

Present: Cllrs Mr S Massey (Chairman), Mrs P Halford, Mrs D Chandler, Mrs L Page, Dr R Painter, Mr G Fanthom arrived at 7.40pm (item 83/24), Mr S Hewitt and Mr A Osbourne

Also, present Mrs J Cree –Clerk

78/24. Apologies for Absence and note councillor vacancy.

An apology of absence was received from County Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

It was noted that Cllr Mrs V Boote (Vice Chair) has resigned from the Parish Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The notices required under LGA 1972 have been prepared and displayed. The last date for a call for election is the 24<sup>th</sup> June, if an election is not called then co-option can take place. It was agreed to hold the co-option interviews / meet and greet before the next Council meeting and then a formal vote will take place in the meeting following.

79/24. To receive a report on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

No report was received.

80/24. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

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

81/24. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford and were agreed.

82/24. County / District Councillors to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

Apologies were received from County Cllr Mrs V Wilson.

83/24. To discuss Development Applications received, decisions and appeals.

Applications

24/00411/FULHH Installation of front bay window 35 Wombourne Road, Swindon - No objection

## Appeals

Appeal Ref: APP/C3430/W/23/3333791 Finnley Barns, Church Road, Swindon, Staffordshire DY3 4PG

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) against a refusal to grant planning permission.
- The appeal is made by Mr Graham Evans against the decision of South Staffordshire District Council.
- The application Ref is 23/00723/FUL.
- The development proposed is the erection of an agricultural building for storage of conserved forage crops and machinery.

Decision 1. The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of an agricultural building for storage of conserved forage crops and machinery at Finnley Barns, Church Road, Swindon, Staffordshire DY3 4PG in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref 2023/00723/FUL, subject to the conditions in the attached schedule.

The Old Chapel Chapel Lane Smestow - Proposed outbuilding 24/00044/LUP  
APP/C3430/X/24/3345528 4 June 2024

Cllr Dr R Painter reported that the applicant for the battery storage facility at Hinksford Lane has suggested that they may help and fund a community project. The proposed contribution is £5000, the Chairman has requested that this is reviewed by the applicant before being finalised. It is a possibility this could go towards funding the outdoor gym equipment or energy device for the Community Centre.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr R Painter that if funding becomes available from the Battery Storage Farm that the Parish Council look at funding for the Outdoor Gym Equipment and / or an energy device for the Community Centre, this was seconded by Cllr Mr S Hewitt and on a vote carried. It was noted that additional projects can be put forward at a later date.

84/24. To receive an update and discuss grounds maintenance / repairs at the playing fields and the village including BKV update and Gym Equipment

Cllr Mr S Massey reported that :-

- the barrier has been damaged at Hinksford Lane playing field by grass cutters from Dudley Council on the 30/05/24, Dudley Council Street Scene were contacted the same day and images of the damage were supplied. The Operations Manager at Street Scene has forwarded this information to their Insurance dept, DBMC have requested estimates for repairs to the barrier, he has contacted the company who installed the barrier and requested a quote ASAP, they will visit site and provide quote as soon as practicable.
- Planters have been refreshed, again Swindon Parish Council appreciate the kind donation of plants for the village from local garden centres, he thanked everyone involved for taking the time to plant them.
- The laurel hedge at the former bus terminus area is showing good signs of recovery / fresh shoots are on the trees, however, there are a number of plants that have been lost due to the extreme weather conditions and vandal damage, he suggested that replacements are purchased to fill in the gaps, circa 20 plants are required. At this time of year only potted plants are available which should fare better than bare rooted plants, the budget required would be £100.00. It was agreed to set a budget of £100 for replacement plants.
- BKV – the metal Bench at the playing fields needs painting, Cllr Dr R Painter offered to do this and he will get some paint and paint it as soon as practicable. The railings can also be painted with the same paint and Cllr Mr S Hewitt will start this task. A budget of £50 was proposed to purchase paint and brushes by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Page and on a vote it was agreed.
- The Dog waste dispenser is to be fitted next week, fittings have been ordered.

Cllr Dr R Painter reported that the grant application has been submitted for the Gym Equipment to the District Council, but due to the up coming elections it may be delayed.

Concern again was expressed about the quality of the grass cutting in the Parish.

85/24. Update from SSDC on SID

Cllr Mr S Massey reported that the SID was delivered 13/05/2024, the first data was supplied to Cllrs via email. The data will be supplied to Andy Aston at the end of each month, if a pattern emerges this will work towards getting the speed camera van to the area.

The new pole sites are ongoing, the Parish Council have to complete a form and pay for the installation of the poles. However, the latest update on poles received on the 11<sup>th</sup> June from Highways – “SSDC are carrying out work across the district working with ourselves therefore the scale of this work has increased. As we have to consider all applications under one licence there may be a bit of a delay in getting works started. There will be an engineer in touch soon on the initial licencing and permitting side of things has begun.”

86/24. To discuss Green bin costs (GF)

Cllr Mr G Fanthom requested that this subject to be put on the agenda.

He has been in contact with Dave Heywood the Chief Executive of SSDC trying to get some form of concession on the Green bin charges for the residents that receive some form of Benefits or Pensioners, etc. Mr Heywood responded below:-

" The Decision was made not to offer concessionary rates when the charge was introduced . WE charge a flat rate of £43.60 per year, which equates to 84 pence per week or £1.81 per collection , which we believe presents good value for money for all residents choosing to use the this service. There are no plans at this time to introduce concessions for the kerbside garden waste collection service. Offering concessions would have increased our administration costs and therefore increase the over all charge to all our customers."

Cllr Mr G Fanthom feels that in fact what the Green Bin charge is nothing more in some cases than a ' new Tax ' to residents that do not have to pay Council rates. If some Residents get a partial or full Council Rates rebate, he feels that they should not be subject to further costs for the green bin.

Cllr Dr R Painter reported that the Council tax Band F – is twice as much as Band A, the council tax was £173 in 2020, this has now increased by 6.6% over 4 years. In 2020 he wrote to Cllr R Lees and raised this with him, and it was noted that the District do not have any obligation to remove green waste.

This was raised in June 2020 at the Parish Council meeting, and a letter was sent from the Parish Council asking for a postponement of the charge. Which was refused as by the May of that year many thousands of people had already subscribed to this service.

The funding from the Green bins, is an income stream and they use the income to help support other services.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr G Fanthom that the Parish Council should request form the District Council to not charge those on benefits etc to pay the green bin charged and this should be FOC. This was not seconded so the motion failed.

87/24. To agree new Financial Regulations

The Clerk circulated the updated Financial Regulations from NALC to all members with the agenda papers.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Dr R Painter to adopt these new Financial Regulations, on a vote this was carried.

88/24. To receive the report of the Clerk  
The following items were noted:-

Update on Wombourne tip  
Police online surgery 30<sup>th</sup> May  
The new good councillor guide  
DPI Forms put on Swindon webpage and resent to SSDC as they have the wrong list of councillors and I could not find the forms on their site. (I don't have the following Cllrs forms Lesley or Gordon so may need a new copy as if SSDC cant find their copy) It was requested to title the DPI forms in their own section on the website.  
Council news round ups  
SPCA An introduction to age friendly Communities webinar  
Planning training – 13<sup>th</sup> May at Codsall – the discussion was re the Local Plan – At that training session Cllr Dr R Painter requested that the reserved land (which is not suitable for development at this time), be returned to Greenbelt, the answer was no as it could be suitable in the future if changes to the site were made.  
Code of conduct training cancelled till September.  
Fixing Roads update.  
Complaint re noise.  
Cllr Dr R Painter reported he had spoken to Mrs M Quinn re the CCTV and requested the cut off for the camera in Swindon should be recorded as October 2023 when it stopped working not when it was taken down last month. She noted this request.

89/24. To agree accounts for payment and receive accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

The accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> May were attached to these minutes as appendix 1 . These were noted.

The accounts for payment are detailed below:-

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Clerk Wages | £357.07 (to be paid)         |
| Clerk HMRC  | £89.20 (to be paid)          |
| Flag        | £142.06 inc VAT (paid)       |
| Grounds     | £179.92 inc VAT (to be paid) |
| Talk Talk   | £31.42 DD                    |

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Chandler to agree the accounts for payment. On a vote this was carried.

90/24. Items for future agendas (to be submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> July to Chairman and Clerk for consideration) co-opted seat and appoint a vice chairman and bank mandate new signatory, CCTV.

91/24. Date of next meeting – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.15pm

| SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL                      |   |            |
|---------------------------------------------|---|------------|
| BANK RECONCILIATION                         |   |            |
| 2024/25                                     |   |            |
|                                             |   | 31/03/2024 |
| <b>Accounts</b>                             | £ |            |
| Barclays Community Current account 90853968 |   |            |
| Barclays Saving Acc. 43699005               |   |            |
| Barclays Saving Acc. 80471003               |   |            |
| Unpresented cheques                         |   |            |
| Unpresented receipts                        |   |            |
| Receipts 2024/5                             |   |            |
| Payments 2024/5                             |   |            |
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| <b>Date 2024-25</b> | <b>details</b>           | <b>voucher no</b> | <b>Receipt</b>  | <b>Payment</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 12/04/2024          | HMRC VAT                 | 1                 | 1909.63         |                |
| 12/04/2024          | TALK TALK                | 2                 |                 | 31.42          |
| 12/04/2024          | FAST HOSTS               | 3                 |                 | 8.40           |
| 12/04/2024          | ANDY READ                | 4                 |                 | 1572.99        |
| 16/04/2024          | HMRC APRIL               | 5                 |                 | 89.40          |
| 26/04/2024          | CLERKS SALARY            | 6                 |                 | 357.87         |
| 29/04/2024          | FAST HOSTS               | 7                 |                 | 33.60          |
| 29/04/2024          | DEFIB PADS               | 8                 |                 | 171.20         |
| 30/04/2024          | SSDC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE | 9                 |                 | 1350.00        |
| 30/04/2024          | L CHARLES ACCOUNTING     | 10                |                 | 120.00         |
| 30/04/2024          | providence engraving     | 11a               |                 | 84.00          |
| 30/04/2024          | FAST HOSTS               | 11b               |                 | 8.40           |
| 30/04/2024          | OCL                      | 11c               |                 | 4.32           |
| 23/04/2024          | SSDC PRECEPT             | 12                | 9100.00         |                |
| <b>APRIL</b>        | <b>TOTAL</b>             |                   | <b>11009.63</b> | <b>3831.60</b> |
| 15/05/2024          | TALK TALK                | 13                |                 | 31.42          |
| 20/05/2024          | providence engraving     | 14b               |                 | 48.00          |
| 20/05/2024          | Compost misc Sainsburys  | 14a               |                 | 21.00          |
| 20/05/2024          | misc items               | 14c               |                 | 11.00          |
| 21/05/2024          | HMRC MAY                 | 15                |                 | 89.40          |
| 21/05/2024          | SPCA SUBS                | 16                |                 | 334.00         |
| 24/05/2024          | CLERKS WAGES             | 17                |                 | 357.87         |
| 24/05/2024          | DOG BAG DISPENSER + BAGS | 18                |                 | 172.02         |
| 28/05/2024          | MARMAX - BENCH           | 19                |                 | 595.20         |
| <b>MAY</b>          | <b>TOTAL</b>             |                   | <b>0.00</b>     | <b>1659.91</b> |
|                     | <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>     |                   | <b>11009.63</b> | <b>5491.51</b> |