



St Andrews Parish Council

**Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Committee Meeting
Held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7:30pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon**

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

* Arrived 19.44 pm

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Adams sent apologies that he will be late.

42. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

43. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude members of the public for agenda Item 11 – Depot as the business to be transacted contained the likely disclosure of exempt information.

44. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd November 2022 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

45. PUBLIC RECESS

No public present

46. 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 litter issues around the parish.

Cllr MacDonald asked about special paint that makes it easier to remove graffiti. The Grounds Maintenance Manager said they this has been used in the parish but needs to be reapplied once graffiti has been wiped away.

(ii) Members agreed for the Grounds Team to lower the vegetation along the path from Cobbett Close to Thamesdown Drive. This will enable more light to enter the area. Grounds Maintenance Manager to take before and after pictures.

47. VEHICLE/MACHINERY RENEWAL

Members noted that the parish council vehicles and machinery leases were due for renewal in summer 2025. Members discussed the possibility of having more electric vehicles and equipment however the Grounds Maintenance Manager stated that the

prices for trucks was very high and equipment was not powerful enough at present. It was agreed for the Grounds Maintenance Manager to produce a list of all vehicles and machinery to be reviewed at the next meeting with a costing exercise completed in Autumn 2023.

**48. BINS
RESOLVED**

To send consultation letter as attached in the Minute Book to residents facing the park at Abbotsway Way asking for their opinion on removal of the two bins in the park. It was also agreed to place a copy of the letter on the bin as well.

49. TREE PLANTING

- (i) Members noted that contact has been made with officers at Swindon Borough Council regarding funding for tree planting and the parish council would be able to make an application for tree planting in Autumn 2023 and long term maintenance.
- (ii) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that 3 locations had been considered as suitable for tree planting by SBC's Tree Officer and following approval by Full Council a consultation with residents would be required before completing the application.
Members discussed types of trees and holding an event so that the public could be involved in the planting.

50. CLIMATE CHANGE

- (i) Members discussed data sets to be used when discussing climate change but no agreement was made. It was agreed that members would carry out research before discussing the item at the next meeting.
- (ii) Cllr Heyes reported that he was looking into ways the council could hold meetings virtually along with becoming a paperless council. Cllr B Williams reported that he was talking to SBC on Ellas Law. The Clerk reported that the council was currently using a cloud storage system and agreed to resend the link to Councillors. The Clerk reported that other committees had discussed steps that could be taken to reduce the council's impact on climate change. The Clerk agreed to send round a list and to look into electronic signatures.

51. DEPOT (Standing Item)

The Clerk reported that the Chairman and Grounds Maintenance Manager were exploring other options regarding a depot and these will be reported and discussed at the next Full Council meeting in February 2023. Cllr V Williams stated that this committee is keen to support Full Council in discussions and happy to attend site visits.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____