



# St Andrews Parish Council

Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon SN25 2GY

Email: [clerk@standrews-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@standrews-pc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 07900 631 733

## **DRAFT Minutes of the Online Full Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7:00pm**

**Councillors Present:** Daniel Adams, Jean Blake, Mary Friend, Steve Heyes, Paul Morris, Tim Owen, Fran Quarterman, Steven Pipe\*, Vera Tomlinson (Chairman) and Vince Williams\*\*

**Officers Present:** Emma Sylvester (Clerk)  
Luke Jones (Grounds Maintenance Supervisor)

**Public Present:** 3

\* Arrived at 7:10pm

\*\* Arrived at 7:30pm

### **30. APOLOGIES**

Vince Williams and Stephen Pipe gave apologies in advance for arriving at the meeting late.

### **31. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Daniel Adams declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding Agenda item 6 as he was known to the applicant from Tadpole Garden Village.

Vera Tomlinson declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14(ii).

### **32. MINUTES RESOLVED**

To accept the minutes of the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as a true record and for them to be signed when the Clerk next meets the Chairman.

### **33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (i) The Chairman reported that she had been in communication with the police regarding a stabbing on the footpath by Wallis Drive play park. They have advised to clear back the shrubbery so the area is not so secluded. The Chairman added that the Grounds team have started work already.
- (ii) The Chairman reported that after no progress on the purchase of land at Redhouse she contacted our solicitor who said that the delays with Crest. Crest rang the Chairman to confirm this and hoped that all would be completed by the end of the month.
- (iii) The Chairman passed on the sad news that Nick Newland, the architect of Redhouse Community Centre had unexpectedly passed away. Mary Friend added that it was incredibly sad news.

### **34. PUBLIC RECESS**

A local resident, Becky Maddern, addressed the council regarding the lack of play area equipment for disabled children. She explained she was trying to raise awareness of the need for children to have access to equipment. Councillors said they were supportive, and the Chairman agreed to include Becky in meetings when the council discussed improvements to play areas in the parish.

Stu Olden, Tadpole Garden Village in Bloom, spoke to the council regarding his grant application.

Mike Bowden, Phoenix Enterprise, spoke to the council regarding his grant application



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## 35. GRANTS

Members considered grant applications from Tadpole Garden Village in Bloom and Phoenix Enterprises.

### **RESOLVED**

To grant £500 to Tadpole Garden Village in Bloom

## 36. REDHOUSE LAND

The Chairman spoke about using the land to provide an income, stating that the parish council is changing and can't keep putting up the precept. The Chairman added the Parish Council needs to look at other ways to raise income and suggested that the council looks into the possibility of building houses which would be sold and/or rented out to bring in money that will enable the precept to be kept low.

## 37. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- (i) **RESOLVED** To approve risk assessments as detailed in the documents attached in the minute book.
- (ii) The Grounds Maintenance Supervisor explained that the vehicles ordered were not ready yet due to COVID issues and one of the vehicles provided by Swindon Borough Council has had to be scrapped which was causing problems for the team.

### **RESOLVED**

To hire a Ford Tipper until new vehicles available at a cost of £742 + VAT per month from TSP Van Rental

- (iii) Members discussed options for permanent location for St Andrews Ridge rock snake.

### **RESOLVED**

To place in Wallis Drive Play Park

- (iv) Members discussed locations for Grounds Maintenance depot. Various suggestions were made, and the Chairman agreed to speak to Swindon Borough Council.

- (v) Members discussed logo designs for the new Grounds Maintenance vehicles.

### **RESOLVED**

To approve layout and add a telephone number

To delegate the decision to the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor regarding the size

## 38. PLAY AREAS

- (i) Members discussed options for Eastbury Way adult equipment following a referral from the Play Areas and Open Spaces Committee that the equipment was damaged.

### **RESOLVED**

To remove the equipment

- (ii) Members considered report regarding play area inspection staff training.

### **RESOLVED**

To approve training at a cost of £400 splitting the cost with a neighbouring Parish Council.

## 39. COMMITTEES

Members discussed the current committee structure.

### **RESOLVED**

To dissolve the Finance Committee

To split the Play Area and Open Spaces committee in to two separate committees



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## 40. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that guidance from National Association of Local Councils was to continue holding council meetings remotely. Members agreed to continue with meetings via Zoom until guidance changed.

## 41. 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE

Members discussed Swindon Borough Council's consultation on installing a 20mph speed limit zone at St Andrews Ridge. Cllr Blake and Williams reported that the area already has a 20mph zone. Cllr Heyes agreed to check with Swindon Borough Council's legal department.

## 42. SPEED WATCH

Members discussed correspondence received from Blunsdon Speed Watch Group. It was agreed not to take any action.

## 43. ACCOUNTS

- (i) Payments for July 2020 totalling £44,584.29 and August 2020 totalling £23,981.05 were noted.
- (ii) It was noted that the savings account had accrued over £300 interest since opening.
- (iii) **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to transfer funds from current account to savings account to top up to £85,000

## 44. STAFF

- (i) Members discussed salary increases following new Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020/21  
**RESOLVED**  
To approve salary increases and back dated payments as detailed on the attached sheet in the Minutes Book.
- (ii) Members discussed salaries for Grounds Maintenance Team Workers  
**RESOLVED**  
To put all workers on the same salary as they are all carrying out the same roles.

## 45. COUNCILLORS

- (i) Members approved that Derek Rickets is no longer a Councillor following a period of non-attendance with no apologies of longer than 6 months.
- (ii) Members discussed Councillor Allowances.  
**RESOLVED**  
To set Councillor Allowances as follows:  
2020/21 - Chairman - £5131.00 Councillor - £1069.00  
2021/22 - Chairman - £5272.00 Councillor - £1098.00  
To was agreed to give a larger allowance to the Chairman because there is more work as the parish council continues to grow.

Cllr Williams thanked Vera Tomlinson and Mary Friend for sharing their knowledge and experience. Cllr Blake explained that she abstained from the vote because she doesn't believe with councillors claiming allowances. She thanked Vera and said she was very grateful for all her hard work.

The meeting closed at 9:27pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_