

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
FULL COUNCIL
held on **Monday 30th September 2024 at 18.30 pm**
Unit 25, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, SN5 7YT

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali
Cllr Peter Bates
Cllr Mustafa Dayan
Cllr Mustafa Ertas
Cllr Suresh Gattapur
Cllr Leon Grother
Cllr Rose Llewellyn (Chair)
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Graham Philpot
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Nandini Singh
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith (Vice Chair)
Cllr Keith Williams
Cllr Sean Wilson

Officers: Paula Harrison (Clerk)

Public: Seven

Presentation: Swindon Lions. The Council was joined by members of Swindon Lions Club who presented a cheque for £2,000 to fund a defibrillator in West Swindon (Delta). The President, Mr Peter Kennewell shared an introduction to the charitable efforts of the club, from which all funds are given to local causes. On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked the Swindon Lions Club for their generosity and joint promotion of future fundraising activities was agreed. It was noted with appreciation the difference the defibrillator could make towards saving lives.

The Chair notified the Council of the sad passing of former West Swindon Parish Councillor, Steph Exell on 21st September 2024. A period of silence in remembrance was observed.

Resident, Jane Francis gave details of the memorial service and her gave her thanks to the friendship and commitment to the local area shared with Cllr Exell.

Councillors shared memories and collective appreciation for the dedicated service, help and support offered by Councillor Exell and noted her dedication to the residents of Toothill.

Public Questions:

Roger Ogle shared his memory of Cllr Exell as a campaigner against the Tadpole Farm development, and advised that significant historical anniversaries were coming up for the West Swindon area. These included the first residents arriving in 1976, first school, the West Swindon District Centre opening and many others. Mr Ogle suggested these events could be recognised by the Parish.

The Chair advised that this could be discussed in more detail by the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Presentations to support applications for grants were made by Storyshed, Friends of Lydiard Park and Swindon Hardship Fund. Councillors asked a range of questions and thanked the representatives for their time.

A resident asked if the Council would support the Green Open Homes initiative. *The Chair of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee offered to liaise with the resident on this subject.*

Meeting start 6.55 pm

101. Apologies & Applications for Dispensation

Apologies: Cllr Swinyard

Applications for dispensation as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20 May 2024: None. Cllr G Philpot declared in interest in the Friends of Lydiard Park.

102. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council held on Monday 19 August 2024 be approved and adopted.

103. Minutes of the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council held on Monday 16 September 2024 be approved and adopted.

104. Grants Applications

The Parish Manager summarised grant applications received to date, and circulated copies of the applications in a grants report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book. Councillors discussed each grant in turn. It was agreed that

RESOLVED that providing any previous grant funds are finalised in accordance with the grant agreement before any new funds are released, the following be approved

- Swindon Hardship Fund £1,000
- West Swindon Youth Project £4,321
- Friends of Lydiard Park £2,000
- Swindon Storybook £526.08

105. **RESOLVED that**

- a. Swindon ATB be invited to have a broader discussion on a range of activities to be considered at a future meeting
- b. Freshbrook Church resubmit a grant application in the next round when further details on overall costs for the project are established.

106. Services Report

Councillors received a review of services provided by the Council team in a report, a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The report was noted.

107. External Audit Report and Certificate 2023/24

Councillors received Section 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. The final report from PKF Littlejohn for the external audit for 2023-24 noted no matters to draw to the attention of the authority. Councillors thanked the Parish Manager for work undertaken to support this outcome.

108. Swindon Local Council's Forum update

Councillor G Philpot gave feedback on the recent forum meeting, a copy of the report appears as **Appendix D** in the Minute Book. He noted that the presentation for the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils was informative. The Chair thanked Cllr Philpot for the update.

Meeting closed 7.48pm

Date of next meeting: **Monday 21st October 6.30 pm**

Signed:

Chair, Full Council

Date:

