

Present: Cllrs Mr S Massey (Chairman), Mrs V Boote (Vice Chair), Ms D Chandler, Mrs P Halford, Dr R Painter, Mr S Hewitt, Mr G Fanthom, Mr K Pincher and County Cllr Mrs V Wilson, also present Mrs J Cree –Clerk.

65/23. Election of Chairman of the Parish Council for the Council Year 2023/4

There was 1 nomination for Chairman of the Council, Councillor S Massey, this was proposed by Councillor Mrs V Boote and seconded by Councillor Ms D Chandler, on a vote this was carried with 1 abstention. Therefore, he was elected to the office of Chairman and duly signed his acceptance of office form.

66/23. Appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the Council Year 2023/4.

There was 1 nomination for Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs V Boote, this was proposed by Councillor Mrs P Halford and seconded by Councillor Ms D Chandler, on a vote this was carried with 1 abstention. Therefore, she was elected to the office of Vice-Chairman and duly signed her acceptance of office form.

67/23. Apologies for Absence.

All members were present.

68/23. To receive a report on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

The reports were circulated to members from the PCSO's and were noted.

Cllr Mr S Hewitt reported that in Wombourne a motorbike, a Range Rover , a van and a car were stolen, along with a car window being broken on the Plantation.

There has been correspondence circulated to members on "Ditch the Blade".

69/23. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

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

70/23. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th April 2023 (copy attached).

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April 2023 were agreed with the following exceptions:-

60/23 – last paragraph should read Staffordshire County Council not District Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mr S Hewitt to accept the minutes with the amendments, and on a vote this was agreed.

71/23. Review standing orders and financial regulations.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

72/23. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment.

The above document were circulated to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and were noted.

73/23. Review and confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.

The Council insurance was renewed in April and holds the relevant level of cover required.

74/23. Appointments to Outside Bodies. - Review of the Council's and/or employees' memberships of other bodies.

The following appointments were agreed as detailed below:-

Police liaison and Resource and Standards Committee – Cllr Mrs V Boote

Bowls Committee – Cllr Mrs P Halford

SPCA – this is not a Parish appointed person and he stands as an independent representative as Cllr Dr Richard Painter

Trees - Cllr Mr G Fanthom

Flower boxes - Cllrs Mrs P Halford, Cllr Mrs V Boote and Ms D Chandler

Planning – Cllr Mr K Pincher

Wolverhampton Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Mr S Massey

Community Watch – Cllr Mr S Hewitt

75/23. Members to submit their Disclosable Pecuniary Interest forms following the elections

All members of the Parish Council need to complete the forms distributed to all members.

76/23. Setting the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council for the year ahead

The meeting schedule as detailed below was agreed:-

Month	Swindon
May 2023	18 th (AGM)
June 2023	8
July 2023	13
August 2023	
Sept 2023	7
Oct 2023	12
Nov 2023	9
Dec 2023	14
Jan 2024	11
Feb 2024	8
March 2024	14 (APM)
April 2024	11
May 2024	9

77/23. To confirm signatories for Bank Mandate

The bank signatories are the Chairman, the Clerk, Cllr Mrs V Boote. This was noted.

78/23. County / District Councillors to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

County Cllr Mrs V Wilson reported as follows:-

- The Staffordshire County Council Community fund is now open, until October 2023, funding can be applied for defibs also now. A retrospective application is coming forward for the school for the Coronation.
- She had a site meeting recently in Kinver, looking at old street furniture that needs to be removed, she asked if members have a look at Swindon to see if there is anything that needs to be removed and she will look into it.
- SPCA – Health and Well Being, an email will come from her on asking us to take part. There is a slight delay due to a change in officers at SPCA.
- Highways – transformation starting shortly with £80 million being spent on Highways, inc drainage. She did ask if there are any clusters in the Parish to let her know at the last meeting. Swindon Road with Mile Flat, beginning of site at Hinksford need to be added to the last list. These need to be reported on the system before she can take them forward for possibly being able to action them. The Clerk to forward list from last month with the additional items.
- She had a meeting with Highways Officers at speed limit from Wombourne Road, costs were looked at and the cost anticipated at £12000 (if the rumble strips need to be moved), and similar

cost of £8000 for Hinksford. The process could take a maximum of 12 months and there can be objections that may stop the process, even if expense has already been paid towards the schemes even if funded by the Parish Council.

79/23. To discuss Development Applications received.

23/00311/TTREE Farloe House Wombourne Road Swindon - TPO No. 14/00269/TPO: Cupressocyparis spp. (Cypress) - Dismantle and remove - noted

Mill House – works have been undertaken and 2 out of 3 trees have been dealt with.

Cllr Mr G Fanthom proposed to not accept this application, but there was no seconder, so this failed.

Cllr Dr R Painter reported that permission for holiday lodges have been granted at Patshull Park, Pattingham, this may have an impact on possible developments in Swindon in the future.

80/23. To receive an update on the cricket, bowls, and allotment leases

Cllr Mr S Massey reported that the above groups have had the sub lease sent to Waldrons and progressing slowly.

81/23. To receive an update and discuss grounds maintenance / repairs at the playing fields and the village

The Clerk prepared a tender document with the Chairman, it was agreed to send out the document with a maximum of 3 years for the contract, the Clerk to send out the documents and put on the website and Facebook pages and noticeboards.

The hoops are ready to be installed and Cllr Mr S Hewitt along with the Chairman said he would help to install them.

The Brooklands is ongoing and Homes Plus are speaking to Severn Trent to see if they can help with the road surface.

With regard to the Church Wall a response has been received from SSDC stating that they are monitoring the wall. It was agreed to wait for the next report and then see what is in the report and if there is any further deterioration and take it back to them then.

Cllr Mrs P Halford reported that the contractor Wednesbury Garden Services had come to look at the garden by the shops, and he is willing to take out the dead Olive trees, and possibly the other Olive tree and put in 3 standard roses in place of them, with colours of our choice and some extra compost for a £150.00. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs P Halford and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Boote to replace the trees at a cost of £150.00, on a vote this was carried.

82/23. To receive an update on the Community Centre

It was reported the terms and conditions were updated with extra conditions when Covid was an issue. The Management Committee will look at preparing a new version of the terms of hire and these will be forwarded to the Council to be looked at before finalisation.

The boiler has been serviced and is in good working order, the Pat Testing will be undertaken in due course and paid for by the Management Committee.

83/23. To discuss the issuing of a Newsletter

Cllr Dr R Painter reported that a full newsletter has not been sent out since December. It was agreed that this is now due. All ideas to be forwarded to Cllr Mr K Pincher and Mr G Fanthom by the 8th June for preparation of the newsletter, the content should be led by Parish Council items firstly.

84/23. To discuss support that may be available to a new organisation for Community Events

Cllr Dr R Painter reported following the Coronation, comments were made about having a Community Events Group. The question was asked what possible support could be made by the Parish Council? This would be discussed at a future time when the group has been formed. It was noted that the groups would have to have a constitution, terms of reference and their own bank account for the Parish to be able to financially make any contribution.

85/23. To discuss a SID sign and associated costs

The Clerk was asked to look at what Kinver does and report back to the next meeting. At Kinver they use ground sockets around the Parish that are put installed into soft ground permanently with concrete and capped off to stop debris going in them. They then have a post that travels around and holds the sign for easier installation.

The new SID signs are very lightweight compared to the older model. The post is put into the ground, then then the SID sign is reattached to the post without the battery, as that's the easiest way, battery is added and your ready to go.

The solar panels are very good, however you need quite a tall post to house them on as they are very stealable, and then this makes the job of moving the sign more difficult as you would need ladders to take off the Solar Panel, then remove the sid, then take the post out.

With regard to battery to life, for example, the sign on Kinver High Street lasts 2 weeks, now on more out Roads, such as Wollaston Road which is still busy the battery lasts a month.

The batteries from my experience last longer if you set the sign to minimal flashing under 33 and over 25 mph.

Up to date post regulations are awaited from SSDC and Highways and this has been requested by the Clerk and she is waiting for a response.

Cllr Mrs V Boote will chase the data for the District Sign that has been in the Parish.

86/23. To agree accounts for payment.

The accounts for payment are detailed below:-

Abbots Alarm cost £3795 + VAT

DJT Boiler Service £140

Clerk's wages £336.16

HMRC £84.00

Stationary 4 reams of paper at x £4.75.

All payments were agreed.

87/23. To note the Accounts for year ending 31/3/22 for submission for external audit (inc internal auditors report and agreeing Internal Auditor for 2023/24 accounts)

The year end accounts were circulated to all members with their agenda papers.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford to agree the accounts as circulated with the agenda papers and the Clerk to submit them to the External Audit as soon as possible. On a vote this was carried.

It was agreed to re-engage the Internal Auditor for 2023/24 Rutelle Accounting. On a vote this was carried.

88/23. To receive the report of the Clerk

The following items were noted:-

Election recharges should only be £70 due to the Parish being uncontested.

Correspondence received in relation to a local Public House it was noted that this was anonymous, and the Parish Council have no jurisdiction on these matters and they should be directed to the District Council as they are the relevant licensing body.

Swindon Parish Council will note the recent correspondence from our neighbouring Parish Council Trysull and Seisdon.

89/23. Items for future agendas (to be submitted by the 1st June to Chairman and Clerk for consideration)

Standing orders and Financial Regulations, interviews at 6.30pm for co-options and agenda item to co-opt also..

90/23. Date of next meeting – Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7.15pm - Cllrs Mrs V Boote and Ms D Chandler apologised for the next meeting.