



St Andrews Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7:30 pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Daniel Adams, Jake Chandler, Steve Heyes, Sue MacDonald, Paul Morris, Paul West, Vera Tomlinson (Chairman), Bradley Williams and Vince Williams
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester- Parish Clerk
Public Present: 2

97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Friend.

98. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

99. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th November 2023 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

100. PUBLIC RECESS

Members received a presentation from General Steam Navigation Restoration Society regarding a project to restore the GSN locomotive at Blunsdon Railway Station. The parish council was informed about a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to finance the project which would include a new workshop and enable educational opportunities. The parish council was asked to support the project by writing a letter to be included with the bid application.

101. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

To remind Councillors that the first budget meeting will be held on Thursday 21st December 2023.

The depot no longer appears on the agenda as an item with monthly updates as the parish council will be staying at Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) Waterside Depot for the short term. There is a proposal that SBC will build a new depot and the parish council will be able to consider whether it would like a space.

SBC are currently discussing the transfer of services with 4 chosen parishes who have not been elected to make decisions for St Andrews Parish Council. SBC can only put suggestions to the parish council and if they are not accepted, the service will not be completed.

A new parish office is required due to the present wooden hut being no longer suitable for staff. The roof has been patched and now the windows are leaking in bad weather. Redhouse Community Centre belongs to SBC and if we were to build an extension for new staff offices then SBC asked for Redhouse Community Centre back we would lose

the office. The Chairman reported that she had been discussing this with the Grounds Maintenance Manager who had suggested that a modular unit would be suitable. The Chairman explained that funds could be taken from the depot earmarked reserves and replaced in subsequent years for when it is needed to pay for a new depot.

SBC have not confirmed yet whether they will be giving parishes the Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) which is usually around £4500 for St Andrews. Members agreed to ask for an extension to when the precept form needs to be submitted until SBC had confirmed whether or not parishes would receive the CTSG.

102. BUDGET

The Chairman requested that the whole budget is looked at together at the first meeting on Thursday 21st December.

RESOLVED

To defer discussions on the budget until Thursday 21st December.

103. COMMITTEES

Members noted the minutes for the Grounds Maintenance meeting held on 22nd November 2023

104. SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Cllr Heyes reported that he had attended the last Swindon Local Council Forum meeting on Thursday 23rd November. He explained that the first item on the agenda was the parish protocol where he had asked for the list of services detailed in the appendix to be removed as obviously parishes couldn't agree to what services would be complete until those discussions had been held with SBC. Members noted that the protocol would come back to Full Council once it had been reworked.

The second item on the agenda was flooding and Cllr Heyes reported that SBC's flood plan was inadequate and would need to be rewritten. The Clerk reported that SBC had written to the parish council asking for assistance with this. Members agreed to invite the Flood Officer to the next Climate Crisis committee meeting.

105. ACCOUNTS

Members noted payments for October 2023 totalling £45,651.95

106. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

RESOLVED to consider councillor allowances along with the budget.

107. TEXTILE RECYCLING UNIT

Members discussed the recommendation from the Climate Crisis committee to site a textile recycling unit at Redhouse Community Centre.

RESOLVED to site a textile recycling unit supporting Wiltshire Air Ambulance at Redhouse Community Centre and should there be any issues then the hub will be removed.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked everyone for all their hard work this year.

The meeting closed at 21:36 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____