

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
FULL COUNCIL
held on **Monday 17th March 2025 at 18.30 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (virtual)
Cllr Rose Llewellyn (Chair)
Cllr Tim Makofu (virtual)
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith
Cllr Keith Williams

Officers: Paula Harrison (Clerk)

Public: Two

Public Questions:

A resident asked for an explanation as to why funds had been created for Community Buildings as it could have been distributed to the budget for 2026-27.

The Chair advised that it was prudent to plan for future costs.

The resident also queried the overall salary and national insurance costs and budget including the addition of an Engagement Officer post.

The Chair advised a written response would be provided.

The resident suggested that an audit of roads be undertaken prior to commissioning a service to fund road sweeping across the Parish.

The Chair thanked the resident for their proposition.

Meeting start 6.40 pm

223. Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllrs Ali, Dayan, Ertas, Grother, Singh, Swinyard, Wilson

Applications for dispensation as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20 May 2024: None

224. Minutes of the last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting on Monday 24 February be adopted and approved.

225. Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee

- a. **RESOLVED** that Recommendation (Minute 197) that the Council approves retrospectively 44 payments totalling £59,027.73 for January 2025 be approved.
- b. **RESOLVED** that Recommendation (Minute 200) that Council contracts for two sweeps of (main on behalf of Swindon Borough Council) and residential roads with the option for a third sweep later in the year be approved.
- c. **RESOLVED** that Recommendation (Minute 203) that all staff receive a 3% salary increase from April 2025 onwards, with any additional increase arising from the annual pay award to be paid thereafter be approved
- d. **RESOLVED** that Minutes from the last Finance & Staffing Committee meeting, held on Monday 24 February 2025 be adopted and approved.

226. Minutes of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee held on Monday 10 March 2025 be approved and adopted.

227. Services Report

Councillors received a report setting out a summary of activity from the Parish Team, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted the report. Councillors shared the observation that Toothill's general appearance had improved following the work of the team. It was requested that more detail regarding the reinstatement of the hedgerow along Hay Lane be circulated on social media.

228. Social Media Report

Councillors received a report setting out information relating to visitors to the website, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. Councillors noted that it would be helpful to have more insight in terms of geographical information, search listing, bounce rate. It was suggested that a separate page for events/litter picking be created. Consideration should be given as to how to optimise the pages and an invitation to sign up to a newsletter.

229. Swindon Local Councils Forum

The Chair invited Councillors to discuss the benefits of being a member of the Swindon Local Council's Forum. It was noted that in some discussions and consultations, the input of smaller Parish Councils was weighted equally with that of larger Parishes despite impacts being different, and vice versa. Councillors agreed that ongoing work to liaise with other Parishes on key matters such as procurement, shared resources and information sharing should be actively continued, but that this was not dependent on being a member of the Forum.

RESOLVED that West Swindon Parish Council does not renew membership of the Swindon Local Council's Forum for 2025-26.

7.00 pm

230. Admission of Public and Press

Resolved in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw'. Reason: Review of quotes for purchasing.

231. Vehicle Purchasing Report

The Parish Manager circulated a report setting out a new option to purchase the Parish Council's current leased vehicles. A copy appears as **Appendix C**. This included three diesel tippers with cabinets and a pick up. The offer was being made by Lex Autolease. The purchase would cost in the region of £68,025 and could be covered by the existing Vehicles budget and reserves. Councillors discussed the proposal and agreed it was a single opportunity to purchase vehicles that the Parish Council had operated from new and, would be more environmentally beneficial to sustain vehicles in use, particularly as the market for electric tippers is limited and cost prohibitive.

RESOLVED that the Parish Manager be instructed to progress purchase of all four remaining leased vehicles from Lex Autolease at a proposed cost of £68,025

Meeting closed 7.13 pm

Signed:

Chair, Full Council

Date: