

Present: Cllrs Mr S Massey (Chairman), Mr G Fanthom (Vice Chairman), Dr R Painter, Mrs S Woods, Mrs P Halford, Mr S Hewitt, Mr A Osbourne and Mrs D Chandler arrived at 102/25

Also, present Clerk Mrs J Cree.

97/25. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies of absence was received from Cllr Mrs L Page and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

98/25. To report on Police matters and if available receive a report on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

The Police report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. There has been an incident of drug dealing in the village.

99/25. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

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

100/25. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th June 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th June 2025 were agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Hewitt and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford to accept the minutes with the amendment on Swinforge replaces the word Swinford and a typo of repeated words in the Police section, and on a vote this was agreed.

101/25. County Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs V Wilson.

102/25. To discuss Development Applications received

Planning decision - **25/00379/VAR** Amendment to Application 24/00844/FUL. Change from pitched roof at the side and rear to a flat roof|1 Woodland View Smestow Road Swindon - approved

Appeal decision: 24/00044/LUP - The Old Chapel Chapel Lane Smestow DUDLEY DY3 – Appeal dismissed

The above were noted.

The Marina decision has been passed, for permanent occupancy of boats in the marina and residency must be renewed every 12 months.

It was noted that the Airport Committee meeting, are going to submit plans for its redevelopment.

103/25. To receive an update and discuss any maintenance and repairs required within the Parish (dropped kerbs)

This month's SID data for June 2025 is detailed below and is from SID located on Wombourne Road:-

V85: 31mph (V85 = Average speed of 15th fastest vehicle in every 100)
Vd: 24mph (Vd = Average speed recorded during evaluation period)
Vmax: 67mph (Vmax = Highest speed recorded during evaluation period)
Speed violations: 18%

The Chairman reported an update on the new SID delivery, it should arrive in next two weeks, he spoke to Morelock on Monday.

Cllr Mrs P Halford reported she had a price for trimming the bushes by the shops etc in the Autumn at a figure of £500. It was proposed by Cllr P Halford and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Chandler, on a vote this was agreed.

The bridlepath from Swindon to Wombourne – Cllr Mrs S Woods reported that a resident has cut this back voluntarily, but a cost is needed to cut it back regularly. As PROW do not appear to be looking after this now. Chairman has also spoken with Rights of Way officer who has suggested reporting the issue and if the path is being used on a regular basis to apply for a grant for improvements. The Chairman will complete the form to ask for the path to be cut to start the process.

Dropped kerb update from Tom at Highways - Cllr Wilson has raised this with the Chairman and Diane Firken, separately and we are still investigating dropping the kerbs here. The Chairman has stated that there is an issue with complying with the DDA.

Cllr Mrs V Wilson has organised the undertaking of a speed and volume count along High Street which has been funded via her DHP budget.

The following has been received from Highways :-

“As a team we are still working with Cllr Wilson on assessing all of the competing demands across the division before committing to a priority for this financial year.

Once the data on High Street has been completed, I will share this with you and Cllr Wilson and should there be any movement on the kerbs, I will update you accordingly.”

The following items were noted re Issues raised with Highways:-

1. Tom Underwood is still chasing the defined ownership along Swinforge Way, this is ongoing
2. The signpost on the junction of Smestow Road with Bridgnorth Road, has been outstanding for a long time, and therefore this will be escalated for repair, this is still awaited.
3. The dig down work on Church Road to find out what is causing the water leak is currently available for scheduling, awaiting availability of crews for a date to be confirmed, this is awaited.
4. The erosion of the verge opposite the junction with Whitehouse Lane is completed.

The benches repairs are still in progress.

The CCTV system at Kinver is up and running, and the costs were circa £4800 for 3 cameras, and on going monthly cost a SIM of £15 per month. It was proposed by Cllr Dr R Painter and seconded by Cllr Mr S Hewitt to get costs for the same system as Kinver. On a vote this was agreed.

104/25. To receive an update on a path at the playing field

No update has been received for the meeting, this will be removed from the agenda until there is any further information.

105/25. To discuss Improvements to the playing fields

This item was deferred awaiting further information, as no invoices have been received for the current financial year to enable comparison on what we have been advised costs would be. Invoices for the 2024/2025 period appear to have exceeded what costs should have been, therefore further work is required.

The Street scene team will be asked to cut the area by the gate off the car park from the playing fields using the extra work allocated for each Parish.

The Chairman reported that he had looked into “Grass Pitch Funding Support” from Staffordshire FA, the pitch was inspected on 9/7/25 but have to come back as too dry to take soil samples, there are various grants depending on ground conditions and what level of sport is played.

106/25. To receive any updates / discuss improvements to the community centre

With regard to the upstairs improvements, one quote has been received, other quotes are awaited.

The Chairman reported an update from Balance Powers agent Calcoms; Whilst the Solar scheme was accepted in principle there appears to have been a miscommunication regarding funding. Balance Power have engaged their preferred supplier who has designed a system at a cost of £21799.00, Balance Power are prepared to offer a grant

towards the scheme of £12000.00 with the Parish to fund the shortfall.

We need to decide if the Parish consider covering the shortfall or another option would be to apply for a Grant to cover the shortfall, or go back to the original supplier and use the £12,000.

Moving forward, we will get costs from Kinver's solar company, explore grant options and speak to the Bess company re the grant offered.

It was noted that the Union Jack flag was not flying for the Kings and Prince Williams birthdays in June 2025.

107/25. To receive the report of the Clerk

Clerks report as detailed below:-

Introducing Engage South Staffordshire and our Name the Bin Trucks Competition
Parkinson Partnership Upcoming & New Courses - June & July 2025
Local Government Reorganisation
Free Online Briefing: Asset Transfer Overview. Tuesday 22nd July at 10am via MS Teams
Parish Assembly 25th July at 7pm.

108/25. To agree accounts for payment

The accounts for payment are listed below:-

£33.67	TalkTalk July / August
£470.70	Administration July
£470.70	Administration August
£418.82+VAT	Grounds 3 rd quarter 2024-2025

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Dr R Painter to accept these payments. On a vote they were carried.

109/25. Items for future agendas (to be submitted to Chairman and Clerk for consideration by the 26th August (Local Governance Review – comments by the end of September 25, CCTV)

110/25. Date of next meeting – Thursday 11th September 2025

Meeting closed 8.41pm.