

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at The Reading Rooms (32 The Circle) at 7pm on Thursday 1st June 2023.

Present Cllr J Ballman (Chair)
Cllr R Ballman (Vice Chair)
Cllr M Beale
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr J Yeowell
Cllr I Edwards

Officers A Reeves

Public None

Meeting started at 7.15pm due to a meeting conflict at Swindon Borough Council.

LR262 Apologies
None Received

LR263 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation
Cllr J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBuF), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and The Leisure & Library Trust.

Cllr M Lucas declared an interest in The Leisure & Library Trust.

Cllr M Beale declared an interest in The Leisure & Library Trust & The Penhill Orchard.

LR264 List of Items from April 2023 for Asset & Maintenance Committee Transfer.
Cllr J Ballman felt there was insufficient consultation as part of the transfer of committee responsibilities and more dialogue should have been made between the Chair, Clerk and other Committee Chairs before such a drastic change of Council governance.

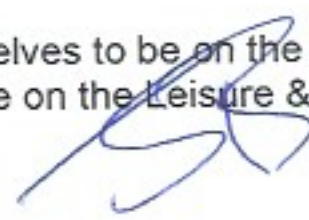
Cllr J Ballman also advised the new Assets & Maintenance committee had no budget and therefore no devolved tools to perform the task it has been set.

Cllr J Ballman felt the Chair had on this occasion worked beyond his remit and more work should have been done on the Committee structure at the time the budget was set.

Cllr R Ballman felt the unnecessary burden of time on Officers made the administration of a further committee unnecessary and inefficient. It would have been prudent to retain in the existing committee

The Clerk, as author of the Committee Restructure report advised that it was his view the growing size of the committee meant that a greater focus was required on managing the burgeoning dilapidation costs, allowing the Leisure & Recreation committee to manage the growing leisure facilities the Parish Council will soon offer.

The Clerk also advised that the same Councillors can nominate themselves to be on the new Assets & Maintenance Committee and many of the Councillors who are on the Leisure & Recreation Committee have chosen to do so.



The Clerk advised the issue of devolving funds to the new Assets Maintenance Committee is an administrative task to disaggregate lines from current committees and create revised budget codes aligned to the new responsibilities.

In relation to Officers time, the Clerk advised that it would be inevitable a working group would be setup to facilitate the estates and assets.

The workload of managing a working group and Committee are roughly the same, but the benefit of a Committee means it has the authority to proceed at pace and with independence direct to Full Council, without the need for Committee referral.

The Clerk advised the importance of the assets management cannot be understated.

Cllr J Ballman asked that the request for referrals to the Assets Maintenance Committee are instead taken to Full Council on June 28th 2023 for further consideration.

LR265 Oasis Skatepark Feasibility

The Clerk presented the survey results to date which has received a response of around 230.

The two clear preferred locations are Medlar Close (rear) and Hilary Close in that order.

Councillors asked that the survey results of Cllr Will Stone are included in the overall summary when the survey closes.

Councillors **NOTED** the update on the feasibility work.

LR266 Allotments

A. Councillors noted the verbal update from the Clerk.

B. Cllr M Beale advised she did not support the Tiny Forest project as the tree density is too thick.

Cllr M Lucas asked if a branch at Churchward Allotments could be moved by SBC.

Councillors **NOTED** the update on the Tiny Forest project and the two sites selected of Churchward Allotments & Allington Road former allotments.

C: Councillors **NOTED** the proposed Allotment Working Group date of w/c 19th June 2023 and ask the Estates Manager to confirm a date.

LR267 Play Areas

A. Councillors **NOTED** the 324 EMR reserve of £20,514.28 plus 331 EMR of £20,000 novated from Grasscrete with a total Play Area EMR of £40,514.2

Cllr R Ballman asked the Estates Manager to confirm if any underspend accrual from play area painting is in the budget for 2023/24.

B. Councillors were presented with a quote for Play Area repainting shown as **APPENDIX A**.

The Clerk advised that due to the cost of the St Marks play area repairs of £19,000 there may only be around £15,000 available for play area painting against a proposed cost of £22,000.

Cllr M Beale felt play area repainting is important and should be completed.

Cllr R Ballman reiterated the importance of adhering to the original vote to paint all play areas. Cllr J Ballman reminded Councillors that the repair of St Marks play area had taken a larger

portion of the reserve since that resolution was passed.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to invite Mums on a Mission with Councillors to prioritise the six sites listed on a minibus trip around the locations on a date to be confirmed.

C. Councillors **NOTED** the update on the Play Area Survey shown as APPENDIX B

D. Councillors **NOTED** the verbal update on Play Areas.

E. Councillors **NOTED** the proposed Play Area Working Group date of w/c 19th June 2023 and ask the Estates Manager to confirm a date.

LR268

Sports Pitches

A. The Clerk provided a verbal presentation.

Due to requests for football pitches reaching capacity, Councillors asked that the Clerk investigate other sites to add two further football pitches. Both Edinburgh Street Recreation Ground and the rear of Ferndale School were considered.

Cllr M Lucas asked whether Seven Capital could make space available at the Oasis site. The Clerk advised we could consider asking SBC to request football provision as part of any new residential development on site.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to investigate whether the rear of Ferndale School can be booked and used for football. The Clerk is to also review the possibility of reinstating a football pitch at Edinburgh Street Recreation Ground.

Cllr J Ballman is to make further enquiries with Swindon Borough Council in relation to the potential Oasis development.

B. Councillors **NOTED** the verbal update.

LR269

St Marks Park

A. The Clerk confirmed that the Green Flag park inspection of St Marks was completed on May 5th 2023 and we'll be made aware of whether we are successful by Judges in late June/early July.

If the Council are successfully assessed, the Clerk has sent Cllrs a 'Save the Date' for July 20th 2023 for a presentation event at Southampton City Hall.

B. The Clerk confirmed the St Marks green bin store, funded from SBC insurance funds, has now been erected and is operational. Cllr J Ballman noted he was pleased with the appearance and functionality of the unit which will prevent flytipping and provide an improved park experience.

C. Councillors **NOTED** the ROSPA response to the Estates Managers concerns at the lack of clarity on identified safety deficiencies found by our grounds contractor, not noted in the report.

Councillors had lost confidence in the credibility of the ROSPA approved inspector, in the main because the response of the company to the Councils concerns was inadequate.

The company states that their 'language may have been clearer' but Council maintain that such defects and risk allocation should be quantified against ROSPA weighted standards and not left to subjective interpretation of risk and likelihood.

Consideration should now be given to funding an alternative provider.

The Clerk suggested liaising with other Parish Councils to find a provider with a track record of delivering accurate inspections.

Councillors **RESOLVED** for the Estates Manager to confirm a new ROSPA inspection provider for the next round of annual inspections.

LR270 Parks & Recreation Working Group

Councillors **NOTED** the proposed Parks & Recreation Working Group date of w/c 19th June 2023 and ask the Estates Manager to confirm a date.

LR271 Land Lease Acquisition- The Circle, Pinehurst

Cllr J Ballman reiterated the vulnerability of The Circle, Pinehurst to potential future development after repeatedly featuring on the Strategic Housing and economic land availability assessment.

The Parish Council should make reasonable endeavours to secure the open space for the use of residents against development.

Cllr J Ballman felt any future development on The Circle would be more than 'infill' and would provide a real loss for the residents of Pinehurst.

The Parish Council has secured leases on other areas of the Parish it wishes to protect from development and Councillors discussed it was appropriate to make the same statement for The Circle due to its iconic design and high regard by residents.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Parish Clerk to present a report to Full Council presenting an option to obtain a lease for The Circle.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm

Signed.....

Date.....


20-10-2023

Chair of the Leisure & Recreation Committee