

**Shaw Residents' Association**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
<b>Kevin Fisher</b>	<b>Martyn Parrott</b>
<b>Andrew Snowden</b>	<b>Liz Elstone</b>
<b>Claire Walker</b>	<b>Jeffery &amp; Ritva Bamforth</b>
<b>Cathy Thompson</b>	<b>Eleanor Snowden</b>
<b>Fran Williams</b>	<b>Sheridan Fisher</b>
<b>Keith Williams</b>	
<b>Roger Ogle</b>	
<b>Brian Parker</b>	

Meeting held at Lower Shaw Farm @ 8pm

The Chair welcomed all present and confirmed the meeting including proxy votes cast by absent members was quorate.

**1. Previous Minutes (AGM held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022)**

**Proposed by Keith Williams**

**Seconded by Brian Parker**

**2. Finance Report**

Please see separate Treasurer's Report: For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Compiled and delivered to those present by Fran Williams (SRA Treasurer).

Many thanks to Fran for explaining our current position regarding funding.

### 3. Chair's Report

Please see attached summary of SRA achievements and key activities since our last AGM, presented by Kevin Fisher (SRA Chair).

A vote of thanks was proposed to Kevin for his continuing hard work over the previous 12 months.

### 4. Election of SRA Committee Positions

Position	Candidate	Proposer/Seconded	Result
Chair	Kevin Fisher	Proposed: Keith Seconded: Brian	All in favour
Vice Chair	Andrew Snowden	Proposed: Fran Seconded: Claire	All in favour
Treasurer	Fran Williams	Proposed: Brian Seconded: Cathy	All in favour
Secretary	Claire Walker	Proposed: Keith Seconded: Roger	All in favour

A vote of thanks to all the committee members was voiced by those present.

### 5. Subs Discussion

Future expenses are an average of £390 annually. Assuming subs income holds steady at around £80 in future years, and our subscription income from our 6 sponsors is maintained, we will have sufficient funds to continue for another year. In view of our current financial position, it is proposed that we continue this year with our £5 yearly subs for membership.

**Next AGM planned for 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

## **Chair Report May 2023 AGM – Kevin Fisher**

### **Litter Picking**

- We held four group events, removing 36 bags of rubbish. SRA members continued valiantly to provide landscape maintenance during our litter-picking events.
- Individual SRA members continued their litter picking outside of our formal dates.

### **Street litter bins**

- It was acknowledged that the Parish had done an excellent job by installing many additional bins. We requested six dual bins and saw four installed and improved bin sizes at Shaw Forest Park.

### **Shaw Village Centre**

- During the period, the responsibility for landscape and related maintenance transferred to the Parish. We met with Parish representatives and created a list of items that needed doing. The current situation is as follows:
  - Completed items: raised bed drainage has been created and brickwork repaired; a general tidy of the plants took place; concrete blocks in front of Parish notice boards removed; tree guards removed; the damaged fence between the pub and church has been repaired.
  - Block paving: this has been sorted but is best described as the best as simple as possible repair – e.g., tree roots will soon raise the blocks again.
  - Awaiting completion: the circular bench needs replacing; the bed opposite Richard James needs planting, as does the bed in front of the Parish notice board; we are still waiting for a proposal for the planting of the raised beds.

### **Website**

- Number of visits averaged 800 per month over the last year.
- Google the phrase ‘Shaw news’, and our website is at the top of the non-sponsored list. Google ‘Shaw Swindon news’, and we are number one (above the Police and Swindon Advertiser). Google ‘Swindon news’, and we are on page four – that could be improved with SEO tools.
- Having decided not to have our own Facebook presence, links to the West Swindon and Sparcells / Nine Elms Facebook pages were added to our website.

### **Sponsors**

- We started the year with three sponsors and currently have six. This, along with SRA subs, means we are financially viable. However, it does require all sponsors to renew this year.

### **20 MPH speed limits**

- We requested Old Shaw Lane (Shaw side) be added to the list. Following several letters to residents and a traffic monitor, it was agreed to move to the final consultation. However, that final consultation was poorly executed by SBC officers.

### **Allotments**

- We raised the point that West Swindon does not have anywhere near the requisite number of allotments available for residents, suggesting again the possibility of using Salt Way School grounds (also Shaw Ridge and Toothill Farm was suggested). We were informed that no spare land was available in West Swindon for allotments and that the 35 plots at Blagrove were the Parish’s site.

### **Purton Road, now 79 house, development application**

- When does no mean no? In July 2022, the Planning Inspector dismissed the applicant's second appeal. Consequently, the applicant went to the High Court to complain about the Planning Inspector's decision. The High Court found in their favour, so now we await the third appeal.

### **River Ray Parkway / Thames Water**

- We met with Thames Water representatives to discuss the damage their 20+ tonne vehicles did to the track. TW would not accept that they were the cause of the damage, citing other utility companies as being at fault. TW refused to make good their damage.
- We recommended that SBC place a levy on all users or that the bridge from Dalton Way is repaired. SBC has committed to the latter, but we await its completion.
- Following several more broken sewage pipes, the damage has been exacerbated to the extent that cyclists are requested to dismount. TW plans to dig up much of the track to lay a new sewer and has stated that they will make good once completed.
- We informed Wiltshire Wildlife of the proposals – they were not aware up to that point and raised concerns about the damage to many wildlife sanctuaries.
- We highlighted the broken wooden barriers along the track and were pleased to see them repaired relatively quickly.

### **Travellers and Shaw Forest**

- Following another incursion into the Forest by travellers, we wrote to Councillors and Robert Buckland MP requesting an improved road barrier and the wooden fence to be repaired. We also recommended something more robust than a wooden fence (e.g., a ditch, rocks, mound etc.). Whilst the barriers were improved and the fence repaired, we believe the fence will be cut in the not-so-distant future.
- We highlighted the poor condition of the paths within the forest and questioned why it seemed more important to resurface the car park and not the footpaths. These paths remain in poor condition.

### **Water leak Old Shaw Lane**

- There has been a Thames Water leak in Old Shaw Lane for many years despite repeated requests from residents to have it repaired. During the extremely dry period in the summer of 2022, photographs of the dried-up river bed and the continual leak in OSL were provided to SBC to dispel TW's assertion that it is rainwater runoff. SBC officers claimed they investigated, but no visible improvements are apparent.

### **SRA poster**

- We created a poster advertising our group, which is now displayed on all relevant Parish notice boards.

### **Graffiti**

- There was a spike in graffiti across the area during the year. Some requests to clean it to the Parish were dealt with quickly; others were not. There is a view that the Parish staff were not equipped with strong enough cleaning agents (publicly available 'wet wipes' really are not the best solution).

### **Nissan and Skoda Garage verge parking**

- We raised this issue to the Parish and refused to accept the initial response from an SBC officer that the garages owned the land. Subsequent analysis proved they did not and have been told to quit parking their cars for sale on the verge.

### **Tree Planting**

- Independent of the SRA, The Community Woodland Group with the help of a ward councillor, who negotiated the approval of the event, organised an exceptionally well-attended tree planting near Peatmoor Lagoon in February.

### **Grass/hedge cutting and meadows**

- Numerous issues related to overhanging brambles, obscured streetlights, and grass-cutting regimes were brought to the Parish's attention throughout the year.
- The perhaps overzealous tree cutting along Roughmoor Way caused concern for many residents and exposed lots of fly-tipped junk from garden fence tossers. Much of this has not yet been cleared, and neither has the piles of junk/storage along Tewkesbury Way (near Salt Way school), which was reported some months ago.

### **Membership**

2012 = 11, 2013 = 18, 2014 = 20, 2015 = 23, 2016 = 20, 2017 = 20, 2018 = 21, 2019 = 20, 2020 = 18, 2021 = 17, 2022 = 16, 2023 = 16

# SRA AGM 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## Treasurer's Report

We continue to bank with The Co-operative Bank and there have been no problems. With no Swindon branch we are able to use the Post Office for banking cash and cheques.

Our income for the year was £455. This was £95 from subscriptions of which £15 was pre-payment for next year, and £360 from six companies sponsoring the website. No other monies were applied for or received this year. Even after expenditure, this year funds have increased by £158.33.

The main area of expenditure this year was the website. However, this year was the lower in the 2-yearly cycle, so did not include the two-yearly fee for the domain name. Meetings continue to be held monthly at Lower Shaw Farm at a cost of £15 per month. We were not invoiced in this year for November onwards, so owed 5 months or £75. [This has since been paid in the 2023-24 year]

Future expenses average £390 annually. Assuming subs income holds steady at around £80 in future years, and subscription income from six companies is maintained, we will have sufficient funds to continue into the future.

At the year end, we held funds of £387.22.

Fran Williams, SRA Treasurer

15 May 2023

## Shaw Residents' Association

### Balance of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2023

#### Income

	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	95.00	
Sponsorships:	360.00	

**Total Income** 455.00

#### Expenditure

Hire of Room:	120.00	
Website	176.67	
Domain	0.00	
Stationery	0.00	
General Expenses	0.00	

**Total Expenditure** 296.67

**Balance on the Year** 158.33

#### Opening Balances 01 April 2022

Co-op Account	228.89	
Cash	0.00	
		<u>228.89</u>

**Balance on the Year** 158.33

#### Closing Balances 31 March 2023

Co-op Account	347.22	
Cash	40.00	
		<u>387.22</u>

**Funds Held by SRA** 387.22

**Balance as of 15 May 2023 AGM**

Cash	40.00
Co-op Account	347.22
Less: Hall rent	-90.00
Web costs    Hosting	-149.99
	107.23
SRA balance	<u>147.23</u>

**Forecast 2023-24**

Income	
May    Subs	65.00
Various Sponsors	360.00
Expenses	
August    Domain	-38.00
October    Back-up	-45.00
Various    Rent x 11	-165.00
	177.00
SRA balance 31/3/24	<u>324.23</u>