

Swindon Area committee – Parish Councils.

There were two meetings one being the AGM followed by an ordinary meeting.

The AGM was a short affair and the chair is Cllr M Compton from Blunsdon Parish Council, and the Vice chair is R Hailstone from Haydon Wick Parish Council.

Nominations were sought for the standards committee previously the chair and vice chair represented the Swindon Area Committee on it and they were re-elected for another year.

Ordinary Meeting

At the ordinary meeting there was discussion about Wildflower creations and what each parish is doing. The villages seem to be not only considering Wildflowers but also planting vegetables. For some parishes using plugs instead of seeds helped them get areas created quicker.

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding matters arising from previous minutes, and the meeting agreed that they should press for the meeting that was scheduled in October with the CEO of SBC.

There were some issues raised.

1. Electoral registers from SBC, South Marston was having problems getting copies of the electoral registers from SBC, the meeting was informed that to receive the electoral register a form needs to be filled in and you can then receive the registers and updates on a monthly basis.
2. Sharing of Large machinery, due to the sizes of parishes and the makeup of the area each parish has different requirements, it was suggested that perhaps parishes should be looking to lend equipment but the fine detail of this would need to be worked out between the two parishes.

Tree maintenance

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the maintenance of trees and how SBC seem to do different things in different areas across Swindon, in North Swindon it was reported that SBC had removed fruit trees for no apparent reason. It was also reported that if SBC take down trees then it is the parish council's responsibility to replace those trees. This issue will be one of the issues that will be brought up with the CEO of SBC at their meeting.

Highways/Gateways programme

There was a discussion on this subject and the main routes into Swindon. SBC Highways department is apparently responsible for several main routes throughout Swindon. SBC Highways Department will cut the central reservations, but the verge each side they will only be cut to a distance of 3 ft after that it is the parish council's responsibility. This is also one of the issues that will be raised with the CEO of SBC when they meet.

The next meeting is in December.