

**MINUTES OF SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY MAY 23RD 2011 AT 7.15PM -SWINDON COMMUNITY
CENTRE HIGH STREET SWINDON**

PRESENT Cllr. SR Lees, Cllr. T Herrington, Cllr. A W Robinson, Cllr R Painter, Cllr D Webber, Cllr G Fanthom, Cllr M Pincher, Cllr L Beech & members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr. B Edwards, Cllr P Halford

Parish Clerk: Mrs J Green,

Following the elections all Councillors except Mrs Pat Halford, who is on holiday at present signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office & they were attested by the Clerk. It was agreed that Mrs Halford would sign her copy as soon as possible after her return, Clerk to arrange.

The current Chairman, Cllr Lees welcomed everyone & opened the meeting & the clerk explained the 3 tier authority system & her role.

1. Election of Chairman of Council

Cllr Herrington proposed Cllr Painter for Chairperson & this was seconded by Cllr Fanthom. Nobody else was proposed & the decision was unanimous

Cllr Painter thanked previous Chair for his service & acknowledged his wealth of knowledge as a longstanding Parish & District Councillor.

Election of Vice-chairman of Council

Cllr Herrington proposed Cllr Webber for Vice Chairperson & this was seconded by Cllr Robinson. Again nobody else was proposed & the decision was unanimous

2. Approval of minutes

Last Annual Parish meeting March 2010, no comments were made Cllr Lees proposed they be approved & Cllr Herrington seconded. Minutes approved

No matters arising

Cllr Lees also thanked Cllr Herrington for all the work he has done over the years.

Cllr Herrington also thanked the previous Councillors many of whom had served the Parish for many years & Cllr Lees seconded this

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Robinson (Allotment Society),

***Cllr. S.R. Lees** – as a member of South Staffordshire Council – will reconsider any planning applications at district level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at that tier and at district level will

declare an interest arising from membership of this Parish Council when expressing a view on any relative matters.

4. Programme of ordinary meetings

Notionally 4th Wednesday of month , Next meeting will keep this pattern as it had been previously advertised to the Parish as 22nd June & the programme will then be decided at this meeting.

5. Any announcements from the Chairman

The new Chairman did not have any to make.

6. Open to members of public who wish to speak.

Mr Seggar advised that it was generally known that 6 Councillors resigned due to the lack of support from the Chairman at that time. Chair couldn't support because of the actions of other people, which was minuted at the time

Cllr Painter supported this explanation.

The comment "Not in my back yard" made by a District Councilor at the Regulatory meeting regarding the marina was also discussed.

Mr Pearce asked if the Chair thought it was wrong for a District Councillor to be on a Parish Council if they can't express the views of the Parish. Cllr Painter, advised that he thought it better that they were not Chair but felt it could be useful to have a member who represents both.

Mr Seggar felt it was wrong that the P C's thoughts were not voiced at that meeting. Cllr Painter referred to an email sent by the Clerk objecting to the marina proposal. The meeting was reminded that the marina decision was legally made.

Mr Rothwell sated that the PM had said that local issues should be decided by local people, & more power will be given to P C's. Cllr Painter not able to comment. The marina was decided at the lowest legal level it could be as P C's can comment but do not have the power to decide. It was not referred to the Planning Inspector.

The marina has been approved, our job now is to ensure that every clause in the planning application is adhered to in every aspect Residents of Swindon should also do this..

Mr Seggar, felt that the wishes of the masses had been ignored, Cllr Painter advised that the masses had the opportunity to vote in the local elections.

Mrs Lloyd raised the planning application for gravel extraction, not sited in our parish but she felt it would affect the village. Parishioners of Swindon could put their views forward. but the planning decision would be at County level. Consultations only began this week & Swindon P C will be asked to comment in the future & there will be a public meeting. She asked views of Councillors. Some stated they were against it.

Mr Seggar advised that the previous Chair had made written representation against it when a previous application was made a few years ago.

Mr Pearce asked what the Chair thought the policy would be regarding building houses on greenbelt. He thought greenbelt is needed. Core Strategy does call for more housing to be built. Swindon was allocated 20, so just 3 or 4 in next 15 yrs. Felt Swindon has done its bit. Mr Pearce expressed his view on Swindon offering to have the new houses built. He was reminded that houses have also been built in other areas of the district. Minutes will reflect decisions taken & the past cannot be changed.

Cllr Webber, expressed concern over the state of the footpaths, Winston Road poor. County Council are responsible & it is known that they have a plan of work including potholes to be carried out in the area.

Also concern over a lorry regularly parked across the pavement in Winston Road & a car often by The Green man. Such things are a police matter if when asked, the owners won't move them.

Cllr Pincher asked why pavement only one side of new houses. Cllr Painter believed this to be due to the width of the road

Cllr Fanthom saluted those councillors who resigned over marina. He felt he had been voted in due to his opposition to marina & proposed a future vote to show the new Council's opposition to the marina.

Mr Pearce, mentioned that the bowling club do not give any reduction to parishioners, asked if in future tennis courts were built that this would also be the case, that they would be rented to a private group. Cllr Painter could not comment on what happened in past but maybe we could learn form history.

Cllr Painter asked if there were any other matters to be discussed & as they weren't he closed the Annual Meeting at 8.10pm & thanked all for attending.

Signed Chairman Date

Signed Clerk Date.....