

ANNUAL  
WEST SWINDON PARISH MEETING

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Agenda**

**6.00pm – 6.45pm**

**Light Refreshments available**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024
4. West Swindon Parish Council - Chair
5. Annual Report – West Swindon Parish Council
6. Feedback on grants
7. West Swindon – Police Team
8. Open Forum
9. Networking, refreshments

## **West Swindon Parish Annual Parish Meeting**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 6.00pm, Freshbrook Community Centre, Swindon**

**In attendance: Chair:** Cllr Junab Ali

**Members of the public:** Eight

**Members of West Swindon Parish Council:** Thirteen

**West Swindon Police:** Insp. Annabel Martin, Acting Insp. Stephanie Lewis, Sgt Tom Ashforth

**1. Minutes of previous meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were agreed

**2. Introduction:** Cllr Junab Ali (Chair, West Swindon Parish) welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**3. Chair's Report:**





Cllr Ali reported that the new Council was elected in May and hoped the Council had achieved a consistent and quality service for local residents. The Council has set the Precept with a view to catching up on the very low rises of previous years and included a budget that will be sufficient to manage the challenges of replacing the Council's fleet of vehicles and looking at property and assets. Cllr Ali indicated that the Council hoped to secure community space for West Swindon residents and its own permanent premises for a depot. These will be projects to develop in the year ahead.

The team has worked hard and has improved the Bess Road games area with new surfacing and new goal ends. The team had also spent time replacing and repairing play equipment across the Parish's 21 play areas.

Cllr Ali remarked that the Council was fortunate to be the greenest Parish area with established woodland, parks and cycle routes. Cllr Ali thanked the volunteers that regular support and enhance West's open spaces and gave specific thanks to Lynne and Barry and for their work at Shaw Ridge, Roger Ogle on behalf of the Peatmoor Copse volunteer group, Trevor Carlton at Westlea Park, and Geraldine Barnard of the Greendown volunteer group, plus all the individuals who give their time and make a valuable difference. Cllr Ali advised that volunteer information was available in the Volunteer Spotlight document and the work of the previous year was also detailed in the Parish Council's Annual Report.

**4. Annual Report – West Swindon Parish Council:**

Paula Harrison, the Clerk/Parish Manager introduced the annual report and summarised the expenditure and projects completed for the year. The Parish Manager praised the work of the team which over the course of a year will

-  Empty over 25,000 bins
-  Lift and transport 280 tonnes of waste to the recycling centre - the equivalent of 5 small electric cars each week
-  Plant hundreds of trees (255 this year) and thousands of bulbs and bedding plants
-  Cut 69 kilometres of hedge and 16 acres of shrub beds

Cllr Ali thanked the Parish Manager and the team.

**5. West Police Team:**

Acting Inspector Stephanie Lewis introduced two colleagues, Sgt Thomas Ashforth and Inspector Annabel Martin who had recently taken on roles covering West Swindon. Sgt Ashforth gave an introduction to those present on the structure of the policing team and advised that local priorities were important. These were currently anti social behaviour, thefts from vehicles/property and drug related behaviour. Sgt Ashforth advised that knife crime had a particular focus and reported that the public should see a more visible police presence in the coming weeks.

**6. Open Forum:**

A resident asked the Police whether the policing approach dealt with symptoms and did not tackle the systemic issues within society. Sgt Ashforth advised that work happened at different levels from local to strategic.

Cllr Ali thanked all present and closed the meeting.

6.55 pm