

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 June 2023 at 7:30pm
at the Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9LW

Present

Cllr J Hewer (Chair)
Cllr L Campisano (Vice Chair)
Cllr D Archer
Cllr H Dosanjh
Cllr D Edwards
Cllr L Gough
Cllr B Keetch
Cllr T Kewen
Cllr N McMahon
Cllr G Overbury
Cllr D Hooper
Cllr N Hooper
Cllr B Streeton

SBC Ward Cllr Brian Ford
SBC Ward Cllr Dave Martyn

Clerk Emma Freemantle

Public 4

FC/031 **Apologies**
Apologies received from Cllr L Gough and Cllr N McMahon.

FC/032 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
No Declarations of Interest or applications for dispensation required.

FC/033 **Public Questions**
There were three members of the public present.

Members of public attended to ask the parish council for assistance with communicating with the broadband supplier Cityfibre. Ward Cllrs and the members of public present asked if the parish council would work with Swindon Borough Council in providing a stakeholder meeting. The meeting is required to help better understand the current position of City Fibre and ask why the broadband installation is now not taking place in areas of Wroughton.

02.06.2023 Facebook communication from Cllr B Ford:

“Greetings

Having told you that the whole Village was to receive Cityfibre broad band it was VERY DISAPPOINTING to receive the following e-mail below from Cityfibre. Swindon Borough Council have had no part in this decision however Cllr David Martyn and myself have spoken to the Borough and we are trying to find alternative methods of introducing fast broadband to the old part of the village. We have also asked

Cityfibre to detail what properties are affected. I have spoken to Robert Buckland MP and he is going to try and assist. Once again, I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news
Regards
Cllr Brian Ford
Dear David, Brian

As requested, I'm sending you confirmation of some changes to our plans for Wroughton. Although when we spoke in April we told you our aim was to provide gigabit-capable broadband to the whole of Wroughton, this is a commercial rollout and is subject to ongoing economic pressures. Unfortunately, this means that the area to the south east of Wroughton will not be included in our current rollout. This decision has been taken for a variety of reasons, chief among them the potential disruption to the area, Section 58 notices which prevent us from trenching, and the general high cost of going ahead with it.

This decision impacts some 273 properties to the south east of Wroughton, including much of Priors Hill, the Pitches, Bakers Road, Marlborough Road, Green's Lane and Overtown Hill. This doesn't mean we won't be able to return to these properties at a later date, it just means the business has decided to limit our rollout at this stage based on the excessive 'cost per premise' of proceeding.

Our £40m investment into the wider Swindon gigabit project still includes Wroughton, the majority of which can be fed using existing BT infrastructure and therefore limiting the need for disruptive trenching. But unfortunately, these 270+ properties will be excluded from the network for now.

We're keeping Swindon Borough Council fully informed of our gigabit rollout project and I'll talk to my contacts at the council again today to see whether this small scaling back by CityFibre means those omitted properties could once again be considered for inclusion in the government's BDUK 'Project Gigabit' rollout.

Kind regards"

Cllr B Ford has been pursuing the issue in Greens Lane and other residential areas which have been missed off the list. The public confirmed that Wanshot Close has installed fibre however would like answers why neighbouring areas do not have the same. Cllr B Ford stated that over 400 houses are affected including 273 new homes and now new housing areas, Cityfibre have states that the exercise was not commercially viable and pulled the install.

The parish council **NOTED** that the cut off date for public notification is 20th June and nothing is being done currently to promote this. Residents are asking what happens next?

Cllr H Woodward asked if a meeting should be arranged with Sir Robert Buckland, Ward Cllrs, Parish Cllrs and members of the public if suitable to be in a position to approach Cityfibre directly with their questions.

Cllr J Hewer stated that both Social and Digital equality is required in Wroughton and should be raised.

Action: Clerk to arrange stakeholder meeting for all listed.

Members of the public left the meeting.

FC/034

Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Members

Members received the Acceptance of Office form for Cllr G Cook.

FC/035

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 15 May 2023.

FC/036

Ward Councillor Update

Members **NOTED** a verbal update from Ward Cllr D Martyn and Ward Cllr B Ford.

The Clerk asked if any City Fibre stakeholder meetings have been arranged previously, Cllr D Martyn confirmed not yet and that the first request has been raised via the parish council.

Members **NOTED** that the School Safety Zones meeting with the Ridgeway School and Junior School is taking place later this week and Ward Cllrs will be able to update the parish council thereafter.

Ward Cllr B Ford confirmed that there have been fewer cabinet meetings at the Civic Offices recently and there are also now three new committees in place since the local elections.

Members **NOTED** that the new parish liaison member for cabinet is Cllr Jim Grant, Cllr J Grant is currently working with all parish councils and is in the process of arranging times to attend parish meetings and introduce himself.

The Parish Council **NOTED** that the new Berkley Farm planning application which had been submitted has now been passed and Cllr J Hewer advised that this will now likely appear as an application on the next planning meeting.

Ward Cllrs left the meeting.

FC/037

Parish Council Representatives' Report

Members received a verbal update from Cllr G Overbury, the parish council's transportation representative. Cllr G Overbury provided a verbal update following on from the previous weeks Swindon Local Councils Forum.

Members **NOTED** that there is currently £415K improvement fund available for new buses in Swindon and it was positive to learn that 90% of bus routes in Swindon are viable / active.

Cllr G Overbury confirmed that the current £2 bus cap on fares will remain in place until October this year and that County Road is still to be closed for a week due to a burst water pipe.

All agreed that the parish council would benefit from a meeting with Swindon Borough Councils Strategic Transport Manager John Harris at a parish council meeting later in the year.

Action: Clerk to arrange the meeting along with Cllr G Overbury and Cllr N Hooper's availability.

FC/038

Summer Newsletter

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the content of the parish councils summer newsletter and for the item to be issue to residents by the end of July 2023.

A copy of the newsletter can be found as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

FC/039

Monthly Update

Members considered changing the frequency of the parish councils monthly update programme and re considered the use of YouTube, a copy of the Allotment and Administration Assistants correspondence is attached as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

Members agreed that the you tube videos do not receive high levels of views and that streaming direct to Facebook maybe the best approach, members **NOTED** that a quarterly video is likely to be more effective in reaching views rather than a monthly slide show.

Members **RESOLVED** to agree that further consideration is to be given to the original request and that further information is brought back to the next appropriate meeting.

FC/040

Annual Governance Statement

Members **RESOLVED** to defer the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 as part of the 2022/23 Annual Return, copy as Appendix C.

FC/041

Accounting Statement

Members **RESOLVED** to defer the Accounting Statement 2022/2023 of the Annual Return for the External Auditor, copy as Appendix D.

FC/042

Weir Field Play Area

Members considered the correspondence attached regarding the virement of Earmarked Reserves to financially enable the replacement of the Weir Field Play Area. A copy of the correspondence can be found as Appendix E in the minute book.

Members **RESOLVED** to vire the following budgets to code **EMR 330 Asset Replacement and Renewal**. This enables a new £80,513 budget for the Weir Field Play Area replacement which will include up to £10,000 contingency fund.

Code	Description	Approval Ref	Amount	
EMR 340	Coronavirus Disc Grant	FC/159	£22,223	Prev approved
9030 / 900	Project – New Play Area	FC/159	£20,000	Prev approved
EMR 316	Library Grant	Not yet approved	£17,000	Virement Agreed
EMR 330	Asset Replacement & Renewal	Not yet approved	£11,290	Virement Agreed
4850 / 600	Asset Replacement & Renewal	Not yet approved	£10,000	Virement Agreed
		TOTAL	£80,513	

FC/043

Ellendune Hall Trust

Members received and discussed the notes from the meeting held with the Ellendune Hall Trust on Monday 12 June 2023, a copy can be found as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

All present **NOTED** that the Ellendune Hall Trust would require additional funding as listed to repair the roof of the Ellendune Community Centre before any solar panels can be installed.

Action: Clerk to look into the viability of the Ellendune Hall Trust without the solar panels being installed and to assist the Trust with the recruitment of volunteers.

FC/044 **70th Anniversary of the Korean War**

Members **NOTED** that the Royal British Legion will be laying a wreath on Thursday 27 July in recognition of the Korean War.

The Chair and Cllr B Keetch expressed an interest in attending.

FC/045 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

To resolve 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: **Contractually Sensitive**

The member of the public left the meeting.

FC/046 **Grounds Team Workshop**

The Clerk provided a verbal update regarding progress with securing a business unit at the Wroughton Business Park.

All **NOTED** that the questions around the HoT have been answered by the managing agent and the council are anticipating occupancy by September 2023.

FC/047 **Emergency Plan**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the newly revised Parish Council Emergency Plan document, a copy of which can be found in the Confidential Minute Book.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Swindon Borough Councils Civil Protection Unit to discuss the workings of the Emergency Plan in action, time for meeting to be held after 3.30pm to allow working party members to attend.

Meeting closed at 8.41 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Council