



St Andrews Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7:30 pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Daniel Adams, Jake Chandler, Mary Friend, Steve Heyes, Sue MacDonald, Paul Morris, Paul West, Vera Tomlinson (Chairman), Bradley Williams and Vince Williams
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester- Parish Clerk
Deborah Braiden, Deputy Parish Clerk
Luke Jones, Grounds Maintenance Manager*
Public Present: 1

*Left at 20:39

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Beyioku

86. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

87. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the last meeting held on 25th October 2023 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

88. PUBLIC RECESS

No public in attendance

89. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

With Swindon Borough Council (SBC) looking to pass services over to the parish council, Luke was working on a spreadsheet outlining what the costs would be to the parish council including, extra manpower, equipment and admin staff which would hopefully be available for the next Full Council meeting. The Chairman added that she would be looking for a fair and legal deal.

A new parish office is required due to the present wooden hut being too small and has been leaking in the recent rainy weather. A plan was tabled. Members discussed the size, costs and whether there would be room for extra staff.

90. SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- (i) Members noted that a get together was held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 with Councillors Tomlinson, Chandler, Heyes, V Williams and the Ground Maintenance Manager (GMM). The Chairman reported that the GMM was working on costs. Members discussed partnership working with SBC. Members discussed how disappointed they were that there had been no contact from the SBC Cabinet member to discuss the partnership working despite the Clerk providing dates of council meetings.

- (ii) Members received and discussed the draft Borough, Parish & Town Council Charter 2023 from SBC. Members agreed to raise issues with the date, and services listed in the appendix.
- (iii) Members noted that the next Swindon Local Council Forum would be held at Swindon Borough Council, Euclid Street on Thursday 23rd November at 7 pm. It was noted that Cllr Tomlinson and Cllr Heyes would be in attendance as the parish council representatives.

91. COMMITTEES

- (i) Members noted the minutes of the following committees:
Climate Change 4th October 2023
Redhouse Community Centre 18th October 2023
- (ii) **RESOLVED** to hold the next Redhouse Community Centre Committee meeting be on Wednesday 29th November at 7:30 pm

92. PARISH ELECTIONS

- (i) Members received a consultation document from Swindon Borough Council on changing parish council elections to be in line with Swindon Borough Council, which have been agreed to move to every four years from 2026.
- (ii) Members discussed whether to harmonise St Andrews Parish Council elections with Swindon Borough Council elections **RESOLVED** to inform Swindon Borough Council that St Andrews Parish Council would like to harmonise their elections SBC with the next election being in 2026.

93. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2023

- (i) Members received a notice from Swindon Borough Council regarding polling districts and polling places review.
- (ii) Members discussed the proposed polling stations.
RESOLVED to send the following comment back to Swindon Borough Council:

St Andrews Parish Council accept the polling stations at present. Please review SAA for future elections and speak to Tadpole Garden Village school as they are unable to keep the school open whilst elections go ahead and SBC will need to find an alternative location.

94. INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members receives the Internal Auditor report following a visit on Tuesday 7th November. Members thanked the Clerk for her hard work.

The Clerk reported that a minor error had been found on the May minutes with the date stating 2022. **RESOLVED** to amend the minutes to 2023.

95. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2023

RESOLVED To approve applying the new payscales as agreed by National Joint Council for Local Government Services and backdate to 1st April 2023. It was noted that figures had been checked by Cllr Paul West.

96. SMOKEFREE GENERATION CONSULTATION

Members received and discussed a letter from Swindon Borough Council's Director of Public Health asking for support on new measures to create a smokefree generation and tackle youth vaping.

RESOLVED to send the following comment:

St Andrews Parish Council support targeted measures to reduce smoking rather than a generation blanket ban on smoking as it is thought it will only encourage children to start smoking. St Andrews Parish Council do support all measures to tackle youth vaping.

The meeting closed at 21:36 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____