

Request

The SWAB Steering Committee is a joint committee of the four parish councils. This means that the documents this committee produces (which includes recordings and digitally saved documents) are susceptible to production by any of the four SWAB councils which receives an FoI Request. This has already been confirmed by the ICO in connection with the successful appeal to put the registers of interests of the focus group members into the public domain.

When I made my original request on 2nd August (below) the last update of agendas and minutes on the SWAB website had been to show the 20th April minutes. We are now at 9th October and, as the screenshot at the bottom of this message shows, there has been an update to show the minutes of 23 June which themselves show no date for the next meeting. But nothing since. I believe that there should now be available several sets of draft minutes and/or recordings of subsequent meetings from which these draft minutes are prepared.

It is impossible for the public to know how many meetings there have been and what has been discussed in the meantime. Even the extremely sparse oral update we are supposed to get at the monthly meetings of the parish council has been omitted from the agenda for this month's meeting tomorrow. The public and most councillors and even the clerks are generally in the dark for three to four months at a time as to what is happening over this very important project for the four parishes.

This delay is in significant contrast to the parish council's own meetings which have draft minutes uploaded prior to the next meeting and so we generally have to wait no more than three weeks to know what has been discussed and in the meantime anyone who so desires can listen to the citizens' recordings which are generally uploaded to a public site within twenty four hours of a parish council meeting.

I understand that membership of the FoI Review Committee should be sorted out on Monday and that my review request of 24th August will then receive attention. Accordingly I am refraining from lodging an application with the ICO despite my original request now being long out of time for a response.

Please would you place this email with the papers to be considered by the review committee and treat this message as updating the original request so that it covers all draft minutes and agendas for all meetings of the SWAB Steering Committee which have not yet been uploaded, and if the draft minutes of any meeting have not yet been prepared, then for the recording and contemporaneous notes from which such draft minutes will be prepared. I do not know who clerks these meetings but even if it is a clerk from another parish they are still disclosable by SPC because of the joint nature of this committee.

Response 4 November 2016

I am informed that all SWAB Steering Committee agendas and minutes received by SPC have been uploaded onto the Council's web site, except the agenda for the September meeting which we will rectify over the next few days.

I have also been informed that the Steering Group have agreed not to publish/provide draft minutes until they have been agreed, so I am currently unable to provide those for September 2016.

The meeting scheduled for October 2016 was cancelled due to unavailability of attendees and no new date has been set.

I have also been informed that these meetings are not recorded