

Present: Cllrs Mr S Massey (Chairman), Mr G Fanthom (Vice Chairman), Dr R Painter, Mrs S Woods, Mrs P Halford.

Also, present Mrs J Cree – Clerk and PCSO Paula Wilkes, County Cllr Mrs V Wilson.

42/25. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mrs D Chandler, Mrs L Page, Mr A Osbourne and Mr S Hewitt sent their apologies for the meeting.

43/25. To receive any information on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

It was noted that Tim Norbury has now moved on and has been replaced by Alan Lyford who will be in touch in due course.

The local Police officers have an open surgery booked at Community Centre between 10.30 – 12.00 12th April 2025 following the Chairmans request to encourage community engagement.

PCSO Paula Wilkes reported that on the railway walk there needs to be gates to stop people illegal using vehicles / bikes on the track. They have found 3 stolen bikes on the track from the West Midlands area. She said keep reporting it. There has been a Toyota Hilux stolen from a field in Smestow.

44/25. 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.

45/25. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th March 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the above date were proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Dr R Painter for acceptance and they were agreed.

46/25. County Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

The County Councillor Mrs V Wilson said with regard to motorbikes / illegal activity, but it is important to report issues to the Police so they can build up evidence.

There have been issues relating to the bus in Swindon, when there is a road closure there is an 8 week lead time to be allowed and they inform the bus company in good time. When its an emergency closure happens this does not always get to the bus company. She has asked that when there is a planned road closure they have asked if they can use an alternate route, she has asked officers if they can incorporate this into the road closure process.

When a planned road closure does not start on time, this could be because a previous job has not completed in time and therefore runs over into the next scheduled job.

Wombourne refuse site - the southerly part of the site is open, they have taken cardboard in during the winter, they are now back to spring and accepting residual, wood and garden waste. The northerly part of the site work is being done to get the site fully re-opened, and that is the aim of the County to keep the site open.

County Cllr Mrs V Wilson left at this point.

47/25. To discuss Development Applications received, decisions and appeals.

New Time Limited Premises Licence - Himley Hall Park - Word of Mouth Ltd

Planning decision

Reference 24/00190/FULM Address - Land Adjacent To Hinksford Substation Hinksford Lane
Proposal Planning application for the construction and operation of a battery energy storage system (bess), in addition to the construction of associated infrastructure including inverters; transformers; switchgear; control room; DNO room; welfare and storage buildings; fencing and security infrastructure; CCTV; access track; emergency access track; underground water tank; drainage attenuation, and landscaping. Status - Application approved with conditions

It was noted that the garages on Winston Road are for sale .

It was noted that on the Hinksford wharf, a complaint has been made regarding a recently sited summer house/shed. Based on the size planning is not actually required as the occupiers have the landowner's permission and given the size it falls within permitted development – it's a single-story structure with a floor area under 15 square meters, a maximum eaves height of 2.5 meters, it doesn't exceed 2.5 meters in height. The Parish would have no objections to this if asked.

48/25. To receive an update on the SID post install dates and data from the SID, and discuss purchasing a further SID.

A date for the works to erect the posts is awaited as the contractor must apply for the required permissions and licence from SCC.

The SID data is passed to SSDC at the end of each month.

This months SID data is detailed below and it is located on High Street Swindon:-

V85: 29 mph
Vd: 24 mph
Vmax: 60 mph
Speed violations: 9%

V85 = Average speed of 15th fastest vehicle in every 100
Vd = Average speed recorded during evaluation period
Vmax = Highest speed recorded during evaluation period

SID will be in situ on the High Street until the end of April 2025

Cllr Dr R Painter proposed in principal to purchase a further SID , so there is one in the High Street and one by the school. Cllr Mrs P Halford seconded the motion, on a vote this was carried. The Clerk to purchase the device from Morelock.

49/25. To receive an update and discuss any maintenance and repairs required within the Parish

Cllr Mrs Woods provided a phone number of a contractor to repair the benches and a quote is awaited.

The Brooklands, this is a fantastic result for Swindon, it's not fully clear how much the relentless emails from Chairman and District Cllr Roger Lees have contributed to this. The residents are most grateful.

The Chairman did agree previously with Severn Trent to receive a small grant of £1000.00 as a gesture of good will, details have been passed to the contractor and the funds will hopefully be used towards new fencing to enhance the area.

The plaque has been fitted to the new bench.

At the Gas Plant, a tree survey / de vegetation work is due to commence 14th April and they will take around 4 weeks, meetings have been held and neighbours consulted, this is permitted development.

Upgrade works to Gas Plant are scheduled for April 2026, this is subject to planning, and there will be a possible short term footpath closure, and access road from Chasepool Rd etc.

The Water leak on Church Road, Severn Trent have attended twice in the last month and can find no leak, the water has been tested and is not treated water (contains on chlorine) and they have advised they are not responsible for the leak, they believe it to be a natural spring coming to the surface, given it is causing an issue with the safety of the pavement they have suggested reporting to District as soon as possible. The Chairman will action this point.

The Sewage leak in woods, has been reported to Severn Trent Water and there is an ongoing repair.

Cllr G Fanthom has spoken to the church re lighting up the church for Easter, as a trial and is awaiting feedback and will keep members informed.

50/25. To discuss a path at the playing field

This issue was raised at the Annual Parish Meeting by the Cricket Club Chair.

The plans suggested are to create accessible (disabled access) path around playing fields into newly reclaimed area to provide wild meadow and picnic area. It was agreed as this is a Cricket Club initiative should they provide plans and costing prior to any further consideration. It may be possible for the Parish Council to fund picnic benches in the future. The Chairman to contact the cricket club and request the information.

The Clerk informed members that SSDC have suggested that if there are parcels of land within Parishes that parish councils want to be owned / managed themselves, these should be forwarded to the District so when it's discussed they are aware of what the Parish would like to be engaged with in the future. This to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

51/25. To discuss Improvements to the playing fields

The District Council Grass cutting costs will be increasing, the Parish Council has been approached by a local contractor interested in taking on the areas, the Chairman asked if members would like to receive a formal quote from the contractor. It was agreed to get a formal quote.

We went through tender process 2022/23, as costs are likely to be less than £5000.00.

52/25. To discuss improvements to the community centre

The Digital Kiosk is in situ in the Community Centre, many images have been scanned and uploaded, and thanks goes to Val Boote, Beverley Woods, Cllr Steve & Chis Hewitt for their assistance

As this is a well used facility centre, the Chairman asked if we should consider completing the upstairs to a usable space. Grants should be available to explore options. The Chairman will investigate options and bring them forward.

The alarm now requires a service, as it was fitted two years ago, 1st year service was free, the cost is £135 + vat, for the service if booked prior to 15th April, Cllr Dr R Painter proposed and Cllr Mr S Massey seconded to go ahead with the service. On a vote this was agreed.

Balance Power Community Grant have accepted the proposal in principle (as reported earlier in the year), the retail quote we received has been reviewed and they have appointed their own contractor to review and deliver a scheme to provide the same income at a cost acceptable to them, we await an update.

53/25 To discuss VE day and make any decisions as necessary

Cllr Mr G Fanthom suggested decorating the Community Centre, to make it look like black out theme like in the war. Members thought that bunting may be more appropriate and will use the existing bunting.

The ladies group will be doing something on that day, so would appreciate it being decorated.

54/25. To receive the report of the Clerk

The following items were noted:-

Updated Practitioners Guide and gov.uk domain.

The Chairman replied to the real time passenger information solar bus stops, whilst the idea is supported the Parish would be unable to upgrade all village stops as the cost are £6750.00 per stop it would equate to £54,000.00.

The Clerk reported that the County Council officer came to Kinver's meeting last night and they have received funds for developing infrastructure and he is hoping to be able to help fund these information points. He is coming back to Kinver to do a presentation after the elections, members will invite him to Swindon also.

With regard to, the mileposts, there aren't any in the Parish.

55/25. To agree accounts for payment

The accounts for payment were listed below:-

£463.70	Administration
£2827.71	Parish Insurance (New 3-year Fixed Rate Agreement)
£10.00	Plaque for bench
£33.67	TalkTalk
£120.00	Internal Audit – Ruta Puller

It was proposed by Cllr Mr S Massey and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Halford to accept the accounts for payment detailed above. On a vote this was carried.

56/25. Items for future agendas (to be submitted to Chairman and Clerk for consideration by the 30th April (CCTV Spring, register an interest for the playing fields, cricket path, AGAR/year end accounts, dropped kerbs)

57/25. Date of next meeting – Thursday 8th May 2025

Meeting closed at 8.50pm