



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Monday 28th April 2025

The event opened at 6.30pm to give residents an opportunity to engage with local community groups and partake in light refreshments.

**The formal meeting began at 7.00pm.
Meeting held at the Ellendune Community Centre, SN4 9LQ (Main Hall)**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions by the Chair

The Chair Cllr J Hewer welcomed members of the public, councillors and staff.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr D Hooper, Cllr N Hooper, Cllr E Shaw and Cllr B Streeton.
No apologies from Ward Cllr A Poole.

3. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the last Annual Parish Meeting minutes from the meeting held on 07 May 2024.

4. Report from the Chair of Wroughton Parish Council

All present received a report from the Chair, a copy is attached as Appendix A.

5. Financial Report for the year 2024/2025 by the Clerk

All present received a report from the Clerk, a copy is attached as Appendix B.

The Clerk confirmed that all other financial information can be found on the parish council website under "General Council Information" (Financial Information) <https://wroughton.gov.uk/general-council-information/>. The Clerk also asked that if any residents present had further questions about financial information of the parish council or understanding the precept calculations, that they email or phone the office directly, or talk to the Clerk at the end of the meeting.

6. Committee Report - Chair of Planning & Highways Committee

All present received a report from Cllr B Keetch, a copy is attached as Appendix C.

7. Committee Report – Chair of Community Assets & Open Spaces Committee

All present received a report from Cllr D Archer, a copy is attached as Appendix D.

8. Report from Swindon Borough Councillors (Ward Councillors)

All present received a verbal report from Cllr G Cook, a copy of which appears as Appendix F.

Cllr G Cook referenced the upcoming Road Safety Partnership Public meeting at the Ellendune on Community Centre on the 23rd May and advised that currently the reports on Brimble Hill and Marlborough Road remain outstanding from the Swindon Road Safety Partnership. Once these reports become available they will be shared with the public and discussed on the 23rd.

Cllr G Cook continued to express gratitude towards the Wroughton Parish Council Office staff, the Chairman, the Council, and fellow Ward Councillor Matty Courtliff, for all of their support.

Cllr M Courtliff provided a verbal update regarding his Ward Councillor duties, he apologised for arriving slightly late due to a family emergency. He then thanked his fellow Ward Cllr G Cook for her support over the last year and their working together on various issues such as flooding in Wroughton and the Road Safety reports.

Cllr M Courtliff provided a brief update on the upcoming Swindon Local Plan Consultations and advised that the plans would be available for public viewing later in the Summer (2025). There will then be opportunity for Community Involvement and consultation, he confirmed that Swindon Borough Council will host a public consultation event in Wroughton once the plans are publicly available.

Residents present took note that Ward Cllrs have already had sight of the draft suggested sites for the local plan and that they are maximising efforts in lobbying of removal of certain sites which are deemed unacceptable for development. They believe that Wroughton has already received its fair share of development over recent years and emphasised the impact of future developments, particularly in light of wind chill, infrastructure and additional housing. Councillors now need to oppose any proposed housing developments that would negatively impact the local community, particularly the expansion towards Bassett.

Cllr M Courtliff continued to remind residents that a road safety report is expected from the Wiltshire and Swindon road safety partnership about Brimble Hill and Marlborough Road, and that residents are invited to a meeting in May to review and ask questions. Cllr G Cook will update the public as and when reports are received.

9. To note reports from other community groups.

Reports from the following organisations are also attached:

- 9.1 1st Wroughton Scout Group
- 9.2 BMX Wroughton
- 9.3 Wroughton Bowls Club
- 9.4 Community Friendship Café
- 9.5 Royal British Legion
- 9.6 Swindon Food Collective
- 9.7 Vision 4 Wroughton
- 9.8 WADAMS
- 9.9 Wroughton History Group
- 9.10 Wroughton FC Men's
- 9.11 Wroughton District Gardeners Society
- 9.12 Wroughton Youth FC
- 9.13 Wroughton Community Trust

10. Community Groups providing verbal updates:

- 10.1 SMASH Youth Representative, verbal update from Amy Cox:**

SMASH have had around 70 interactions with local people during the summer months. At the moment they are based down at the recreational field, near Maunsell Way. SMASH do a whole range of activities, they've had a sports day, water games, spray painting, sumo wrestling suits out and so on. They have played on the football pitch, been barbecuing and engaging with the Youth weekly. SMASH have a good crowd to engage with outside and during the winter months they come into the library to spend time with them doing different activities. Inside the activities range from games, movie nights, pumpkin carving and even a silent disco. The SMASH team have had loads of fun with young people and it's been a fantastic opportunity. There are completely lovely young people in Wroughton, and the team just give them opportunities to do fun activities, but also hang out with their friends in a safe space.

Amy thanked the Council for the opportunity and its support.

10.2 Wroughton Community Trust; verbal update from Steve Harcourt:

"Thank you and good evening, everybody, this will be a short report. There is a report available from parish council if anyone would like more detail.

What we've been up to since the Wroughton Community Trust was set up in 2016; to distribute funds donated by the developers of the solar farm at Basset down benefit rural community. Since then, we've been giving grants and helping others by awarding more than £77,000 in grants. These have been awarded to support young people, sports, entertainment and environment.

However, all things come to an end, and our funds are now exhausted. Our final five grants will be received in March, and we will now wind up trust with any remaining funds being handed over division through autumn. In the nine years we've operated, we've given 34 grants, worked with 23 different organisations and have found ways of working with the Wroughton Community.

I'd like to give thanks all that to all those people who have given their time to serve as trustees over the last nine years. The parish office has helped us by annually checking our annual returns to the Charity Commission. By using our accounts, the trust has supported some great projects. Inevitably, the money wasn't going to last forever, however, the Wiltshire Community First Minister granted funds from the solar farm at the Science Museum and other funders. It would be worth any group looking for funds, contacting them to see if they can help."

10.3 Carnival Committee; verbal update from Kostya Vasilyev:

Kostya, a member and representative of the Wroughton Carnival Committee provided an update to the group "Probably most of you have been before, hopefully all of you have been to the carnival last year are aware that we are holding another one this year on the fifth of July. All the money raised last year went towards helping the local groups and towards supporting new groups in the parade. This leads me to the next point - We are on the lookout for new participants, any new community groups, and residents that would like to participate. Please do get in touch.

All are very welcome, and this is the time to apply as it does really help with raising funds for the local groups. We have a committee that organises most of the activities, plus we have lots of volunteers on the day. It was very helpful last year to be able to look out for some more volunteers especially for the clearing up on the day after the Carnival. Were grateful to the broadened Parish Council for their support and various organisations including vendors and community groups, volunteers and many participants will take part on the day. So, we are all looking forward to seeing you on the fifth of July and hope that you enjoy the music and entertainment on the day.

10.4 Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, verbal update from Neil Pullen:

Introduction "Good evening, I'm from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. I'm the conservation lead for the Swindon area. The main thing that I'd like to report from last year is the closure of Clouts Wood that we closed in August last year, we had a closure in place for up to six months. We closed it for three weeks and this was to remove the ash which is dying. Contractors worked remarkably quickly and very efficiently, however at the end of August we had more rainfall then unfortunately the planned works changed from a few days to a whole month, so we had to pull out of the woodland. Sadly, that meant that we needed to look for a further closure at some point later this year. So, we will be looking to close the woodland, potentially for another month to continue the extraction and also to remove the timberlands within the woodland.

On the back of that, though, and much more positive news, we do have a new community group, which is formed at Woodlands and at the nature reserves. Clouts Wood isn't just simply woodland, it includes Kings Farm Wood, Churchill Pastures, Diocese Meadows, and Markham Banks, none of that will be closed.

Finally, I would just like to mention something else that was mentioned earlier about trees for climate and the potential for tree planting throughout Wroughton, funds have been extended for another year. Climate for Trees is the best grant for trees that you will ever get, full funding of 100% is offered and can also fund things like capital payments for benches, etc, which have also been mentioned this evening. Climate for Trees will fund up to 15 years' worth of maintenance. If anybody knows anywhere in water, plant some trees! If anybody knows any local landowners etc, who would like trees on the land again, please get in contact. Thank you, Neil".

10.5 Vision 4 Wroughton and Carnival Committee Representative, Beverly Margerison:

Introduction from Bev on behalf of both groups: "I just wanted to say thank you very much indeed to Steve Harcourt, who has already updated on the Wroughton Community fund for what he's just said. We have already had several grants from the fund over the years and the latest one is to support our historic event, Battle of the Ellendun, in September 2025. It's going to be a really good event and we hope the public will support it. There will also be a speaker evening the week before the September event, tickets will be sold in advance of the evening.

Also, I'd just like to say that the Duck Race fund raising, last year - we raised over £2,200 pounds for local children's groups. So, if you know of children's groups in the village please let them know that they can contact the Committee to request a grant application."

10.6 Wroughton Wranglers Cricket Club, Verbal update from Martyn Gregory:

"I'm a committee member of Wroughton Wranglers Cricket Club. We play cricket up on the Weirfield there, which we share with the Wroughton Men's Football Club. Both clubs get on well and we have great support from the parish council in both the parish office and parish councillors. We currently have two teams that play well on a Saturday in division five. Our first game was last Saturday, unfortunately, we lost away. Our first home game is coming up this Saturday, the weather is looking nice so please do come down to support us. We operate out of Trefoil House and the guides are good to us. We also run a midweek cricket team in Wiltshire in a different Cricket League. As I said, we probably have around 35 members.

I remember being in this building now 10 years ago when Hills group approached the parish council about the new North Wroughton site. The proposed new Cricket Pavilion, in the middle of the new Hills Housing estate, North Wroughton has been on the cards for a considerable amount of time. The new development is to include a new pavilion and cricket pitch, car park and facilities. I am now very pleased to say that Hills are finally building the entry road to a future cricket ground. So that's great, and we thank you for your continued support over the years. Some of the things that we do

want to do when we move into the cricket ground; we would like to run some junior teams, set up a lady's cricket team and make it a big opening for all.

10.5 RRT Representative, a verbal update was provided:

The parish council thanked the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) for their assistance and time this evening. As members of the RRT and also local to Wroughton, the team have donated quite a few food boxes to the parish over the last few months which the parish have been offering out to members of the public in need.

"So, our team - who are we? We're a charity who provide support to emergency services for major incidents. We work with other charities and homeless charities, with young people, disabled and vulnerable people, overall supporting globally. We're an outreach of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church. We are all volunteers, largely young people and tonight you should have seen a few of us and what we can do for the community here, both nearby and further afield."

"At Christmas time, we carried out a great campaign to all the local parishes, and we did over 400 meals to deliver to residents across the area. We did a lot for Stratton and also work quite closely with the NHS locally in helping them, especially for their outpatient support. We work with the NHS from the new emergency department and have been out there for a few evenings and given out meals, especially during the winter months, when it's going tough. We've gone up to the hospitals and given the emergency staff meals during the shift change. We've donated £5k to the new emergency department at the Swindon hospital."

"We have worked with other parish councils and offer support for the emergency services in particular the police service for events. We find we can mobilize ourselves very quickly in the event of a major event. We are on standby 24/7 to go and provide catering for frontline services while the police are getting their own catering together. If the council wanted to do a little bit locally, then the RRT can provide meals to local residents, that would be something we'd definitely be interested in looking at. If you are struggling to get volunteers we are willing to help. Thank you very much, and I hope you enjoyed it."

NOTE: The Annual Parish Agenda, Minutes and Community Group Reports can be found here on our parish council website: <https://wroughton.gov.uk/annual-parish-meeting-2025/>

11. Questions from Parishioners

Resident A) Wichelstowe Sports Hub Development and plans?

Cllr D Archer: "Currently this is still in the design stage, nothing is finalised yet. Finalising the plans will depend on the house build out rate, because the money is released in phases from Swindon Borough Council and the Developers we are restricted in the pace of how the project can develop. We are hoping that we can input our comments to the planning application for the pavilion at some time over the Summer, this is what we are led to believe as the realistic timescales for the planning process. We expect that probably by end of October, the Planning permission request would have been put in to SBC. By this time the parish council would have had a chance to formally submit its interests."

"Members of the Parish Councils Planning Committee took a visit to Devizes to the Wiltshire FA Green Lane site, here we looked at the sports hub activities which is run by the FA directly, we talked to them about how they are running the sports hub and

to see whether or not we can partnership with them for the site in Wichelstowe. We are at the very early stages of discussions with them so nothing has been decided yet, but again we are hoping this will progress over the Summer in line with planning applications. The planning permission request for the pavilion is expected to be submitted by the end of October.

Resident B) Raised concerns over the potential dev elopement of Ashen Copse and recent signage

Ward Cllr M Courtliff:

Discussed the local plan draft and the information he is aware of which is Wroughton specific. The first field next to Ashen Copse as you come out of the village on the left-hand side there, the landowner has promoted that 200 homes. Cllr G Cook and Cllr M Courtliff have investigated this. The land is outside the strategic travel corridor, outside the village settlement boundary, and it's already on a stretch of dangerous roads, so we (Ward Cllrs) will be opposing it every step of the way.

Cllr M Courtliff also advised that the cabinet member for the planning department at SBC is also in line with the views. "It just doesn't make sense. There's an expansion of the village already. I emphasize the importance of preserving green spaces and farms in the village, aligning with the borough's heritage as a farming community."

Resident C) Questions the upcoming Flood Management Working Party

Discussion on river restoration and diversion projects, Cllr G Cook – "There is a follow up on the proposed meeting between Swindon Council, the Environment Agency, and other stakeholders to discuss the river flooding issues in Wroughton and restoration efforts. Residents will be consulted once a plan has been made and works have been agreed alongside SBC.

Cllr M Courtliff discussed the need for different approaches to river bed management and the river bed.

Resident D) Ownership of the old Co Op Building site and current plans?

Cllr G Cook is Co ordinating with Swindon Borough Council to ensure the structural safety of the Co-op building. She has contacted Swindon Borough Council and the parish office to determine the ownership of a building, more information will follow.

Resident E) Speed Sign Replacement and Safety Concerns

Resident asked about the future plans to replace speed signs that flash 30 mph in the centre of Wroughton, the Chair advised that additional signs are planned to now be installed. Members present shared personal experience with speed signs, noting their effectiveness in encouraging safe driving speeds. Ward Councillor M Courtliff also referenced the use of speed cameras in Church Hill, which have been successful in catching speeding drivers and issuing penalties. Acknowledgements were made regarding the ongoing efforts to improve traffic management and safety in Church Hill and highlighting the need for continued vigilance and enforcement to maintain safe driving conditions.

The Chair, Cllr J Hewer thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and noted the positive and constructive feedback and discussions.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm