

MINUTES of St Andrews Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 7.45pm in the Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Jake Chandler (chairman), Daniel Adams, Steve Heyes, Sue MacDonald, Paul Morris, Paul West. Locum Clerk, Deborah Bourne; Grounds Maintenance Manager, Luke Jones;

Also Present: Two members of the public.

### **Questions /Public Statements to St Andrews Parish Council.**

A resident requested that minutes be placed on the website in a timely manner. The chair responded that there had been some internal issues but this is now being addressed and the website should be up to date within the next month or so.

#### **FC25-09 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **FC25-10 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made regarding items being discussed at this meeting.

#### **FC25-11 Co-Option to fill Casual Vacancy**

This casual vacancy has been waiting to be filled by co-option since early summer 2024.

RESOLVED to co-opt Vince Williams onto St Andrews Parish Council until May 2026, when ordinary parish elections will be held for this and surrounding parishes.

#### **FC25-12 Acceptance of Office**

The meeting was temporarily halted for Cllr Vince Williams to sign his Acceptance of Office Declaration. On completion of this document Cllr Williams will be able to take part in the remainder of the Council meeting.

The declaration was read out and signed by Cllr Williams and witnessed by the Proper Officer of the Council.

**FC25-13 Annual Estimates of Income and Expenditure**

This item had been deferred from the last meeting of the Council, held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Members continued with their deliberations about the estimated income and expenditure. Discussions included:

- Chairs allowance has been removed from budget
- Residents comment that they are proud of how St Andrews Parish Council look after the Open Spaces, keeping shrubbery cut back etc.
- Use of a hired road sweeper twice a year, to compliment the weed spraying contract
- Should the Council now be considering more electric vehicles?
- Is estimate of 75% income at Redhouse Community Centre set too low?
- Should the Council now be considering taking on more devolved services from Swindon Borough Council.
- Should be aware of SBC devolving services
- Increase in National Insurance contributions from Employers.

RESOLVED to set a budget for the financial year 2025/26 of £699,100 (Six Hundred, and Ninety Nine Thousand, One Hundred Pounds); and to acknowledge the hard work that the Grounds Team and Grounds Maintenance Manager has put into keeping the parish clean and tidy. This work is much appreciated by Councillors and Residents.

Further RESOLVED to take up more services around the parish as Swindon Borough Council devolve them or discontinue offering a service.

**FC25-14 Setting of Precept Demand**

RESOLVED to send Precept Demand to Swindon Borough Council as outlined in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 s41 in the sum of £699,100 (Six Hundred, and Ninety Nine Thousand, One Hundred Pounds); being £97.92 per Band D equivalent property.

Councillors thanked the Locum Clerk for her work in the preparation and presentation of these budgets, in what have been difficult circumstances.

FC25-15 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of St Andrews Parish Council will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Redhouse Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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Chair