. It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Page to purchase cordless equipment up to £400 along with the appropriate safety equipment. On a vote this was carried.

Playing field hoops – volunteers have been requested to help through Facebook, but no one has come forward. It was agreed to give permission for the Chairman to hire a petrol hole digger at a cost of up to £100 if required and the purchase 28 bags of postcrete, has been agreed previously. It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford, to set a budget of £100, on a vote this was agreed.

101/23. To receive an update on the Community Centre

The PAT Testing has been completed for the whole of the Community Centre with only 2 fails. The Hire terms are still under review.

102/23. To receive an update on the Newsletter

Cllr Mr K Pincher is putting the newsletter together, an advert has been put forward for the new Farm Shop.

In the Newsletter it was agreed to put in a thank you to Blackhills Nursery and Ashwood Nursery's for donating the plants, and to thank Jon Constable and the Volunteer Cllrs for planting the boxes

The Chairman has thanked Blackhills directly for their kind generosity.

Also use the opportunity could be taken to advertise what the Parish Council does i.e SID from SSDC, BT voucher scheme relating to Fibreoptic Broadband, etc.

103/23. To receive an update on the forming of a new organisation for Community Events

A group of residents are looking to set up an Independent Community Group, they have put out information on Facebook and it was agreed they could put a piece in the upcoming newsletter, this should include a date for a meeting for people to come forward to their meeting as the first stage.

104/23. To discuss a SID sign and associated costs

The following information has been received from Diane Firkin:-

“With regards to the questions raised, we prefer unique poles provided for the use of SID and not existing posts, this is to ensure the correct mounting height can be achieved and not blocking any forward visibility.

You may install poles yourself either fixed or hinged, hinged allows for a safer mounting without the need for ladders, however the locations of any proposed sites would first need to be approved by ourselves and permits will be required for installation and an apparatus on the highway.

We would recommend that a temporary sign be placed on any redundant post, when the SID is relocated elsewhere to ensure that the post is then not removed as a redundant post via our Inspection team."

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Diane Firkins if we can use Highways Poles like at Seisdon and ask exactly what the process is to install a post / socket for the SID, also ask permission from SSDC to use the existing post.

The costs for a SID are below:-

Post	£84.00
Ground Socket (if removable posts are used for various locations)	£35.00
SID	£2853.00
Installation cost of sockets	£tbc

105/23. To receive the report of the Clerk

The following items were noted:-

The Parish Council email address has been changed, details sent to all members.
Flooding information from Cllr Mrs V Wilson.

106/23. To agree accounts for payment.

The accounts for payment are detailed below:-

Clerk's wages	£336.16
HMRC	£84.00
Compost	£24.00
Defib pads	£158.40

It was proposed by Cllr Dr R painter and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Page to agree the accounts listed above and a yearly payment of £50 towards defib running costs. On a vote this was carried.

107/23. To discuss and agree on a Councils complaints procedure

The Clerk has prepared a basic draft policy for members to discuss and this was circulated with the agenda papers.

Cllr Dr R Painter proposed to use the NALC policies which are Complaints and Grievance as separate policies, the Clerk will amend the standard forms and recirculate for discussion at the next meeting.

108/23. To discuss reinstating the Public Forum / engagement

The standard public forum has been suspended for some time, in previous years the Council look to holding a monthly surgery for members of the public to come and talk to members at the Community Centre.

The Chairman has discussed with the Vice Chairman Mrs V Boote to hold a similar surgery but with minimal councillors so members of the public may feel more confident to discuss matters of concern, it was suggested a 2 hour slot on a Saturday morning once a month which would suit members of the public that work. This could be advertised in the newsletter, website and noticeboards.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Page to set up a Council surgery once a month with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman for 2 months as a trial. On a vote this was carried.

109/23. Supporting the delivery of Health and Wellbeing initiatives with Town and Parish Councils

The papers from Cllr Mrs V Wilson, were circulated to all members on the agenda documents.

Cllr Dr R Painter gave a summary on this subject from details he obtained from the Parish Summit held on the 8th June 2023. It was focused on Healthier lifestyle particularly in relation to diet and exercise. They want the Parishes to promote a healthier lifestyle.

The Officer that has been appointed to drive this project forward starts in July, and he would be amenable to come to a meeting and discuss this further with members. The Clerk to invite them to a future meeting as soon as practicable.

110/23. Items for future agendas (to be submitted by the 3rd July to Chairman and Clerk for consideration)

Grievance and complaints procedure.

111/23. Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7.15pm

9.02pm meeting closed.