Minutes of the
SWINDON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
held on 24th April 2026 at Swindon Village Hall

Present:

Alison Berry (Chair of the Parish Council)
Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Parish Council)
10 members of the public

Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting:

The minutes of 30th May 2025 were accepted as a true record.

Report by Cllr. Berry (Chair of Swindon Parish Council)

See attachment 1.

Report by Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to Swindon Parish Council)

See attachment 2.

Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Chairperson Report

I would like to begin this annual report by expressing my sincere thanks to all my fellow parish councillors and our parish clerk. Parish councillors typically commit at least 30 hours each year to monthly parish meetings, in addition to many more hours spent reading and responding to emails, drafting and reviewing papers, attending additional meetings, approving finances, and managing risk.

Alongside these core responsibilities, councillors have also overseen a total of 12 hours of community litter picking during the year, including—for the first time—supporting the Great British Spring Clean. This collective commitment reflects the strong sense of responsibility and pride councillors have for our parish.

Council Membership

This year we are sadly saying goodbye to Lynn and Ruth, who have both chosen to stand down as parish councillors. I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for their dedication and hard work during their terms of office, and for the valuable contributions they have made to the parish.

At the same time, it is encouraging to see new interest in parish service. We are delighted that two residents, Andy and Katy, have expressed their wish to stand as parish councillors, and we look forward to co-opting them onto the council.

Achievements During the Year

Despite not always operating with a full complement of councillors, the council has achieved a great deal over the past year. Key activities and accomplishments include:

- Addressing ongoing concerns relating to the temporary traffic lights on Manor Road
- Funding the re-painting of the Swindon Village Hall car park
- Organising the resurfacing of the footpath between Quat Goose Lane and Rivelands Road
- Supporting the scheme for the introduction of 20mph limits across the parish
- Developing comprehensive and carefully considered responses to the Home Farm Planning Application
- Preparing a parish response to the Community Governance Review
- Organising meetings between Swindon Village School and Cheltenham Football Club regarding a proposed new school entrance
- Arranging a replacement fingerpost at the junction of Church Road and Quat Goose Lane
- Coordinating tree maintenance at Old Mill Way
- Meeting with the site team at Persimmon Homes to address litter issues and to organise the installation of a parish notice board
- Attending meetings and providing local input into the M5 Junction 10 improvements
- Attending meetings with our MP, Cheltenham Borough Council flood warden meetings, and the Cheltenham Parish Council Group (C5)

- Contributing to Village News and maintaining the Swindon Parish Council Facebook Group

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Grants and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
During the year, the parish council developed a grant policy to ensure effective and transparent use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. Through this policy, the council has supported a number of valuable community projects, including:

- Provision of tools for volunteers maintaining the churchyard
- Funding audio and visual equipment for Swindon Village Hall
- Supporting the hire of a digger for use by the allotment managers
- The re-planting of the horse trough with drought-resistant planting

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Conclusion
In closing, I would like to thank the entire team once again. None of the achievements outlined in this report would have been possible without the time, commitment, and teamwork shown by councillors and the parish clerk throughout the year. Your dedication continues to make a real and positive difference to our parish and its residents.

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2025-2026

Mr. Cullimore talked through the draft accounts for 2025-2026.

The Council had levied a precept of £13,423.58. As a result of the local housing developments the Council was now receiving Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments. In 2025-2026 the Council had received £38,368.65. This money cannot be used for regular expenditure (running costs, maintenance, salaries, etc.). It must be used for capital projects. The Council had agreed a grant policy to distribute some of the money to benefit local organisations and groups. The money had been used to support a new AV system for the Village Hall and to make available tools for local volunteers assisting in the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Council had also received a £5,000 "Build Back Better" grant. Other income sources were allotment rentals and Village News advertising income.

At the end of the year the Council had a surplus (including CIL monies) of £21,473.65 and carried forward £112,522.94.

The Council is considering other capital projects, including contributing towards the construction of a path from Seasons to the back of the school and improvements to the park. Residents suggestions for other projects and applications for grants are welcome.