

MINUTES of St Andrews Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Daniel Adams, Kola Beyioku (arrived at 7.50pm), Steve Heyes, Sue MacDonald, Paul West.
Locum Clerk, Deborah Bourne; Grounds Maintenance Manager, Luke Jones; Admin Officer, Louise Rose

Also Present: Four members of the public.

First Item of Business – Not on Agenda

Meeting was called to order by Locum Clerk. Cllr Jake Chandler had unfortunately sent his apologies therefore the first item of business must be for St Andrews Parish Council to elect a chair for this meeting.

Cllr Steve Heyes was nominated and unanimously voted in as chair for this meeting.

Questions /Public Statements to St Andrews Parish Council.

There was one question about item six, Council Policies, which was answered by the Locum Clerk at the meeting.

SBCllr Daniel Adams reported back that Swindon Borough Council are investigating the recent incident of a bus getting stuck in the muddy verge on Eastbury Roundabout, causing the road to be blocked until recovery could take place. It has been noted that buses are now being driven the wrong way around this roundabout – causing safety concerns.

FC25-16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jake Chandler, Paul Morris and Vince Williams.

FC25-17 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Daniel Adams declared an interest in item five, Councillor Co-Options. His wife has applied to fill one of the vacancies left by Cllr Tomlinson and Cllr Friend. Cllr Adams will leave the room at the start of item five.

FC25-18 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes from the Full Council meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025 and from the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday 22 January 2025 were adopted by the Council and duly signed by Cllr Steve Heyes as the chair of this meeting.

FC25-19 Council Vehicles

The Grounds Maintenance Manager presented a report detailing possible vehicles as replacements to vehicles coming to the end of their leases (in July 2025).

Discussion included:

- Preference for a Rough Terrain Vehicle (RTV) as they are less imposing when driven around pedestrians.
- Electric RTV would be too heavy to drive on grasses areas; it would require a petrol/diesel version.
- Buying alternatives – Hire Purchase, Leasing, Buying outright.

RESOLVED to enter into a Hire Purchase agreement with Fish Brothers to replace the 4x4 and a Hire Purchase agreement be taken up with Lister Wilder for the RTV. Service agreements are to be included as detailed in the table below.

Vehicle	Company	Additional Service Costs	Total
Toyota 4x4	Fish Brothers	£2,280	£31,057.92
Kubota RTV	Lister Wilder	£NIL	£32,364.20

FC25-20 Adjournment at 7.55pm

RESOLVED that an adjournment be called for approximately 30 minutes to speak with three of the five candidates who had attended the meeting with a view to being co-opted into the vacant seats.

Cllr Daniel Adams stepped out of the room.

FC25-21 Re-Instatement of Full Council Meeting

Standing Orders are now applicable to the remainder of this meeting.

FC25-22 Co-Options

RESOLVED to make the following co-options onto St Andrews Parish Council:

Debbie Young to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Mary Friend and Cherie Adams to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Vera Tomlinson.

Cllr Daniel Adams re-entered the room at 8.30pm

FC25-23 Council Policies

It was noted that under the Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 all employers must have policies in place to protect employees against sexual and general harassment. This requirement came into force in October 2024, and although this is already covered in other Council Documents a specific draft policy has been produced for the Councils consideration and adoption.

This item was deferred as some members were concerned about correlation with the Councils current Policies. It will need to be considered again for adoption at the next meeting as it is now a legal requirement to have a policy specifically for this.

FC25-24 Council Structure / Committee Membership / Calendar of Meetings

A general discussion was held by all members to consider a way forward for St Andrews Parish Council.

Due to the recent resignations, there are new councillors being co-opted who have fresh ideas for the Council and Parish. There is also a determination from established councillors to see changes.

RESOLVED for Cllrs Daniel Adams, Sue MacDonald, Jake Chandler and the Locum Clerk to research and develop efficient, practical ways of managing St Andrews Parish Council. It was further Resolved that meeting nights were returned to a Wednesday as they were historically. Monday

evenings are complicated by Swindon Borough holding their meetings at this same time.

FC25-25 Date of the Next Meeting

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Monday 10 March 2025 at 7.30pm at Redhouse Community Centre. There will be a presentation from DCK Accounting who have been undertaking the finance for this financial year.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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Chair