

St Andrews Parish Council

ST ANDREWS' PARISH MEETING Held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7:30pm at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Present: Cllr Daniel Adams, Cllr Kola Beyioku, Jake Chandler, Cllr Steve Heyes, Cllr Paul Morris, Emma Sylvester (Parish Clerk), Cllr Vera Tomlinson (Chairman), Cllr Vince Williams and Cllr Paul West with three members of the public.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Cllr Vera Tomlinson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this was a statutory meeting open to electors of the Parish at which only the electorate are permitted to speak.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Mary Friend

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 19th May 2021 were approved and signed as true record by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman read out her report as follows:

I have been asked as Chairman to give you an update on our progress this last year. We have achieved quite a lot this year making our parish one of the best run parish councils in Swindon whilst giving excellent service we continue to have one of the lowest precepts. This can only be achieved by a hard-working team of employees and councillors. My grateful thanks go to you all.

I would like to remind you of some of our achievements this past year: -

We started the year with a full team of councillors both elected and co-opted. We have co-opted others during the year when vacancies have arisen and now at the end of the year, we have one more vacancy. Ten electors following the set rules have called for a full parish election for this one vacancy. Two people have applied to fill the vacancy, Rahul Tara who represents the Conservative Party and Bradley Williams who represents the Green Party. The election is on Thursday 9th June.

I have been making enquiries regarding the high cost of a full-blown election being called in our parish and have found that if at the next 'Governance Review' we apply for 'Warding' of our parish we will only have to pay election expenses in the ward in the parish where the councillors has resigned instead of the whole parish. The election is costed at £22K but under warding it would cost around £2K.

Jean Blake, as a then parish councillor, introduced us to her idea of giving a community award each year to the person, persons or group who were the best achievers in what they did to benefit our parish. The first Community Hero Award 2021 went to Tim Clarke and Sally Rowes of the Ridge Wombles – a litter picking group on St Andrews Ridge.

We achieved quite a lot of improvements to our play areas under the leadership of Cllr Steve Heyes.

- a) Plans for Wallis Drive play area which included several pieces of inclusive play equipment consisting of a double slide, roundabout, swings and a new muga at a cost of £50K which we successfully claimed from developers 106 and CiL monies.

- b) We installed a new inclusive roundabout at Brook Park play area as well as a new area surface at Bridlewood play park.
- c) Later we installed CCTV at Wallis Drive play park on the advice of the police due to vandalism and a stabbing incident there.

We negotiated and took over the lease for Redhouse community centre from Swindon Borough Council and recently installed a new boiler and air conditioning units. The costs of which came out of the centre profits which following the Covid lockdown were achieved by our extremely hard-working Centre Manager.

Following a representation from Mr & Mrs Anderson from Priory Manor we installed a top of the range much needed bus shelter at the bottom of Eastbury Way which is much used and appreciated by local residents.

Under the guidance of Cllr Kola Beyioku we have formed a new task group who are working towards a programme of summer activities in order to benefit young people in our parish particularly in the school summer holidays.

Lastly, I come to Luke Jones and his team of five men. He has achieved miracles in our parish. We now have a more regulated programme of grass cutting, hedge and tree trimming, litter picking and bin emptying for which we have now purchased a quantity of dual waste bins.

Our play parks are being cleaned more regularly and maintained to a very high standard which is much appreciated by their users.

We have purchased our first electric vehicle and plans to build our new depot have been taking place this year under the leadership of Cllr Vince Williams, and I as Chairman have been negotiating for suitable land to put it on.

Many more things have happened this year to improve our parish but too many to mention tonight but I would like to end my report by saying a huge thank you to you all including our clerk Emma Sylvester for all your hard work and sound, well considered, decision making. You always work well together, and I could not wish for a better team of people to work with. So, my grateful thanks to you all.

5. COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

The Chairman, Cllr Vera Tomlinson, presented the Community Hero Award to Damian Pickett for his outstanding due to the considerable contribution to the parish through events for the community, especially throughout the lockdown, which included visit from Santa Claus, Easter Egg hunts, Scarecrow Trails and Christmas Lights competition.

6. COUNCILLORS' FORUM

With no questions for councillors the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:04pm

Chairman _____

Date _____