

St Andrews Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the ST ANDREWS' PARISH MEETING
Held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 6:30pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Present: Cllrs: Cheire Adams, Daniel Adams, Atif Bukhari, Jake Chandler (Chairman), Steve Heyes, Alex Hughes (RCC Manager) Adam John, Luke Jones (Operations Manager), Sue MacDonald, Paul Morris, Louise Rose (Deputy Clerk) Emma Sylvester (CEO), Kate Tomlinson, Paul West and Debbie Young with three members of the public

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Cllr Jake Chandler, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 12th May 2025 were approved and signed as true record by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The following is a summary of the Chairman's Annual Report presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed new councillors to the Parish Council and reflected on an important year for the parish, including becoming a warded parish with East, West and Tadpole wards now represented.

Now in its 10th year since being formed in 2016, the Parish Council continues to grow and develop. While there have been challenges along the way, the Chairman noted the incredible efforts of councillors and staff in supporting the community and ensuring the council continues to deliver for residents.

Special thanks were given to Parish staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. The Grounds Maintenance team continues to receive excellent feedback from residents and, despite operating with one of the lowest budgets, continues to maintain a high standard across the parish.

The Redhouse Community Centre has continued to support the local community, including carrying out important repairs and improvements during the year.

Community initiatives also continue to thrive, including Sue MacDonald with the St Andrews Ridge Coffee Club and councillor-led community action days. The Parish Council has also continued to support local organisations through grants and by recognising individuals through the Parish Community Hero Award.

Thanks were also extended to the many local groups and volunteers who contribute so much to the parish, including the Wombles, Tadpole Garden Village in Bloom, Mums on a Mission, Workability, and the Swindon branch of Guide Dogs.

The Chairman also reflected on the natural beauty of the parish and the importance of protecting local wildlife, including great crested newts.

Another significant milestone this year was the move of Parish staff from the former shed and wooden summerhouse into a modern office space, reflecting the continued progress of the council.

In closing, the Chairman announced that they would be standing down from the role and expressed their gratitude for the support received from councillors, staff, volunteers and residents during their time as Chairman, describing it as a great honour to serve the parish.

5. COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

The Chairman, Cllr Jake Chandler, presented the Community Hero Award to Damian Pickett for his outstanding contribution to the parish through events for the community, which include visit from Santa Claus, Easter Egg hunts, Scarecrow Trails and Christmas Lights competition.

6. COUNCILLORS' FORUM

With no questions for councillors the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6:48pm

Chairman _____

Date _____