



ST ANDREWS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7:30pm
at the Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Daniel Adams, Kola Beyioku, Jake Chandler, Mary Friend, Steve Heyes, Sue MacDonald, Paul Morris, Paul West, Vera Tomlinson (Chairman) and Vince Williams
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester, Parish Clerk

108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

109. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs D Adams and J Chandler declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 11 Local Government Boundary Commission and agenda item 13 Swindon Borough Council Partnership Working.

110. MINUTES

RESOLVED

With one minor amendment to accept the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th December 2023 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

111. PUBLIC RECESS

No public present

112. The Chairman requested that items on the agenda were reordered.

RESOLVED

To move the second part of Chairman's Announcements and agenda Item 6 – Budget to the end of the meeting and into closed session.

113. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) The Director of Operations who has been dealing with the new depot and partnership working will be leaving Swindon Borough Council at the end of March 2024.
- (ii) Cllr Bradley Williams has resigned from the parish council for personal reasons. The Chairman thanked Bradley for all his hard work and said he would be very welcome to visit at any of our meetings.

114. COMMITTEES

- (i) Members noted the minutes of the following committees:
Play Areas – 5th December 2023
Climate Crisis – 3rd January 2024
- (ii) Members reviewed the committee membership list.

RESOLVED

To add Cllr Sue MacDonald to the membership of the Planning Committee.
It was agreed to leave the other vacancies until a new parish councillor had been co-opted.

115. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Members received recommendations from Swindon Borough Council's Remuneration Panel regarding Councillor Allowances for 2024/25.

RESOLVED

To freeze Councillor Allowances for 2024/25 and members will be paid the same as last year which is as follows:

Basic Allowance £1098

Chairman £5292

116. ACCOUNTS

- (i) Members 3rd Quarter Management Accounts Reports up to 31st December 2023 as detailed in the documents attached in the Minute Book
- (ii) To note attached payments for November totalling £61,562.73 and December 2023 totalling £44,199.36
- (iii) Members discussed quotations received for an Internal Auditor for 2024/25.

RESOLVED

To appoint Bridget Bowman as the Internal Auditor for 2024/25 at a cost of £750

117. SWINDON AND CRICKLADE HERITAGE RAILWAY

RESOLVED

To send a letter of support for the joint Swindon and Cricklade Heritage Railway and General Steam Navigation Restoration Society National Lottery Heritage Fund bid to finance a project to restore a GSN locomotive at Blunsdon Railway Station.

118. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Members considered commenting on the public consultation regarding new council wards and ward boundaries for Swindon Borough Council. Cllr Jake Chandler spoke regarding the consultation explaining that the boundary review was for Swindon Borough Council wards and not the boundary of parish councils. It was agreed to set up a small group of councillors to discuss the parish council's response and a meeting date for this would be set at the next Full Council meeting.

119. SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Chairman updated members on information received regarding possible partnership working. Members discussed financial implications of extra services being passed to the parish council.

120. BUDGET

- (i) Members considered draft budget for 2023/24

RESOLVED

To agree the budget for 2024/25 as detailed in the attached document in the Minute Book and to issue a precept of £539,012.00 to Swindon Borough Council

Vote: 8 in favour, 2 against (Cllr K Beyioku and Cllr V Williams)

- (ii) Members considered Earmarked Reserves and additional capital raised through the precept.

RESOLVED

To move £32,867 once received via the precept for 2024/25 into an Earmarked Reserve (EMR) for a new parish council office

To move funds received via CIL of £5889 to EMR Parish Council

To move funds from Depot EMR, which will be paid back before the occupancy of the new depot, Legal EMR to EMR Parish Council Office so that Earmarked funds are as follows.

Parish Council Office - £85,000

Play Areas - £6,371

Youth - £1,650

Legal Fees –£500

Training - £500

Depot - £0

Vote: 8 in Favour, 1 Against (Cllr K Beyioku) 1 Abstention

RESOLVED

To discuss at the next meeting whether to buy or rent a new office using the raised funds.

Vote: 9 in Favour, 1 Abstention (Cllr K Beyioku)

RESOLVED

For the Clerk to draft a press release regarding the precept for 2024/25 to be checked by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman before publishing online and in the newsletter.