



# St Andrews Parish Council

**Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Committee Meeting  
Held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7:30pm  
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon**

**Councillors Present:** Daniel Adams, Jake Chandler\*, Steve Heyes, Sue MacDonald, and Vince Williams (Chairman)  
**Officer Present:** Emma Sylvester, Clerk and Luke Jones, Grounds Maintenance Manager  
**Public Present:** 0

\* Arrived 19.52 pm

## **29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul West and Cllr Jake Chandler sent apologies that he will be late.

## **30. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

## **31. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to accept and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **32. PUBLIC RECESS**

No public present

## **33. OPEN SPACES**

(i) Members received and reviewed the 'Open Space issues' spreadsheet as attached in the minute book. The Grounds Maintenance Manager highlighted that there had been a lot of graffiti tags around the parish. Members discussed the cost to the parish and suggested a social media post stating how much clearing up graffiti was costing the parish. The Grounds Maintenance Manager stated that the team are working well and had started on the winter pruning.

Cllr Adams raised the issue of the stream in Eastbury Way. It has once again started to erode the bank and recently uprooted a tree. Cllr Adam reported that as a Borough Councillor he had requested Swindon Borough Council to fence the area off. It was agreed that this was the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council to repair however it was decided the Grounds Maintenance team would spend some time as and when available clearing the brambles.. Cllr Heyes informed the committee that as a Borough Councillor he would talk with Swindon Borough Council.

(ii) Members discussed the projects in the parish that could be completed with no material costs just labour.

**RESOLVED**

To complete the following projects when time allowed:

Change two bins that are rusting at the bottom at Highdown Way to one new bin.

Lower high hedge at Warrener Close

Lower high hedge at Northbourne

Cllr V Williams suggested that any other projects are discussed when setting next year's precept.

- (iii) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that road sweeping was not being completed in the parish, in particular Sandstone Road. It was agreed that this is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council and not the responsibility of the parish council

#### **34. BINS**

- (i) Members discussed the effectiveness of the new restrictors installed on the bin at Redhouse. The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the had not been used for household waste and was being filled with general waste although the restrictors had only been in for a week. It was agreed to keep monitoring.
- (ii) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that a resident had requested the bin in Abbotsbury Way park is removed due to it being used for household waste. Members agreed to consult with residents to see if they agree.

#### **35. WILDFLOWER AREAS**

It was agreed to defer this until after the budget meeting.

#### **36. TREES**

Members discussed the planting of trees in the parish and the possibility of applying for free trees.

##### **RESOLVED**

For Cllr Chandler to investigate funding possibilities

For Councillor Heyes to request information from Haydon Wick parish council on the trees they recently planted

For the Clerk to chase Swindon Borough Council on which officers/department are dealing with tree planting.

#### **37. CLIMATE CHANGE**

- (i) It was noted that Full Council has referred work of Climate Change to Grounds Maintenance Committee.
- (ii) Cllr Heyes reported that he was working through actions with Cllr B Williams which would be brought to a future meeting. Members agreed to invite Cllr B Williams to meetings where climate change would be discussed and to add an item agenda regarding data put forward by Cllr Jake Chandler.

#### **38. BUDGET**

Members discussed budget figures put together by the Clerk which showed projected total for the current year and expected costs for 2023-24. Cllr V Williams pointed out the service was running well and members discussed possible increases required including use of diesel instead of red diesel. It was agreed to have vehicle renewal on the next agenda.

**39. GRAFFITI REMOVAL SERVICE**

The Chairman reported that Swindon Borough Council provide a graffiti removal service on private dwellings for free.

**RESOLVED** to not approve a policy for St Andrews Parish Council to remove graffiti from private buildings.

**40. DEPOT (Standing Item)**

Cllr V Williams reported that the depot will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting following an agreement from a third party that land was available to be used by St Andrews Parish Council. Cllr V Williams added that the parish council would be speaking to planning at Swindon Borough Council to see if the land was suitable.

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_