



Parish Council
Central Swindon North Parish Council
Pinetrees Community Centre,
The Circle,
SWINDON SN2 1RF

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2023 at 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr J Ballman (Chair) Cllr M Beale (Online) Cllr I Edwards Cllr M Lucas Cllr J Yeowell
Committee Clerk:	Mr A Briggs
Parish Clerk:	Mr A Reeves
Member of the Public Present: NONE	
Apologies	NONE

		Action
LR286	Declarations of Interest 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. RESOLVED: Item noted.	
LR287	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None Received. RESOLVED: Item noted.	

LR288	Skatepark & Youth Investment Fund A Briggs provided Members with a verbal update on the project. A Briggs presented a detailed overview of the requested noise impact assessments for both the Penhill Bowls Club and Mannington Recreation carpark locations. It was explained that the noise impact assessments had been completed by an external assessor, using skatepark noise modelling. The mapping data showed that both locations could accommodate the necessary noise level of 55 decibels. However, the Penhill Bowls Club would benefit from additional acoustic fencing or measures. Cllr J Ballman queried the feasibility of the Inglesham Rd carpark location as an alternative option. A Briggs explained that the location of the carpark would mean the noise impact levels would exceed the permitted levels in proximity to the residential dwellings. J Ballman commented on the need for hardstanding to accommodate the skatepark. A Briggs presented a document containing information regarding the Youth Investment Fund. A copy of which can be found in Appendix A. Members were reminded that the Youth Investment Fund application had been submitted for a total of £150k to support delivery of a refurbishment project of the Penhill Bowls Club building and siting of the skatepark on the bowling green. Cllr M Beale commented on the location of the skatepark at Penhill Bowls Club and the issues that were had with planning permission from SBC for a skatepark last time. A Briggs informed Members of the advice received from SBC. That under certain criteria the works can be delivered under permitted development. A discussion about possible locations was had, and the importance of providing a hardstanding for the equipment to stand on. A decision from the Youth Investment Fund application should be received by December 2023. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the update on the skatepark project. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the status of the Youth Investment Fund and CONSIDERED its application to the skatepark project.	
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LR289

Parks

The Estates Manager proposed to send out a list of dates to hold the Parks Working Group on in the hope of having one before the end of the year.

Cllr J Ballman proposed they confirm a date today.

A Briggs proposed Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 10am.

The Estates Manager gave a verbal update on the Penhill Park memorial bench. A bench was donated by a lady called Sarah to commemorate her mother who lived in Penhill.

The Estates Manager presented a verbal update on the care and maintenance for all our parks and explained the areas being worked on by our maintenance workers.

The Estate Manager presented a layout for floral planting designs and costs around Penhill Park and St Mark's Park. The costs for Penhill Park are estimated at £1,200 and St Marks Park are estimated at £1,600. There is a park budget that the costs could come from.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the running costs of maintaining the flower beds.

A Briggs explained that the cost to maintain the floral beds would be a few hundred a year depending on what type of plants were chosen.

Cllr M Lucas discussed the use of perennial bushes that would just need maintaining rather than replacing seasonally.

Cllr M Beale agreed with Cllr M Lucas.

A Briggs proposed that the details of what types of plants used could be discussed at the Parks Working Group.

The Estates Manager updated Councillors on a meeting with Carolyn Hunt from SBC their Community Forest Projects Officer. There is money available from Trees for Climate Change which would cover the cost of planting and maintaining the trees for about 15 years. Several areas and types of trees were recommended.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the timescale for the project.

A Briggs explained it should be this year, and some next year.

RESOLVED: Councillors **AGREED** the date of 10am on Wednesday the 15th November 2023 for the Parks Working Group meeting.

RESOLVED: Councillors **NOTED** the update on the Penhill Park memorial bench.

	RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the general parks update. RESOLVED: Councillors CONSIDERED the floral planting designs and costs and AGREED these be discussed at the Parks Working Group. RESOLVED: Councillors CONSIDERED the recommendations from the Community Forest Projects Officer at SBC and AGREED these be discussed at the Parks Working Group.	
LR290	Allotments The Estates Manager presented a verbal update on behalf of the Allotment Officer. We have a new volunteer from the SBC Works Program called Justin who has been helping both John and Neil. He is very enthusiastic and is working hard while he is with us. Skips were delivered in October and were well used. Extra skips were needed in some areas. A Briggs explained about the delay in delivery of the tipper vehicle. Winter tree reduction survey on our allotment sites and leased areas will commence shortly, as the winter months are the best time to complete this work. CCTV to be installed at Cheney Manor shortly. Additional parking at allotment sites is being investigated at the Allotment Working Group for Redcliffe Street, Akers Way and Cheney Manor. Extra water troughs are being costed up and existing ones will be cleaned up and serviced. Crop drop program went really well and was positively received by Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Salvation Army and Night Shelter. Wasps' nests were an issue this year, many had to be dealt with. The Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool Association approached CSNPC about taking on a couple of allotment plots to use for rehabilitation. Agreed that some of their produce is to be used towards crop drop next year and excess to be sold to make money for the charity. The plots have been offered at a reduced rate. A water drain was damaged at Pickards during the last storm, which is now fixed.	

	SBC have agreed to cut back trees along the boundary of Akers Way because they are precarious state. The hops scheme is going well and is well received by allotment tenants. There is potential to charge a nominal fee in future. The Chair PROPOSED that Allotment Income continue to be ringfenced for use solely within allotments. Cllr M Lucas seconded. The Estates Manager explained that we have over 600 allotment spaces which are 98% occupied. Julie-Ann and Neil have been working very hard to maintain high occupation rates. Cllr J Ballman praised the quality of service provided by this council for allotment tenants. Cllr M Lucas mentioned the need for each site to have allotment representatives. A Briggs explained that options for allotment tenants to get involved in working groups is available. The Estates Manager asked if councillors would like a 24/25 allotment price review be completed. The Chair PROPOSED an allotment pricing review be completed for the SN area. Cllr M Lucas seconded. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the Allotment Officers update. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the Allotment Working Group notes from the meeting held on the 25th September 2023. RESOLVED: Councillors AGREED to the 24/25 budget setting request of the Allotment Working Group that Allotment Income continues to be ringfenced for use solely within allotments. RESOLVED: Councillors AGREED to conducting a 24/25 allotment price review of the SN area.	
LR291	Tiny Forest Projects The Estates Manager presented an update on the project. SBC are no longer willing to proceed with this project and have withdrawn. This leaves us unable to proceed with the initial funding method. It is hoped the project will still proceed but through the alternative funding source, Trees for Climate Change. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the status and RECEIVED an update on the project.	

LR292	Play Areas The Estate Manager presented the notes of the Play Area Working Group that took place on the 28th September 2023. Councillors were asked if they supported the proposals put forward by the Play Area Working Group. A discussion was held about the costs to complete the Play Area Painting work and completing that and then allocating any remaining funds in March 2024 at year end. Inglesham Road, Medler Court and Churchward Play Area painting refurbishments have been completed. The Estate Manager presented pictures of the play area's new appearance. The Estate Manager presented an update on completed and outstanding Play Area remedials. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the notes of the Play Area Working Group held on the 28th September 2023. RESOLVED: Councillors AGREED to return to a decision on where remaining funds will go in March 2023. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED an update on the program of Play Area Painting. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED an update on completed and outstanding Play Area remedials.	
LR293	Community Ownership Fund The Estate Manager presented an update on the status of the Community Ownership Fund and our application to the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area Project. An application for £150k has been put forward to refurbish the changing areas and toilets, and to create an inclusive play area. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the status of the Community Ownership Fund application for Rodbourne Cheney Play Area Project.	
LR294	Sports Pitches The Estates Manager presented a verbal update on sports pitch maintenance and what kind of funding can be obtained over the coming year. The Estates Manager explained the issue with flooded pitches affecting the goalposts and future budgeting for deeper/larger concrete bases for the goal posts to reduce goalpost tipping over from unstable ground.	The Estate Manager to send out dates for a budget specific meeting for November.

	The Estates Manager updated the councillors on the sliding scale budget requirement for 24/25 Financial Year. A Briggs will send out dates for a budget specific meeting for November. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the verbal update on sports pitch maintenance. RESOLVED: Councillors CONSIDERED the requirement to complete resetting works to the goalpost foundations at Mannington Recreation. RESOLVED: Councillors NOTED the sliding scale budget requirement for 24/25 Financial Year.	
	Meeting Closed at 20:32	

Signed 

Date 04.09.2024