



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 1st February 2024 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
Cllr Ian Edwards (virtually)
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves (Clerk)(virtually)

Member of the Public Present: None.

Apologies

Cllr Ray Ballman

		Action
LR315	Declarations of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Hreod Buma Urban Forest (HBuF), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and The Leisure & Library Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. The Chair NOTED the meeting was not quorate.	

LR316	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
LR317	Allotments A. To NOTE the balance of the associated budget line. Cllr J Yeowell asked what would happen to any underspend from Allotment money at Year End. Mr A Reeves explained that it would be returned to the General Reserve unless specifically allocated. Mr A Briggs suggested to Councillors that they allocate any underspend from allotments to carry over to next years ringfenced allotment budget at the next meeting. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. B. To NOTE the response from the Churchward Ave Tenants to create an area of pocket woodland through Trees for Climate funding and APPROVE the project. All responses received back were positive. Cllr J Yeowell asked which fruit. Mr A Briggs explained it would be apples and maybe pears. Cllr J Ballman asked when this would start. Mr A Briggs explained as there is no funding needed, just the Councillors approval, once the Councillors agree he would contact Caroline Hunt at Swindon Borough Council and the trees should be in by early March. The Chair proposed the project go ahead and Councillors approval be given. RESOLVED: Councillors APPROVED the project proceed, and NOTED the responses from the Churchward Ave Tenants. C. To CONSIDER an opportunity for compost collection from Shrivenham Defence Academy. Mr A Briggs gave a verbal report on the opportunity for compost collection from Shrivenham Defence Academy.	

	Cllr J Ballman mentioned how many parks we have and how useful the compost would be for bedding areas. Mr A Briggs explained it would be collected by us and available for both allotments and parks. The Chair proposed we do a test run and see how much we can get and what it is like. Once The Parish have seen what it is like it can be taken to the allotment group to see if they would like some also. RESOLVED: Councillors AGREED to go ahead with collections of compost from Shrivenham Defence Academy. D. To NOTE the date and time of the Allotment Working Group as: Thursday 15th February 2024, 17:00 – 18:30. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR318	Parks A. To NOTE the balance of the associated budget line. Mr A Briggs explained that any underspend would need to be allocated to next years budget. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. B. To NOTE an update on tree planting at St Marks Park. Mr A Briggs updated the Councillors on the planting of 48 cherry trees at St Marks Park at no cost to us. The Parish is in the position to apply for more funding towards extra tree and bush planting to encourage biodiversity. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. C. To CONSIDER further tree planting at St Marks Park. Mr A Briggs explained a plan to do extra tree and bush planting along a stretch of land to encourage biodiversity and reduce anti-social behaviour on a stretch of land alongside the road. RESOLVED: Councillors AGREED to proceed with the tree planting project at St Marks Park.	

D. To **NOTE** an update on tree planting at Penhill Park.

Mr A Briggs updated Councillors on future planting of trees at Penhill Park to fill up spaces and replace dead trees.

Cllr J Ballman asked how this would be explained to residents when they witnessed the trees being felled.

Mr A Briggs explained that there was no specific reason those trees had died, they have just come to the end of their life.

RESOLVED: Item **NOTED**.

E. To **NOTE** an update on floral bedding at Penhill Park.

Mr A Briggs updated Councillors on the proposed planting of floral bedding at Penhill Park by the end of February, the start of March.

Cllr J Ballman asked when the grass would be cut next.

Mr A Briggs stated that hopefully, depending on weather conditions, grass cutting would commence at the start of March.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the planters.

Mr A Briggs explained that the planters at St Marks will be going in soon, but the ones along the roads need a specific license before they can be placed.

RESOLVED: Item **NOTED**.

F. To **NOTE** an update on gate repairs at Penhill Park.

Mr A Briggs updated Councillors on the plan to repaint the entry gates to Penhill Park by the spring. Some gates can be removed as they are not fit for purpose. Councillors were asked if they were happy for them to be removed.

RESOLVED: Councillors **APPROVED** the removal of gates unfit for purpose.

RESOLVED: Item **NOTED**.

LR319	Green Flag A. To NOTE the balance of the associated budget line. Mr A Briggs explained that any underspend will need allocating to the 24/25 budget. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. B. To NOTE the 2024 application for Green Flag renewal at St Marks. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. C. To CONSIDER the requirements for an interpretation board at St Marks. Mr A Briggs updated the Councillors on a recommendation by Green Flag to supply an interpretation board at St Marks. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. D. To NOTE the status 2024 application for Green Flag Status at Penhill Park. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	Mr A Briggs to produce a proposal on the supply of an interpretation board.
LR320	Play Areas A. To NOTE the balance of the associated budget line. A discussion was held about the suspension of maintenance work until the loan was agreed and a decision would be made on which Play Areas would be replaced and which would be refurbished. The Chair asked if a business plan was needed for the Play Areas. Mr A Reeves explained that a business plan about what was planned regarding Play Area's and why the renovations are required would need to be produced. Mr A Briggs explained that a strategy is already in place, and the plan would be based around that. RESOLVED: Item NOTED. B. To NOTE the date and time of the Play Area working group as: Thursday 29th February 2024, 12:30 – 13:30.	Cllr J Yeowell to send Mr A Briggs the emails of the ladies from the Play Area working group so they can be invited to the next meeting.

	RESOLVED: Item NOTED. C. To NOTE receipt of the Annual Safety Inspection reports. Mr A Briggs explained that the Annual Safety Inspection went well, and no significant repairs were needed. Mostly items like play bark etc needing replacing. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR321	Sports Pitches To NOTE a verbal update on sports pitch usage & maintenance. Mr A Briggs updated Councillors on the ground saturation issues on different pitches, and the need to look into drainage as a future investment to mitigate the issue. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
	Meeting Closed 20:01	

Signed.....



Date.....

04.09.2004