

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024 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 G Cook
Cllr G Edwards
Cllr D Hooper
Cllr N Hooper
Cllr B Keetch
Cllr N McMahon

Ward Cllr B Ford

Clerk

Emma Freemantle

Public

PCSO Justine Trueman and PCSO Charlotte Watson

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Cllr Jeremy Kemble and passed on thoughts to his family and friends and passed on thanks for Jeremys work with the community over the years.

FC/159

Apologies

Apologies were received from Ward Cllr D Martyn, Cllr D Archer, Cllr L Gough and Cllr H Woodward.

FC/160

Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

There were no declarations of interest or applications for dispensations.

FC/161

Public Questions

PCSOs provided an update on the crime statistics throughout December in Wroughton.

All **NOTED** that there had been a rise in crime near the Ellendune Shops in particular throughout December, there were 9 reports of crime all of which have gone to no further action.

PCSO J Truman advised that the police are actively trying to push for CCTV to be installed to at the Ellendune Shopping area and that contact will be made with SBC and the landlord to see if this can be achieved.

The Clerk confirmed that the request for CCTV has been put forward to the landlord previously however always unsuccessful due to the lack of funds available.

19.40 PCSOs left the meeting.

There were no other members of the public present.

FC/162

Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to agree that the minutes of the council meeting held on 18 December 2023 are a true record.

FC/163

Chairs Report

The Chair provided a report, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Members **NOTED** the following save the dates:

- Additional WPC informal meeting Monday 12th Feb 7pm
- Duck race Monday 06th May
- Carnival Date Saturday 06th July

FC/164

Ward Councillor Update

Cllr D Martyn provided a written report, a copy of which can be found as Appendix B in the Minute Book. The Chair read out the report.

Cllr B Ford confirmed apologies for Cllr D Martyn however no apologies from Wroughton's third Ward Councillor Cllr Adam Poole.

Cllr B Ford provided an update;

Members **NOTED** the progress with the School Safety Zones in Wroughton. Inveraray Road – safer school zones applied moving forward resulting in the resurfacing of the road, over 30 roads in the Borough are listed and this is the only one being done in half term between April and June. The modifications and adjustments made will be monitored over a trial period.

NOTED all ward councillors are now entitled to up to 30 blue recycling bags each, if members of the public would like one they are to contact ward councillors directly.

Cllr B Ford thanked the parish council for all it is doing regarding flooding issues in Wroughton. All **NOTED** that the main cause of the issue is the blocked (calcified) Culverts which have been increasing with blockages over the years.

The new flood plan from SBC does not even reference the culverts in Swindon and this is something that ward councillors have raised, the plan needs to be updated and in turn SBC need to push for funds to be spent on clearing (digging) the culverts in Wroughton. This would limit future flooding issues and increase space for flowing water.

The Clerk confirmed that she has requested SBC use the Ellendune Community Centre for the "Lets Talk" public session on 29th January. Cllr D Martyn had previously requested that the SBC consultation reach out to Wroughton as all other sessions were limiting to more central Swindon.

All **NOTED** that SBCs Senior Officer Jon Harris was due to attend the previous parish council meeting however sent apologies, unfortunately Jon Harris is now leaving SBC and there is now uncertainty over whether or not his position will be replaced.

The Chair raised concerns over the recent rubbish and recycling issues in Swindon and that there have been video clips on social media highlighting that SBC workers are actually mixing all waste and emptying them into one cart, which is defeating the entire object to the new system. Cllr B Ford confirmed he would take the complaint away and raise this with officers.

Cllr B Keetch asked what was the financial benefit in changing the waste recycling system? Cllr B Ford confirmed that saving to SBC is to be in the region of £500,000 per year.

Cllr B Ford left the meeting and advised he would not be standing for election in May.

FC/165

Parish Councils Budget and Precept Demand 2024/2025.

- 9.1 Members **NOTED** the letter from Swindon Borough Council regarding the parish councils' tax base figures and Council Tax Support Grant, a copy of which can be found as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

- 9.2 Members **NOTED** a report of the Clerk in relation to the new 2024/2025 precept demand a copy of which can be found as Appendix D in the Minute Book.
- 9.3 Members received and **NOTED** the budget and Earmarked Reserve proposals as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in December, a copy of which can be found as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

Members **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the following recommendations within the report:

The budget for 2024/25 is approved as per point 9.3, Appendix E.
The Precept is set at £694,796 resulting in a £196.00 per annum charge per Band D household. (This is an increase of 0.39p per week).
The increase precept demand, summarised, covers the following larger items:

Completion of all tree maintenance work of WPC owned trees
Additional grounds team member of staff
Additional tools / equipment
Increased energy costs and utilities
Upgraded contract cleaning for parish managed and owned buildings.
Enhanced financial software packages.
Increase of parish council insurance.
Increase with trade waste charges, fly tipping increase and disposal.
An estimated NJC increase of 5% on all pay scales equals and allowance for external pay review for staff and job roles
Community library services
Play area maintenance increased

FC/166

Swindon Local Council Forum Update (SLCF)

- 10.1 Members **NOTED** the update from the SLCF Protocol working party dated 29 Dec 2023, copy attached as Appendix F in the Minute Book.
- 10.2.1 Members **RESOLVED** to agree the draft content and proposals for the new Protocol and the supporting Appendices 1 – 7. Copies of the policies are attached as Appendix G in the Minute Book.
- 10.3 All **NOTED** that a response is required by the next meeting date which is 15 Feb 2024.

FC/167

Calendar of meetings

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the new calendar of parish council meetings for May 2024 – April 2025, changes to be made for Easter 2025.
A copy of the calendar can be found as Appendix H in the Minute Book.

FC/168

CIL Funds

Members agreed to attend a separate meeting in February to discuss the use of the parish councils current CIL funds and to agree on the use in line with any previous projects and suggestions.

All agreed that the evening of Monday 12th February 2024 would be suitable with recommendations being put forward to the February Full Council meeting for review.

20.19 meeting finished.

Meeting closed at 8.59 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Council